

UNADOPTED

**VENURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
7-11 Advisory Committee
May 27, 2020
Minutes**

Call to Order

Ventura Unified School District held a teleconference meeting of the 7-11 Advisory Committee on May 27, 2020. The meeting was called to order by Chair Daniel Flores, 7-11 Committee Chair at 12.06 p.m. at Ventura Adult and Continuing Education Ron Halt Room via teleconference at:

<http://bit.ly/TDCStudios>

Roll Call:

Committee Members Present: Stephanie Caldwell, Louis Cunningham, Jorge DeLeon, Cheri Egbert, Daniel Flores, James Forsythe, Brad Golden, Tanner Shelton

Absent: Gabriel Hagerty, Christina Montero

VUSD Support Staff Present: Terri Allison, Rebecca Chandler, Rosi Cortez, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Bill Elsenbaumer, Betsy George, Dr. Roger Rice

Adoption of Agenda

Daniel Flores recommended amending the agenda to remove approval of February 18, 2020 minutes due to not being completed and March 13, 2020 minutes to allow the committee more time to review them. Stephanie Caldwell motioned the agenda be amended as recommended, Lou Cunningham seconded the motion. All in favor of adopting amended agenda. Absent: Gabriel Hagerty, Christina Montero

Public Comments – Heather Carlos emailed eight letters from parents and students regarding the Ventura County Christian School (VCCS). Betsy George and Chair Daniel Flores proceeded to read letters from Stephanie Ann Powell, parent of a former student; Annette Mickle, grandparent; Jona King, former student; Heather Carlos, parent; Barry & Darlene Carlos, grandparents; Tony Carlos, business owner; Providence King, former student; and Gary & Stephanie King, parents of a former student. The majority of letters were for consideration to allow the Ventura County Christian School to continue at the Washington School property, and regarding the good experiences former students remembered while attending school. Chair Daniel Flores acknowledged the public and thanked them for their feedback. He stated the Committee represents the community and that the public comments help to guide their decision-making.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Jorge DeLeon motioned the January 21, 2020 minutes be approved, Stephanie Caldwell seconded the motion. All in favor of adopting minutes as presented. Absent: Gabriel Hagerty, Christina Montero; Abstain: Cheri Egbert

Daniel Flores motioned the May 13, 2020 minutes be tabled to the next meeting in order to have time to review them. Jorge DeLeon seconded the motion. Brad Golden inquired if there would be another meeting. Chair Dan Flores responded that there would probably be two more meetings. The Committee needs to have a meeting that the public is invited to for the community to review what the final recommendations are going to be so they can receive their feedback. After this meeting, the Committee can go forward with making their final presentation to the Board. Technically, there will

probably be two more meetings. All in favor of tabling the minutes to the next meeting. Absent: Gabriel Hagerty, Christina Montero;

Discussion Regarding 7-11 Advisory Committee Report to the Board Regarding Identification of Surplus Properties

Chair Daniel Flores acknowledged the public comments received concerning Washington School and the Committee's recommendation. He reiterated that the Committee determined it would not make any kind of recommendation to the Board about whether or not to lease the property to the Christian School. The property is already surplus property. He mentioned a discussion during the previous meeting that the Committee does not wish to place further limitations on the District, rather give the Board the flexibility to make decisions in the best way they see fit regarding the Washington School property. He agreed with all comments that were made, stating that he did not think the District could have had a better steward of the property. The Ventura County Christian School has done much to improve the location. Chair Flores reassured the community that the school will not be torn down since the Washington School is identified as a historical building due to the Midtown Community Councils efforts.

The discussion moved on to the final report to the Board of Education. Chair Flores acknowledged the Committee has been working together since December 2019, has seen all the properties, and now needs to take the step of making recommendations to the Board. He mentioned he would be sharing a presentation with the Committee and discuss what needs to be submitted in the final report. The formal report will summarize the minutes, include a list of the properties that were considered, a summary of public comments that were made during all meetings, and the Committee's final recommendation on each individual property. Basically, the report is a recap of the process gone through as a committee since the beginning of December. The report is a requirement that must be presented to the Board at a public meeting. Mr. Flores thanked Betsy George for her hard work on all the paperwork provided which made compiling a presentation much easier. The presentation will reflect the Committee's work and an outline of recommendations based on meetings held throughout the past six months. He also expressed how great it has been to work with such wonderful members of the community.

Chair Flores recapped on some of the decisions made during previous meetings regarding the properties under consideration for the possibility of surplus. There were no additional recommendations on the Jewett and Sudden Estates nor the Washington School. The Committee determined that Loma Vista, ATLAS and Will Rogers decisions to not surplus were based on community feedback and other data. The Committee was unable to make a decision on the Anacapa Middle School property. Chair Flores stated that the report and the minutes will reflect that the Committee needed the opportunity to get more information from the YMCA and the community.

Chair Flores shared that it is his hope that a future meeting is held where the YMCA, parent reps and school reps can talk through what possible collaboration might look like before the YMCA's proposal is brought forward again to see if there's some common ground. There would need to be solid Board support for this. There was a feeling, at least on the part of the YMCA, that Anacapa staff may have been thinking that the YMCA was out to take their property when the YMCA felt they were trying to create a win-win situation. The YMCA felt that whatever they did with the property would or could also be a benefit to the school, and the school staff and the parents were not in agreement with the proposal at that point. In the future, bringing the two sides together to dialogue to see if there's common ground needs to happen, and then work with the Board to see what they might be open to.

Scheduling of a Public Hearing Regarding 7-11 Advisory Committee Report

Betsy George reminded the Committee that a public hearing needs to be held in order to share final recommendations with the community regarding the properties, and before the recommendations are made to the Board of Education. The public hearing must be noticed in a local newspaper at least 10 days before the actual day of the public hearing. The public hearing needs to be well advertised. A public hearing is a more formal process than the regular meetings that have been held. The public hearing will be the final step before the Committee makes a recommendation to the Board. Once the date is determined, it will be announced on social media and an advertisement placed in the public notice section of the local paper in order to be fully compliant with the process. The Committee will have followed all the rules in order to be as transparent as possible in the process.

After a brief discussion regarding conducting a virtual public hearing meeting versus an in-person meeting, it was decided that the Committee would follow Ventura County guidance for public gatherings in the next 20 days. The Committee could conduct a virtual meeting via Zoom if in-person meetings are still not recommended. Conducting the meeting at noon was discussed. The Committee's thinking was that if people are back to work they could participate in the meeting during the lunch hour.

Chair Flores shared that he thought that the next meeting might be the last meeting of the Committee so he shared that he enjoyed working with the team and appreciated everybody putting in their time—a little more than six months with a little break during closures. He also thanked Betsy George for all her hard work throughout this process.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the 7-11 Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, June 17, 2020, at 12:00 p.m., at Ventura Adult and Continuing Education, Ron Halt Room via teleconference.

Adjournment – Stephanie Caldwell motioned meeting adjourn and Lou Cunningham seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 12:59 pm.