

**Ventura Unified
SCHOOL DISTRICT**



**VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
August 24, 2021
APPROVED MINUTES**

Call to Order

In accordance with Governor Newsom's executive orders of social distancing due to the COVID-19, the Regular Board of Education meeting was held on Tuesday, August 24, 2021, as a teleconference/video conference meeting where one or more members participated. The public had the opportunity to submit their public comment via the public comments email address or live via the Zoom platform. The public streaming of the Regular Board meeting was made available through the Ventura Adult and Continuing Education, TDC Studios YouTube Channel. Those in attendance were:

Board President	Ms. Velma Lomax
Board Vice President	Mr. Matt Almaraz
Board Member	Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez
Board Member	Ms. Amy Callahan
Board Member	Dr. Jerry Dannenberg
Superintendent	Dr. Roger Rice
Asst. Supt. /Bus. Services	Ms. Rebecca Chandler
Asst. Supt. /Ed. Services	Dr. Antonio Castro
Asst. Supt./Human Resources	Mr. Brett Taylor
General Counsel	Mr. Anthony Ramos

Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Matt Almaraz, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the agenda as presented.

Ayes: Ms. Velma Lomax, Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg

Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

Public Comment on Closed Session Items

None.

Motion to go to Closed Session

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to go to closed session at 5:31 p.m.

Ayes: Ms. Velma Lomax, Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg

Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

REGULAR SESSION - Ron Halt Classroom - 7:00 p.m.

At 7:07 p.m., Board President Velma Lomax called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

None.

Superintendent's Report

11.a Good News

Superintendent Dr. Roger Rice thanked all Classified and Certificated Human Resource employees for their hard work in putting on the New Teacher Orientation last week.

Dr. Rice thanked staff at DATA Middle School and shared that he appreciated their facilitation and coordination of the community forum that happened this past weekend. He additionally thanked Trustee Sabrena Rodriguez and Trustee Velma Lomax for attending, supporting and speaking at such an important event. He shared that Senator Limon and Assemblymember Bennett did a great job facilitating the meeting and were very appreciative of the Ventura Unified School District for hosting the forum.

Dr. Rice congratulated and thanked everyone involved with the Celebrate event that took place this morning at Buena High School. He gave a shout out to Buena staff, facilities, CAPS, Marieanne Quiroz and Amy Dahm. He shared that he has had great feedback about the event especially regarding the student performers. He thanked all the performers and Ella Haas for sharing her story at the event. Dr. Rice is looking forward to a great first day of school and an amazing upcoming school year.

Trustee Almaraz mentioned that he enjoyed being able to watch the Celebrate event virtually since he was unable to make it in person. Ms. Quiroz shared that staff can go back and watch the event on our district's YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JxBt6xDoCTQ>

Correspondence

Superintendent Dr. Roger Rice shared a correspondence from Dr. Cesar Morales at Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE), approving the emergency resolution that was passed at the August 10, 2021 Board of Education meeting. VCOE stated that the conditions at Mound Elementary School require immediate action to prevent impairment of essential educational services.

Public Comments

The following individuals gave a public comment via email or live via Zoom:

1. Sheila Murphey regarding lack of communication from the transportation department.
2. Austin Novstrup regarding transportation needs.
3. Sheila Murphey sharing additional transportation concerns.
4. Shane Campbell regarding concerns around the COVID 19 vaccine.
5. Carol Peek acknowledging the wonderful Celebrate event earlier that day and thanking all ESP's for being loyal and hardworking and sharing that they are the heart of VUSD.
6. Dan Nelson acknowledging the hard work behind the Celebrate event and acknowledging the hard work of teachers.

CONFERENCE - SUPERINTENDENT

14.a Board Meeting Processes and Protocols

Board Trustee Sabrena Rodriguez along with Trustee Callahan were selected to work with Dr. Rice on an ad hoc committee to develop board meeting protocols to help increase efficiency to most impact student outcomes. Ms. Rodriguez noted that the purpose of board meetings are to conduct the core business of the district, to focus on student achievement and growth, and to engage with the public in order to make the best decisions possible. The need to revise board meeting protocols include to allow for more meaningful, in-depth Board discussion of items critical to student success; to limit the burden of late meetings on staff, the community and the Board; and to provide information in a timely fashion so that questions and concerns can be raised before meetings. The ad hoc committee shared their recommendations and asked for staff feedback via Dr. Rice. The Board had consensus to continue this discussion during their upcoming Board Self-Evaluation.

CONFERENCE - HUMAN RESOURCES - Certificated

15.a Presentation on Staffing Update for the 2021-22 School Year

Mr. Brett Taylor, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, and Ms. Andrea Crouch, Director of Classified Human Resources, gave a staffing update for the 2021-22 school year. Mr. Taylor and Ms. Crouch shared information regarding retirements/resignations, current leaves of absences, and new hires/rehires/transfers. Ms. Crouch shared information on current classified positions that are open for recruitment as well as a list of positions that substitutes are needed in immediately. Currently, there is a great need for bus drivers, as VUSD is down 11 drivers. Dr. Rebecca Chandler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, shared that the district will reimburse the employee for the 40 hours of training as well as pay their fees to obtain their licenses. Anyone interested in any position should visit governmentjobs.com/careers/venturausd or call (805)641-5000, ext. 1170. Personnel Commissioner Ms. Anne Campbell was also in attendance and commended Ms. Crouch for the hard work that the classified human resources does. She shared that a school cannot run without the classified staff and she is grateful to be a part of our district.

CONFERENCE - BUSINESS SERVICES

16.a Consideration of Resolution #21-22, 2021 General Obligation Refunding Bonds (GORBs) (Action Requested)

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve as presented, Resolution #21-22, providing for the issuance and sale of 2021 General Obligation Refunding Bonds (GORB's) in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$14,500,000 to refund outstanding GORB's and approving related documents and actions.

Ayes: Ms. Velma Lomax, Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg

Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

16.b Declining Enrollment Committee Update

Dr. Rebecca Chandler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, provided an update on the status of the Declining Enrollment Committee and shared an initial draft proposal with the Board. Dr. Chandler shared that the purpose of the Declining Enrollment Committee is to review data related to enrollment, staffing and budget, for the purpose of developing a set of considerations, priorities and next steps, in order to deal efficiently with the ongoing impacts of significantly declining enrollment. Proposed committee representatives were discussed.

16.c Consideration for Approval of Contract of Agreement Between the Ventura Unified School District and the Ventura Education Support Professionals Association 2018-2021 (Action Requested)

It was moved by Mr. Matt Almaraz, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve as presented the 2018-2021 contract agreement between the Ventura Unified School District and the Ventura Education Support Professionals Association.

Ayes: Ms. Velma Lomax, Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg

Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

ACTION ITEMS

17.a Administrative Recommendation for Student Expulsions

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Matt Almaraz and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the administrative recommendation regarding student expulsion #22-01 and #22-03 as presented.

Ayes: Ms. Velma Lomax, Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg

Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

17.b Administrative Recommendation for Student Re-Admission from Expulsion and/or Suspended Order

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve administrative recommendation for student re-admission for student #20-10 and #21-01 as presented.

Ayes: Ms. Velma Lomax, Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg

Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

17.c Approval of Changes to Board Policies and Administrative Regulations related to Educational Services

It was moved by Mr. Matt Almaraz, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the deletion of BP 6175 Distance Learning and revision of BP/AR 6158 Independent Study as presented.

Ayes: Ms. Velma Lomax, Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg

Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

17.d City of San Buenaventura School Resource Officer Agreement for 2021-22

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the City of San Buenaventura School Resource Officer Agreement for 2021-22 as presented.

Ayes: Ms. Velma Lomax, Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg

Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Mr. Matt Almaraz and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve consent item #18-20 as presented.

Ayes: Ms. Velma Lomax, Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg

Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Certificated

- 18.a Ratification of Administration's Approval of Miscellaneous & Part-Time Certificated Assignments for the 2021-22 School Year
- 18.b Ratification of Administration's Approval for Leave of Absence for Certificated Personnel for the 2021-22 School Year
- 18.c Ratification of Administration's Approval of Employment and Reemployment of Certificated Personnel for the 2021-22 School Year
- 18.d Ratification of Administration's Approval of Resignations, Retirements and Release for Certificated Personnel for the 2021-22 School Year
- 18.e Ratification of Administration's Approval of Employment and Reemployment of Substitute Teachers for the 2021-22 School Year
- 18.f Ratification of Administration's Approval of Assignments Through Various Education Codes
- 18.g Ratification of Administration's Approval of Reemployment for Adult Education Teachers & Substitutes
- 18.h Approval of Variable Term Waiver for Speech - Language Credential

- 18.i Approval of Variable Term Waiver for BCLAD Spanish Permit

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Classified

- 19.a Classified Position Changes

CONSENT - BUSINESS SERVICES

- 20.a Ventura County Indian Education Consortium Agreements for 2021-22
- 20.b CDE Consolidated Application for Funding, Categorical Aid Programs (Part I and II), 2021-22
- 20.c Disposition of Obsolete and Surplus Items
- 20.d Ratification of Purchase Orders

BOARD REPORTS

Trustee Dr. Jerry Dannenberg thanked the entire staff for their work over the past 12 months during the pandemic and extended his best wishes for this upcoming school year.

Trustee Amy Callahan shared that the Celebrate event this morning was a nice reflection as we are starting off this new year reminding us why we do what we do. She thanked all staff for their hard work this summer mitigating learning loss and for their preparation for this school year.

Trustee Sabrena Rodriguez noted her attendance at the Community Forum regarding the So Cal Gas issue put on by Senator Limon and Assmblymember Bennett at DATA Middle School. She stated that the event was in collaboration with the Westside Community Council and the Westside Clean Air Coalition. She shared that it was great to see the community come out to advocate for their children and for their own health. Ms. Rodriguez also had a California School Board Association planning meeting where they scheduled an upcoming Zoom meeting to discuss declining enrollment for all California School Board members.

Trustee Matt Almaraz shared that he watched the So Cal Gas Community Forum online and that it can still be found on Assemblymember Bennet's Facebook page or on his own Facebook page. He thanked President Lomax and Trustee Rodriguez for representing us throughout this process. Trustee Almaraz attended a Ventura County School Board Association meeting as the Vice President of legislation. He noted his attendance at the first DELAC meeting of the year on August 23. He shared the goals of DELAC and thanked Dr. Molinar and Dr. Castro for the phenomenal first kick-off meeting.

Trustee Velma Lomax noted her attendance at the SoCal Gas Community Forum via Zoom and appreciated Senator Limon and Assemblymember's participation. Ms. Lomax shared that she was unable to attend the VUSD Robotics' Teams attended the Wings Over Camarillo Air Show this past weekend, however she shared that they were able to demonstrate their projects to hundreds of people. Ms. Lomax noted that at the event, the Air Force showed interest in helping to fund the program and she looks forward to meeting with their representative.

COMING EVENTS

Superintendent Dr. Roger Rice shared the following coming events:

- First Day of School: August 25
- Special Education District Advisory Committee (SEDAC) Meeting: August 27 at 9:00 a.m.
- Labor Day Holiday: September 6 – VUSD Closed
- Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting: September 7 at 9:30 a.m.
- LCAP Advisory Committee Meeting: September 22 at 8:30 a.m. or 5:30 p.m.
- African American Parent Committee Meeting: September 22 at 5:30 p.m.
- Back to School Nights:
 - Week of August 30
 - August 31:
 - Poinsettia 5:30 p.m.
 - Loma Vista 6:00 p.m.
 - September 1:

- Atlas: 5:30 p.m.
- Homestead: 6:00 p.m.
- Portola: 6:00 p.m.
- September 2:
 - Lincoln: 5:30 p.m.
 - Will Rogers 5:30 p.m.
 - Juanamaria 6:30 p.m.
- Week of September 6
 - September 8:
 - Anacapa: 5:30 p.m.
 - Balboa 5:30 p.m.
 - September 9:
 - DATA: 5:30 p.m.
 - Cabrillo: 6:00 p.m.

Trustee Sabrena Rodrigues shared that a memorial service for Ms. Georgia Perry will be taking place at the Poinsettia Pavilion at 11:00 a.m. this Saturday, August 28.

FUTURE BOARD ITEMS

- Chaperone/Overnight Fieldtrips - September
- Student Voice - September
- CARES Act ESSER Funding - September
- Summer School Student Data Update - September
- Redistricting - October

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS - (No official action will be taken)

Superintendent Dr. Roger Rice wished Cynthia Frutos, Director of Student Support Services, the best of luck in her new role as Assistant Superintendent of Education Services for Fillmore Unified.

Trustee Dannenberg congratulated Ms. Frutos on her new position and shared that she will be missed.

Trustee Callahan congratulated Ms. Frutos on her new position. She also gave a shout out to our principals and directors for all of the hard work they have had to endure and she hopes they will get some much needed time off in their future to refresh and rejuvenate.

Trustee Rodriguez congratulated Ms. Frutos and thanked her for doing such an outstanding job. Ms. Rodriguez stressed the importance of addressing miscommunication for our district, staff and families. Ms. Rodriguez noted that she visited with the two teachers at Mound school today whose classrooms were destroyed by fire. She shared that it was wonderful to see all of the support they have had from the community as well as from our facilities and building staff who have been working tirelessly to get the classrooms ready for school tomorrow. Lastly, she thanked all VUSD staff for coming back and for greeting our students and families with love and kindness.

Trustee Almaraz thanked Ms. Frutos for her advocacy for the students and shared that he will miss her collaboration on the several committees they are both on. Mr. Almaraz shared words of encouragement to our students, families and staff members for the start of a great year.

Trustee Lomax congratulated Ms. Frutos for her new position and reminded her that she always has a home here at VUSD.

CLOSED SESSION

There was no need to return to closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Matt Almaraz, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to adjourn our meeting at 8:58 p.m., to the next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting to be held on September 7, 2021.

Ayes: Ms. Velma Lomax, Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr.
Jerry Dannenberg

Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

APPROVED

Helma L. Lomay President

Ray Rice Secretary

[REDACTED]

From: Austin Novstrup <arvnovstrup@[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 9:33 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- Transportation Option

Members of the Board,
I am writing to express my frustration with the district's transportation department.

My son is beginning kindergarten at Sunset Elementary school wednesday. There's no afterschool program provided for kindergartners at Sunset Elementary. Our plan was to have my son ride the school bus to the nearest bus stop to his grandparents' house here in Oak View.

We contacted the transportation office to arrange this and were told repeatedly the school district does not provide door-to-door transportation even though that is not what was being requested. We were informed that the transportation department could only take my son to the stop nearest our house and were refused any further explanation. There is no additional information available on the district website and a call to the director of transportation went unanswered.

Is it the intent of this board and district staff to discourage parents from using school transportation? If so, why?

Is the intent to snarl neighborhood streets at drop-off and pick-up times?

Is the intent to make our neighborhood children dodge a gauntlet of parents hurrying to drop-off and pick-up their kids before rushing back to work?

Does the district have any interest in sustainability or is the goal to generate as many car trips as possible?

It is obvious what the goals should be.

I encourage the board to examine how school transportation is being provided in the district and to direct staff to make improvements.

Best,
Austin Novstrup

[REDACTED]

From: Sheila Murphy <smmezzo2 [REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 8:31 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- Bus Transportation - Lack of Proactive Communication

Dear VUSD School Board:

School starts in less than 48-hours as I write this email. There has not been ANY communication about bus route specifics (location/times) or whether we will have busses in my east Ventura neighborhood on Wednesday, August 25.

We read online in July, 2021 that pre-Covid bus routes would return. It was never a question that priority should be given to Special Ed and outlying areas such as Oakview and The Rincon. We learned about those criteria when we questioned why we were ineligible for bussing in Spring, 2021.

The Spring, 2021 *8-week experiment* consisted of 1000s of **additional** cars on the road, 2x daily, 5-days per week.

Resulting in increased:

- Gas costs per family, especially if driving to multiple schools
- risk of car accidents
- pollution
- stress

Internal promotions within the transportation department are understandable. Expecting those folks to learn and master new routing software requires a completely different skill set. This was an accident waiting to happen, and another case of nearsighted mismanagement by people who continued to be paid during the pandemic and to do what?

I know many VUSD employees have worked the hardest ever in their lives these past few years.....but Transportation? No way.

Even if a letter from VUSD magically appears in my mailbox tomorrow....I want you ALL to know that this issue has caused my family undue hardship. People have to work, go to doctor appointments, have no car, there are so many reasons why this type of situation should not be tolerated.

Please make improvements, not excuses for VUSD Transportation.

Thank you,
Sheila Murphy

[REDACTED]

From: Sheila Murphy <smmezzo2[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:06 PM
To: Public Comment; public.comments@venturausd.org
Cc: Chandler, Rebecca
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- Fw: Bus Transportation - Lack of Proactive Communication

Following up to email below to clarify that I have added TRAVERSA 360 successfully to my phone and also referred to the website frequently on my pc at home since discovering the link on the VUSD > Parents> Quick Links > Bus Routes and also via the Transportation page.

There should be a message that this child is OUT OF SCOPE for the bus at this time.

I'm guessing NO ROUTE SCHEDULED means that? But it's still so unclear. How is a parent to know that this is truly the case?

This oversight is really causing some stress in my family. We can't be 2 places at once.

Doesn't anyone care?

It happens that having been told the bus would be running is part of the reason my daughter is going to VHS.

If I'd known there would NOT BE A BUS from Clearpoint, I would have put in for FOOTHILL and since all those who applied were accepted, I am even more angry. This situation is very disappointing.

Thank you,
Sheila Murphy

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Sheila Murphy <smmezzo2[REDACTED]>
To: public.comment@venturausd.org <public.comment@venturausd.org>
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021, 08:31:25 PM PDT
Subject: Bus Transportation - Lack of Proactive Communication

Dear VUSD School Board:

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Please make improvements, not excuses for VUSD Transportation.

Thank you,

Sheila Murphy