



**VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
February 8, 2022
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, February 8, 2022, 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 or via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83211773003?pwd=NUxqQ0hXRkpla3hZSDdleGhxeWdxdz09>. Those in attendance were:

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

Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Ms. Velma Lomax, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the agenda as presented.

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

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 Mr. Matt Almaraz and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to go to closed session at 5:31 p.m.

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

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

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

At 7:04 p.m., Board President Matt Almaraz called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance. A Moment of Silence was held in honor of Ms. Jose Montano. Mr. Montano worked for VUSD for 47 years. He began his employment as a resource teacher, became the District's Bilingual Specialist, served as the coordinator of Federal and Specially Funded Projects, and was Principal at several of our sites. He officially retired in 2007, but

continued to serve as an Administrative Substitute for VUSD through 2022. Mr. Montano served VUSD with pride and led with a focus on personal relationships.

Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve Ms. Claudia Caudill as the new principal of Balboa Middle School.

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

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

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Dr. Roger Rice, thanked the Board for their support in appointing Ms. Claudia Caudill as the new principal of Balboa Middle School and shared that he looks forward to her tenure.

Dr. Rice recognized Black History Month and shared the importance of honoring all of the contributions of African American citizens in our community, state and country. He gave a shout out to the newly formed African American Parent Committee and shared that he has thoroughly enjoyed attending a few of their meetings

Dr. Rice gave a huge shout out to all VUSD School Counselors in honor of National School Counseling Week.

Dr. Rice congratulated newly appointed Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Ms. Gina Wolowicz and noted that her family will be joining us at our next board meeting for introductions.

Dr. Rice mentioned that VUSD was just informed that they are a recipient of a one million dollar A-G Completion Incentive Grant.

Dr. Rice gave a brief update regarding new COVID developments. He shared that the Governor is considering lifting the mask mandates for individuals who are vaccinated around February 15th. We do not know at this time how it will affect our VUSD employees as this information would come from Cal -OSHA. Also, the Governor has proposed a new round of COVID related leave, which could be up to 80 hours. It is proposed that it would be retroactive to January 1, 2022 and possibly run through the end of September 2022.

Dr. Rice introduced Ms. Elliana Tenenbaum, a former El Camino High School student who graduated this past December, one month after her 15th birthday, with her high school diploma and completing her first two years of undergraduate course work. Ms. Tenenbaum currently attends Arizona State University and is pursuing her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. Ms. Tenenbaum took a few minutes to address the board and thanked El Camino staff for helping her to get where she is. Principal Guerrero and Board Members took turns congratulating Ms. Tenenbaum.

Dr. Rice took the opportunity to recognize the VUSD Gratitude Award recipients for the month of January. The Gratitude Awards were designed to recognize exceptional VUSD teachers, employees, volunteers, students, and administrators associated with VUSD. There were a total of 87 submissions who will receive a certificate of acknowledgement. Five individuals were randomly selected to also receive a \$50.00 Amazon gift card.

Student Board Members Karyme Fierros, representing Foothill High School, Sierra Sanchez Rosales, representing Pacific High School, and Sophia Green, representing El Camino High School, gave brief updates on the exciting things happening at their school sites.

Correspondence

Dr. Roger Rice noted correspondence from Ventura County Office of Education that approved the extension of the audit.

Public Comments

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

1. Dan Nelson* thanked Ventura Unified Education Association (VUEA) members and wished all staff, students and families a happy Valentine's Day.

2. Carol Peek* shared her gratitude and appreciation for all Ventura Education Support Professionals Association (VESPA) members.

ACTION ITEMS

14.a Consideration of Resolution #22-03, Continuing Board of Trustees Authority to Hold Virtual Meetings Pursuant to AB 361.

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Ms. Velma Lomax and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve Resolution #22-03, continuing the Board of Trustees authority to hold virtual meetings pursuant to AB 361 as presented.

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

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

14.b Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) and Ventura Unified Education Association (VUEA) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - Advanced Agreement for COVID Subbing for Teachers

It was moved by Ms. Velma Lomax, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the VUSD and VUEA Memorandum of Understanding - Advanced Agreement for COVID Subbing for Teachers as presented.

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

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

CONFERENCE - SUPERINTENDENT

15.a Student Board Members

Board President Matt Almaraz, led a discussion regarding potential changes to the role of the student board member. Topics included having the student board members attend the annual CSBA conference, how the position could be restructured, how they would be selected, and what if any voting rights they could have. There was board consensus to form a smaller committee that would include the student board members, to discuss this topic further. There was board consensus to have Trustee Lomax and Trustee Rodriguez on the committee with Trustee Almaraz as an alternate. Additional information regarding Ed Code and Board Bylaws was requested. The board also solicited feedback from the student board members in attendance.

CONFERENCE - EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

16.a Universal Transitional Kindergarten (TK)

Ms. Gina Wolowicz, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, gave an update on Universal Transitional Kindergarten (TK). Ms. Wolowicz shared that TK is the first year of a two-year kindergarten program that uses a modified age and developmentally appropriate curriculum taught by a credentialed teacher. A timeline of proposed changes to the program over the next four years was reviewed, which included the birthday eligibility requirement for each school year moving forward as well as the classroom ratio of adults to students.

16.b Consideration for Review of K-12 Schools and Adult Education Comprehensive School Safety Plans for the 2021-22 School Year

Dr. Antonio Castro, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, noted that the K-12 Schools and Adult Education Comprehensive School Safety Plans for the 2021-22 School Year are available for review at

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/111ut1A00HRIHcESIfQT621ZMK5pGN_fA?usp=sharing.

This item will be brought back a future Board meeting for approval.

CONFERENCE - HUMAN RESOURCES - Certificated

17.a Ventura County Office of Education Quarter 2 Williams Report 2021-22 Fiscal Year

Ms. Gina Wolowicz, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, reported that there were no findings on the Quarter 2 Williams Report for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Items 18.b and 21.a were pulled for discussion prior to voting.

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve consent items #18-22 as presented.

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

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

CONSENT- EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

18.a Resolution #22-05, Continued Funding Application for State Preschool Program 2022-23

18.b Overnight and Out of the Tri-County Field Trip

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Certificated

19.a Ratification of Administration's Approval of Resignations, Retirements and Release for Certificated Personnel for the 2021-22 School Year

19.b Ratification of Administration's Approval of Employment and Reemployment of Substitute Teachers for the 2021-22 School Year

19.c Ratification of Administration's Approval for Leave of Absence for Certificated Personnel for the 2021-22 School Year

19.d Ratification of Administration's Approval of Miscellaneous & Part-Time Certificated Assignments for the 2021-22 School Year

19.e Ratification of Administration's Approval of Employment of Adult Education Teachers

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Classified

20.a Classified Position Changes

CONSENT - BUSINESS SERVICES

21.a Ratification of Purchase Orders and Contracts

21.b Ratification of Check Payments

CONSENT - SUPERINTENDENT

22.a Consideration of Board Meeting Minutes

BOARD REPORTS

Trustee Dr. Jerry Dannenberg noted his attendance at the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting where the Ventura Education Partnership (VEP) presented information regarding their Arts & Social Justice grants that are due on February 11th, and Dr. Rice shared about SB227 and the budget. Dr. Dannenberg also noted his attendance at the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) meeting.

Trustee Amy Callahan shared that she also attended the PAC and LCAP meetings.

Trustee Sabrena Rodriguez shared that she was unable to attend the SEDAC meeting, however she was able to go back and watch the video where they focused on IDEA and our Child Find process. Ms. Rodriguez attended

the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Board of Directors meeting where they had an all-day session with Dr. Tyrone Howard from UCLA and looked at data from an equity lens. They also worked with a facilitator on board and governance standards. Ms. Rodriguez attended the Mental Health Committee meeting where they heard from a variety of community organizations. She also attended an Arts Collaborative meeting and shared that there will be an art show held at the museum beginning on June 3. Lastly, she shared that Legislation Action Day will be held virtually this year and encouraged the other board members to sign up.

Trustee Matt Almaraz noted his participation in the VUSD Mental Wellness Day on January 31. He shared that there was great staff participation with over 600 in attendance. Mr. Almaraz participated in the webinar for the Center for Leadership Equity and Research (CLEAR). Mr. Almaraz noted that he enjoyed visiting a SPED 1st grade classroom at Elmhurst and enjoyed seeing the interaction of the staff and students. Lastly, he shared that he watched his nephew's last basketball game of the season.

COMING EVENTS

- Declining Enrollment Committee Meeting: February 10th at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89831438175?pwd=RitJWTFkZmkxZWROek1SdFIKR0FDZz09>
- Teacher of the Month Celebrations:
 - February 14th at FTHS
 - February 23rd at E.P. Foster
- Lincoln's Birthday & President's Day – No School: February 18th & 21st
- African American Parent Committee Meeting: February 23rd at 5:30 p.m.
- Parent Advisory Committee Meeting: March 1st at 9:30 a.m.

Trustee Matt Almaraz shared that he will be a judge at the upcoming Spelling Bee at Juanamaria.

FUTURE BOARD ITEMS

There was board consensus to add a Special Study Session on Student Data.

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

Trustee Dr. Jerry Dannenberg congratulated Coach Ann Larson at Ventura High School and her girl's basketball, for almost going undefeated this year.

Trustee Amy Callahan shared that she attended her first AVID meeting and it was the highlight of her week. She also shared that Wellness Day on January 31st was a great acknowledgement to our staff that we see them. She would love for VUSD to continue offering wellness activities. Lastly, she appreciated everything that the staff is doing to keep our schools open.

Trustee Matt Almaraz shared that he is very grateful for what the VUSD staff is doing for our students.

CLOSED SESSION

There was no reason to return to closed session.

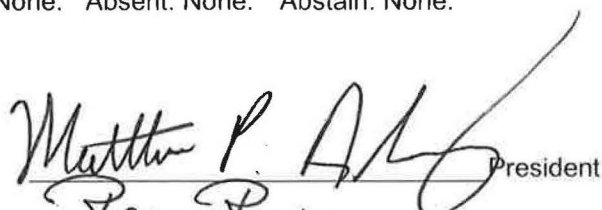
ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to adjourn our meeting at 9:46 p.m. to our next Regular Board Meeting to be held on February 22, 2022.

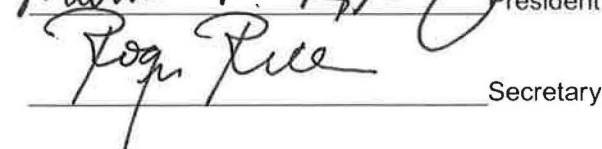
Ayes: Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Ms. Velma Lomax

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

APPROVED



President



Secretary