

**VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
AUGUST 22, 2016**

A. CALL TO ORDER

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and Moment of Reflection
The Regular Meeting of the Ventura County Board of Education, Agenda 16-11, was called to order by Rachel Ulrich, Board Vice President at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, August 22, 2016, in the Board Room of the VCOE Conference & Educational Services Center, 5100 Adolfo Road, Camarillo. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Ms. Ulrich, followed by a moment of reflection.
2. Roll Call
Trustees Present:
Rachel Ulrich, Area 1
Marty Bates, Area 2
Dean Kunicki, Area 4
Dr. Ramon Flores, Area 5
Dr. Mark Lisagor, Area 3 – *Absent*

VCOE Personnel Present:
Stanley C. Mantooth, Ventura County Superintendent of Schools and Ex-Officio Secretary and Executive Officer of the Board
Dr. Roger Rice, Deputy Superintendent, Student Services
Misty Key, Associate Superintendent, Fiscal and Administrative Services
Dr. Antonio Castro, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services
Richard Urias, Director, Charter School Support and Oversight
Dave Schermer, Communications Manager
Nancy Akkerman, Senior Executive Assistant
3. Approval of Agenda.
Ms. Ulrich reported that Agenda Item C.1, Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Case No. 1608 was cancelled by the district. Mr. Kunicki requested that Agenda Item L.4 be tabled until September 26, 2016. Ms. Ulrich moved the agenda be approved as amended. Dr. Flores seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously (4:0). Dr. Lisagor was absent.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

C. HEARINGS

1. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Case No. 1608
CANCELLED by District.

2. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Case No. 1609

The parents, family, and student were in attendance. Dr. Juan Santos, Director of Student Support Services, was in attendance representing Conejo Valley Unified School District. Mr. Kunicki moved the Board uphold Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Case No. 1609. Ms. Ulrich seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously (4:0).

D. CLOSED SESSION

None.

E. PRELIMINARY

1. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of July 25, 2016.

Mr. Bates moved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 25, 2016 be approved. Dr. Flores seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously (4:0).

F. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

G. PRESIDENT'S AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

1. Dr. Flores reported that he and Mr. Kunicki attended the VCOE Leadership Retreat held at the Reagan Presidential Library. It was excellent.
2. Ms. Ulrich thanked staff for a copy of "*Give and Take*," the book which will be used by the VCOE Leadership Team this year. Ms. Ulrich also reported that the CCBE Conference will be held in two weeks.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Mantooth reported on the following activities of the Office:

1. Board members were asked to notify the Office if they plan to attend the September 19, 2016 VCSBA Dinner Meeting.
2. "Camps offer insight on careers", Simi Valley Acorn article.
3. Two Providence students won an award at Ventura County Fair for their landscape project.
4. Complimentary copies of "*Give and Take*", the VCOE Leadership Team book, were given to Board members.
5. Updated Board contact information was distributed.
6. Board travel packets for the CCBE Fall Conference were distributed.
7. VCOE was recently awarded the statewide CalSPRA and national NSPRA award for the VCOE website and electronic Focus on Education. Mr. Schermer, VCOE Communications Manager, was honored for his efforts on both these projects.

8. The Office has an opportunity to retire the COPs that were issued to build the Conference Center. This would result in a savings of \$5 million in taxpayer funds. Further information will be shared at a future meeting.
9. Ms. Ulrich noted the two upcoming conferences – CSBA and CCBE.

I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

None.

J. CONSENT/ACTION

1. Travel Expense Claim
2. Temporary County Certificates
3. Action on Consent Items 1-2.
Mr. Bates moved the Board approve Consent Items 1-2. Mr. Kunicki seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously (4:0).

K. PRESENTATIONS

1. Ventura County Office of Education Areas of Focus
In accordance with Board Policy 2126, Mr. Mantooth highlighted the Office's accomplishments in support of the VCOE Mission, Vision, and Goals as reflected in the Superintendent's Areas of Focus for 2014-16.

Advocacy, Information and Engagement

- Focus on Education publication and VCOE website were redesigned and received both statewide and federal honors
- The SELPA website was also redesigned
- Social Media presence expanded
- VCOE staff act as presenters at local and statewide conferences and serve on multiple local and statewide committees sharing information and best practices

Enhancing the Educational Continuum

- LCAP efforts. The Office assists local school districts with their LCAP documents, providing support and review services so the LCAPs will be approved when submitted to the State Department of Education. Targeted, one on one meetings are held with every district. This work is ongoing.
- The five charter schools authorized by the Board are assisted in their LCAP efforts
- The Office continues to serve Special Education, Migrant, Teen Parent, Homeless and Foster Youth populations as well as incarcerated, probation-referred and expelled students with a focus on academics and social emotional growth
- STEM efforts are supported with partner IHEs; professional development in the new Science Standards is provided

- Teacher Support Services provided induction programs for 650 new teachers with 380 district mentors. A 97% retention rate has been achieved over the past 4 years. The problem of teachers shortage remains and efforts will continue.
- Early Childhood Programs performed quality assessments in 234 classrooms in 11 school districts, impacting over 4,000 students
- VCOE operates job-a-like meetings in every domain to foster information sharing

Operational Economy and Resource Management

- VCOE continues its successful migration to fee-based, cost recovery model and one time funding is focused on one-time expenditures
- Facilities continue to be upgraded and modernized even though state funds have not been received
- Technology upgrades which improve efficiency and user access continue
- VCOE received, reconciled and monitored almost \$3 billion in funding and \$200 million in bond issuances and refunding

College, Careers and Innovation

- VCOE received an additional \$5.7 million in Career Technical Education grant funding and 80 classes are now “a-g” approved
- Adult Education Consortium is coordinated through VCOE
- CEC Moorpark is being opened in a facility that was no longer being used by the local school district. There will be 14 courses offered there with enrollment preference given to Moorpark Unified School District students
- The P-20 Council comprised of leadership from all levels including Preschool, K-12 education, Naval Base Ventura County, Corwin Publishing, two local colleges and community college, is chaired by VCOE. Efforts to leverage connections with local businesses in support of education are ongoing.

Organizational Health

- The Office has a great culture of collaboration
- The Office reflects the demographics of the County
- The Office is consistently responsive to our customers
- The Office values its employees and models lifelong learning
- The staff of VCOE are its greatest asset

Mr. Mantooth distributed copies of the 2016-18 Areas of Focus that are supportive of the VCOE and Board’s goals.

L. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/ACTION

1. Superintendent’s Salary

Mr. Mantooth noted that this item was deferred last year. Ms. Key shared comparison data from local school districts, Class III County Offices, geographically proximate County Offices, and local countywide elected offices.

Ms. Key noted that the annual salary plus the allowances and other stipends are listed for each section. The annual salary is the base salary. Median and average salaries are listed. Two years ago, the Superintendent's salary was increased by approximately \$15,000. The COLA this year was 0.00%. VCOE employees are in the process of voting on a tentative agreement which includes a 3% on-schedule increase and a new method of providing for increased medical premiums. Employees will now be paying 4% of the health insurance premium. This is currently a reduction in the amount paid. There will be two types of medical insurance plans offered, including a HSA.

Mr. Bates asked about the ADA for Class III counties. Ms. Key reported that Class III counties have an ADA of 60,000 – 139,999. Class II counties have ADA of 140,000 – 749,999. The ADA for Ventura County is 137,000.

Ms. Key explained that due to the new laws governing STRS retirement, if the salary is drastically reduced when a new person is hired into a position, the salary of the retiree could be considered salary spiking and the retiree's retirement benefits could be reduced.

Dr. Flores requested that this item be tabled until the full Board is in attendance.

Ms. Ulrich requested that in light of the changes to the laws affecting STRS, that revisions to Board Policy 2126 also be agendized.

Ms. Ulrich moved the Board table this item until September 26, 2016.

Mr. Kunicki seconded the motion, and it passed 4:0.

2. California State Preschool Programs, Prekindergarten Family Literacy Program Agency Annual Report

Dr. Castro reported that VCOE serves 192 preschool-aged children annually in 5 classrooms in the Hueneme, Rio and Ocean View School Districts through the California State Preschool Prekindergarten Family Literacy Project (PKFLP) contract. PKFLP programs are required to identify key findings and action steps necessary to improve curriculum and, ultimately, child and family outcomes. In accordance with the California State Preschool Prekindergarten Family Literacy Project requirements, the annual report was submitted to the California Department of Education on June 1, 2016. This item was presented for information only.

3. Charter School Update

Mr. Mantooth noted that the Office is very interested in the work that CCBE and CSBA are doing in regards to Charter Schools. Staff has reviewed the CCBE Charter Schools Task Force Draft.08 Report and its recommendations. Mr. Urias provided an overview of the recommendations contained in the report and VCOE's efforts in those areas including oversight of Board approved charter schools and other charter schools located within the county.

The first recommendation pertains to CARSNet. Charter School authorizers have supported one another informally but a more formal process is recommended. A grant was written to improve Charter School authorization oversight. As a result, the first annual CARSNet conference was held last year, along with a four day bootcamp for authorizers. Mr. Urias will attend in September along with representatives from 2 or 3 local school districts. CCAP will take over leadership following the two year grant. Mr. Urias reported that this Board shows real leadership in Charter School oversight.

Recommendation 3 is to develop a model document for evaluation of new and renewing charter school petitions. The matrix used by VCOE is excellent but slight edits have been submitted to Dr. Rice for consideration.

Recommendation 4 proposes consolidating the oversight efforts of districts within a county to the county level, with County Offices of Education providing the oversight for the local school districts. A local school district's ability and capacity to provide proper oversight for a 1% funding provided (approximately \$25,000) is limited with the task often given to an employee as an "add-on" assignments.

Other recommendations include:

Charter School Governing Boards being given more oversight responsibility. In Ventura County, our Office works to ensure that the charter school boards are supported and receive training in Brown Act, LCAP, Board Governance.

Key Performance Indicators being identified and evaluated. Our programmatic audit is a good model to accomplish this. Very few other authorizers require a programmatic audit.

Fiscal Transparency. Benny Martinez of the VCSBSA, provides fiscal and budget support for VCOE authorized charter schools. LCAPs are posted online.

WASC accreditation. This is required for VCOE authorized charter schools.

The power to suspend and expel students be used sparingly and appropriately. We are the only COE that allows charter school parents to appeal to the County Board to ensure due process in expulsions.

There are issues with charter schools in Ventura County. Charter schools have experienced fiscal issues and a local school district was supported in the renewal process. A charter school opened a resource center in Simi Valley which has since closed as it was not meeting parent expectations.

The California County Boards of Education Charter Schools Task Force Draft.08 report is excellent and Ventura County has experienced many of the same issues.

Mr. Bates noted the squatter charter schools that operate throughout the state are an issue. Mr. Urias noted that this issue is being discussed throughout the state and change is being considered. School districts want local control of the charter school. VCOE monitors this issue very closely

Mr. Kunicki questioned the ACLU allegation. Ms. Ulrich noted the statement that charter schools inadvertently exclude lower socio-economically disadvantaged students has merit, and equity in access to charter schools is extremely pertinent. Mr. Urias closely monitors the entrance forms used by charter schools and charter school enrollment criteria is closely reviewed to make sure it is not exclusive. Mr. Urias also attends enrollment meetings of each charter school to make sure informal discrimination is not occurring.

Dr. Flores questioned if local school districts are supportive of County Office oversight. Mr. Urias noted that it might be something the County Office could do for the first 2-3 years until the school district receives training on charter school oversight responsibility. This item was presented for information only.

4. Discussion of Proposition 56, November Ballot Issue
Per approval of the agenda, this item was tabled until September 26, 2016.

M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

1. Mr. Bates noted that he will be unable to attend the CCBE Fall Conference due to a conflicting family event.
2. Mr. Kunicki noted that staff did an excellent job at the VCOE Leadership Retreat. The addition of the Moorpark CEC is exciting.
3. Ms. Ulrich applauded the amount of Career Education coursework occurring throughout the County.

N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Discussion of Proposition 56, November Ballot Issue (September 26, 2016).
2. Superintendent's Salary and Review of Board Policy 2126 (September 26, 2016).

O. FUTURE MEETINGS

Date: Monday, September 26, 2016
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: Monday, October 24, 2016
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

P. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Ulrich adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Minutes Approved by Board Action on 9/26/16.

*Board meetings are recorded by audio tape pursuant to Government Code Section 54953.5(b).
Copies of these audio tapes are available by request to this office at (805) 383-1900.*