

**VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF  
JANUARY 23, 2017**

**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 17-01, was called to order by Dr. Ramon Flores, Board President at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 23, 2017, 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 Dr. Flores, followed by a moment of reflection.
  
2. Roll Call  
Trustees Present:  
Rachel Ulrich, Area 1  
Marty Bates, Area 2  
Dr. Mark Lisagor, Area 3  
Dean Kunicki, Area 4  
Dr. Ramon Flores, Area 5  
  
VCOE Personnel Present:  
Dr. Roger Rice, Deputy Superintendent, Student Services  
Misty Key, Associate Superintendent, Fiscal and Administrative Services  
Dr. Antonio Castro, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services  
Mary Samples, Assistant Superintendent, SELPA  
David Simmons, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel Services  
Jane Wagmeister, Executive Director, Curriculum & Instruction  
Kenny Loo, Principal, Court & Community School  
Erika Singletary, Executive Assistant, Personnel Services  
Nancy Akkerman, Senior Executive Assistant
  
3. Approval of Agenda.  
Mr. Bates moved the agenda be approved. Ms. Ulrich seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously (5:0).

**B. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**C. HEARINGS**

None.

**D. CLOSED SESSION**

None.

**E. PRELIMINARY**

1. Approval of Minutes of Annual Organizational Meeting of December 5, 2016. Mr. Kunicki moved the Minutes of the Annual Organizational Meeting of December 5, 2016 be approved. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously (5:0).

**F. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Email from Nancy Hill, dated December 5, 2016, titled, "Uniform Complaint on Anacapa Middle School Guest Speaker Sheila Lowe, 11/18/16" (Response included). Dr. Rice noted that this item was forwarded to the Board per statute.
2. VCSBA Dinner Meeting Announcement and Newsletter.
3. Letter from San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians, RE: CEQA

**G. PRESIDENT'S AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS**

1. Dr. Rice reviewed the Upcoming Events. Dr. Rice noted that the date of the VCSBA Dinner meeting was changed to March 13, 2017. Dr. Flores and Dr. Lisagor will be honored for their 8 years of service. Dr. Rice invited all Board members to attend the upcoming VCOE All Staff Day.
2. Mr. Kunicki reported that he was recently in Washington DC. He also recently attended a Board meeting in another Trustee's area as an observer
3. Ms. Ulrich reported that she will be attending the March 13<sup>th</sup> VCSBA Dinner.
4. Dr. Flores attended a town hall meeting put on by Congresswoman Brownley. During the meeting, numerous ELL students were honored for their accomplishments.

**H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

*Dr. Rice reported on the following activities of the Office:*

1. Governor's Budget Proposal. Ms. Key distributed copies of the Pocket Budget for 2017-18 prepared by School Services. The proposal includes minimum funding based on Prop 98. The Governor proposes a minimum COLA which will be applied to full funding of the LCFF. COEs receive little to no adjustments. VCOE is currently fully funded, so there will be no additional funding.
2. Mr. Kunicki asked about the status of the pending school construction bonds. Ms. Key explained that it is anticipated that the Governor will still issue the bonds after his administrative regulations are implemented. Ms. Key also noted that although the retirement contributions are increasing, there will be no additional funding.
3. Mr. Kunicki noted that the State is going to have a huge retirement pension crisis in the future.

**I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

None.

**J. CONSENT/ACTION**

1. Travel Expense Claim
2. Temporary County Certificates
3. Disposal of Property
4. Williams Quarterly Report to County Board of Education
5. Action on Consent Items 1-4.

Mr. Kunicki moved the Board approve Consent Items 1-4. Ms. Ulrich seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously (5:0).

**K. PRESENTATIONS**

1. Gateway Community School Update  
Kenny Loo, Principal, Gateway Community School. presented an update on operations at Gateway including information on student enrollment, staffing, LCAP priorities, and programmatic developments.

Gateway guidelines for success are that Gateway students are Respectful, Positive, Productive and Proud. Student Enrollment is currently at 110 and has been consistently increasing – the highest enrollment in the past 3 years. There is a need for the programs and services provided at Gateway School. A marketing flyer has been developed that is distributed to the local school districts. Attendance Rates have increased by 5% over last year, currently at 80.4% ADA.

LCAP Goals are student centered and are used as the road map for success.

Improve Academic Achievement. Progress includes students receiving high quality education programs. Curriculum and Instruction have assisted in implementing the integrated mathematics curriculum and ELA/ELD curriculum. Gateway also partners with the CEC to offer courses in horticulture, marketing, social justice, aviation, and medical/nursing. To date, 55 students have taken one or more CEC courses. Project based learning is being implemented at Gateway. Students create products that they can be proud of, which in turn creates students who are engaged in their school.

Campus Climate. Intramurals have started with a flag football game with Frontier High being held. A Thanksgiving Feast was held and Quarterly Wolverine Awards. In the first semester, suspensions have decreased by 25% compared to last year; 74 restorative circles and meetings have also been held.

Community Involvement. Students participate in a variety of community volunteer projects. The recent Back to School Night was well attended. Gateway hopes to create a library that is available to parents and students.

Serving Expelled Youth. Social/Emotional services including individual counseling and student support groups are ongoing. Students want to stay at Gateway, but they also want to go back to their home school feeling prepared to face their future.

Mr. Kunicki questioned expanding access to CEC courses. Mr. Loo explained that CEC classes are offered during the actual school day as part of the master schedule. Teachers volunteer to take on this extra responsibility. Most Gateway students are credit deficient so the CEC courses were rewritten to include core curriculum requirements so they could meet the a-g course requirements. Students are being transitioned into full CEC courses including automotive. The current work with the 55 students (60%) is just the start. Round II of the Career Planning Grant was to fill the gaps – get into places that were not included in Round I – expanding CEC into the charter schools, middle schools. This work is ongoing.

Dr. Flores noted that the Gateway Graduations are especially rewarding. The students are able to be successful through the efforts of staff and the Gateway Community School program.

## **L. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/ACTION**

1. Annual Programmatic Audit Presentation by River Oaks Academy (ROA)  
Claudia Weintraub, Director, River Oaks Academy (ROA) presented the Annual Programmatic Audit highlighting ROA's goals and achievements for the previous and current year. She introduced the many teachers, Board members, and staff from ROA who were in attendance.

ROA offers a PK-12 independent personalized learning program. Staff includes the Director, 13 teachers, 2 office assistants, an office clerk, and a guidance counselor. ROA operates two resource centers – one in Westlake and one in Oxnard. The Oxnard facility was supposed to be ready in August, but construction delays did not allow this to happen. Facilities were rented at the Marriott in Oxnard. Fifty students meet there 2 times a week. ROA hopes to have the Oxnard facility open in February 2017. ROA received a 6 year WASC accreditation and also participates in the Career Pathways Trust Grant.

Enrollment has increased every year and the high school enrollment has doubled due to the addition of a-g courses and a personalized approach to learning.

23% of the ROA student population is socio-economically disadvantaged. A laptop loaner program has been established. Tutoring on wheels is offered to all students, and additional support and services are added as needed.

11% of the students are classified as special needs. ROA has one special education teacher and they offer OT, PT, and other services. ROA works closely with SELPA for compliance issues. The ratio of boys to girls is approximately 50/50.

Overall, 17.6% of students are Hispanic. In Westlake the percentage of Hispanic is 15%. ROA continues efforts to attract additional ethnicities. Bilingual tours and one-on-one support for Spanish speakers are offered. Brochures and website are available in Spanish. The percentage of Hispanics attending ROA has increased from 11% to over 17%. The addition of a resource center in Oxnard has helped to increase diversity. Several bilingual staff members reach out to the Spanish population.

The Board of Directors includes 5 Board members (2 community members and 3 parent Board members). Governance training is offered each year. Board meetings are held monthly.

Budget. ROA has a budget committee which meets three times a year to develop fiscal priorities related to instruction each year. The 2015-16 budget included \$44,000 in one time funding. The Oxnard Resource Center generated additional expenses for facilities and teachers, and rent for the Marriott. The breakeven point for that facility was 46 students and there are currently 47 students enrolled. ROA has solid reserves. 80% of revenues are required to be spent on instructional programs. The Governor's Budget will provide one time funding of \$48 per student. LCFF projections will include increased funding. The PERS contributions rates will increase from 13.88% - 26% over the next 6 years. ROA only employs 3 classified staff members so this will not be a major increase but the expenses will be adjusted accordingly over the next 6 years.

Revenue is projected based on 250 students (there are currently 253 students). ROA is in good financial status. The ending balance is dropping due to conservative enrollment and expense projections. Revenues increase as the actual enrollment increases, while fixed costs remain the same. From 2017 through 2020 ROA has projected deficit spending, but this will likely not happen.

ROA's LCAP Goals and Accomplishments were reviewed. All teachers are appropriately assigned. School facilities are maintained in good repair. Square footage has been added. 100% of students have access to standards aligned materials. Tutor on wheels provides additional core curriculum support.

Increased college and career readiness opportunities. Students create a 10 year plan which is continually evaluated. Academic Growth is measured through State mandated assessments, school based assessments, administration of PSAT and SAT, portfolio assessments are also offered.

CAASPP results were reviewed. Plans to improve school achievement were identified. Home tutoring and tutoring on wheels is offered, 6 math tutors were hired, interventions are offered on Wednesday through Prep and Pizza courses. These interventions focus on familiarity with the tests and reduction in the stress of test taking. High School students have access to an app called Yup which is a 24 hour tutoring program available on Iphones. Unlimited access for students is \$200 per month. The number of students who met or nearly met the standards increased and there was a 20% drop in the number of students who did not meet standards. ELA test results increased as well.

This year the number of tutors increased to 12 and the amount of student contact time also doubled. 4 teachers attended training on CAASPP interim assessments. Specialists were hired to teach ACT and SAT writing. ROA's test results were compared with Golden Valley Charter and CVUSD. ROA continues to change their testing culture.

ROA offers a High School program as well. High school enrollment has grown from 20 to 86 in 3 years. 100% of students graduate. Students complete a sequence of a-g courses. 39 approved courses are currently offered and more will be added in future years. 10-15 students took advantage of concurrent enrollment at local Community Colleges. Work experience and internships are offered. ACT Aspire and PSAT tests are administered. The results are strong with all ROA students meeting the benchmarks in reading and writing and math. The SAT is also offered.

ROA is in their second year of participation in the Career Pathways Trust Grant as part of a charter school consortium including ACE Charter High School. Six career pathways have been identified. In the second year, curriculum was implemented. Teachers regularly attend VC Innovates trainings. New business connections and collaborations have been identified and support the program by acting as advisory board members, hosting field trips, devising classroom projects and offering internships. ROA partners with ACE Charter School and VC Innovates in these efforts. The collaboration on the CCPT grant allows students to attend courses at ACE or at ROA. ROA strives to create a college-going culture. Graduates have been admitted to private / out of state / UC / CSU and local community colleges.

Ms. Ulrich applauded efforts to increase math scores. ROA will continue to make efforts to change the testing culture of the school, helping students to be less concerned about the test taking process.

Ms. Weintraub noted that she greatly appreciates the collaboration between ROA and the VCOE Charter School staff, who are always supportive and accommodating.

Dr. Flores asked about the facility in Oxnard. ROA responded that the Oxnard facility is located on C Street and will open in February. PK-12 will be served at this location. There were many issues with permits and construction delays. Dr. Flores requested that demographic and testing results be broken out by site for next year.

Dr. Flores asked about the relationship with OUHSD and Oxnard Elementary School District. ROA has an excellent relationship with OUHSD; ROA has not met with Oxnard Elementary School District as only 5 Oxnard Elementary students have enrolled.

2. College Readiness Block Grant

Dr. Rice noted that on December 5, 2016, staff presented information on the College Readiness Block Grant and planned actions and services that will be undertaken with this new one-time funding. There have been no changes to the proposal. Dr. Lisagor moved the Board approve the application for the College Readiness Block Grant as presented. Mr. Kunicki seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously (5:0).

3. Revisions to Administrative Regulation 0420.4, Charter Schools and Associated Exhibits

Dr. Rice reported that Administrative Regulation 0420.4, Charter Schools, and its associated Exhibits, have been updated to meet the recommendations of the Charter Authorizers Regional Support Network (CARSNet) and those given by the California County Boards of Education in their DRAFT.08 of the Charter Schools Task Force report. The existing Board Policy is consistent with current law and practices.

Administrative Regulation 0420.4 was revised to specify countywide charter schools. Exhibit 2 was changed to request electronic copies of the charter petition, rather than a CD.

Exhibit 3 was changed extensively to reflect the new law regarding assessments (CAASPP has been added, CAHSEE and API have been deleted), and the addition of information on how special education students will be served, especially those with moderate/severe disabilities. With these changes, it is anticipated that the review matrix will be the same across the State, as recommended by CARSNet and CCBE. This item is presented for information only.

4. California Classified School Employee Teacher Credential Program (CSEP)

Mr. Simmons reported that one of the efforts to address the statewide teacher shortage is the development of pathways for classified employees to become credentialed teachers. The CSEP grant follows the 1992 Paraeducator to Teacher Training Program grant which paid for local paraeducators to become teachers.

300 local paraeducators took advantage of the program.

The CSEP grant has been expanded to include any classified employee or intern who is pursuing a Multiple Subject, Single subject or education specialist credential. The candidate must have completed at least 48 units of college and submit to a criminal background check. For VCOE, the candidate must also have a 2.7 gpa (C+) and complete 18 units each year which would allow them to finish their Bachelor's degree and credential program in the allowed 5 years. All districts in the county are part of the grant.

Candidates will receive \$3,000 per year to complete a pre-teaching degree and teacher prep program, plus an additional \$300 per year for test preparation for the CBEST, CSET and RICA. Once credentialed, the candidate must agree to teach within our consortium area for one year for every year they are funded.

CTC had funding for 1,000 classified employees statewide. VCOE requested 100 slots but was granted 50 slots. 175 applications were received, so criteria was developed to determine who would receive funding. Preference was given to those teacher credential positions most needed – bilingual and special education; how close the candidate was to completing their program; subject matter, whether the candidate had already completed CBEST or a BA program. Letters were mailed to the chosen candidates today.

Partner universities include CLU, CSUCI, CSUN, CSU, National, and University of LaVerne. Because financial aid packages are also helpful for the candidate, VCOE staff assists with the application process. Agreements were developed with the local IHEs to reduce their tuition. The induction program which follows will be paid for by the districts, allowing a candidate to get their preliminary and clear credential with financial support.

Many of the candidates are the first in their families to go to college. A big part of the program is to support the candidate through the cohort. If a student has a problem getting into a class, our office will help and intercede on their behalf. This way, candidates are much more likely to complete the program.

#### **M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

1. Dr. Flores noted that he will be attending the CCBE Governance Training this weekend and has been asked to be a presenter.

#### **N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Charter School Annual Programmatic Audits:  
Bridges Charter School – TBD
2. Partnership Agreement with NASA – February 27, 2017



3. Joint meeting with VCCCD. Mr. Mantooth received a request that the two Boards hold a joint meeting. The VCCCD Board will be invited to attend a future VCBE meeting located at VCOE.
4. Mr. Kunicki requested an item on Education Code 233.5 as to what should take place in classrooms, possibly posting in the classroom.

**N. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Date: Monday, February 27, 2017  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo  
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: Monday, March 27, 2017  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo  
Purpose: Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board

**O. ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Flores adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

***Approved by Board Action on 2/27/17***

*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.*