

**VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
January 9, 2008**

A. CALL TO ORDER

1. Call To Order, Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and Moment of Reflection
The Annual Organizational Meeting of the Ventura County Board of Education, Agenda No. 08-01, was called to order by Mr. Chris Valenzano, Board President, at 8:05 a.m. on Wednesday, January 9, 2008, 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 Mr. Valenzano, followed by a moment of reflection.

2. Roll Call
Trustees Present:
Mary Louise Peterson, Area 1
Marty Bates, Area 2
Chris Valenzano, Area 3
Dean Kunicki, Area 4
Ron Matthews, Area 5

VCOE Personnel Present:
Charles Weis, Ventura County Superintendent of Schools and Ex-Officio Secretary and Executive Officer of the Board
Nancy Manley, Executive Assistant to Dr. Weis
Stan Mantooth, Associate Superintendent, Administrative Services
Dr. Cary Dritz, Associate Superintendent, Student Services

3. Approval of Agenda
Mr. Bates moved the Agenda be approved. Mrs. Peterson seconded the motion, and it carried 5:0.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

C. HEARINGS

None.

D. CLOSED SESSION

None.

E. PRELIMINARY

1. Approval of Minutes of Organizational Meeting of December 10, 2007.
Mrs. Peterson requested the following change on page 4 of 9: “Anchor Consulting ~~are~~ is preparing ...”

Mr. Bates moved the Minutes of the Organizational Meeting of December 10, 2007 be approved as amended. Mrs. Peterson seconded the motion, and it carried 5:0.

F. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Report from lobbyist Scott Wilk, Anchor Consulting, LLC (e-mail dated December 14, 2007).

Dr. Weis distributed the Yearly Report submitted by Scott Wilk, Anchor Consulting, LLC, on January 7, 2008.

2. Report on Correspondence of the Ventura County Committee on School District Organization, per the request of the Board.

G. PRESIDENT’S AND BOARD MEMBERS’ REPORTS

1. Mrs. Peterson reported that she attended the VCSBA Executive Board meeting, which Chuck Watson, Executive Director of the Community Commission for Ventura County (CCVC), attended. The CCVC has four quadrants, one of which is public schools. There are two positions open on the CCVC Board. If any VCOE Board members are interested in participating, Mrs. Peterson can provide additional information.
2. Mrs. Peterson further reported that she will be attending the CSBA / CCBE joint Legislative Committee meeting on Friday in Sacramento.

H. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Weis presented the following information relative to the activities of the Office:

1. Registration Flyer and Announcement of CCBE/PTA/CCSESA Spring Conference to be held March 6-7, 2008, at the Claremont Hotel in Berkeley. Board members are encouraged to notify the office if they plan to attend.
2. Letter of appreciation to Dr. Weis, from Paul Chatman, President, CSBA, for his presentation at the CSBA Annual Conference.
3. Newspaper articles relative to activities of the Office.

I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

None.

J. CONSENT/ACTION

None.

K. PRESENTATIONS

None.

L. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/ACTION

1. First Reading and Possible Adoption of Revisions to Board Policy and Administrative Regulation No. 5117.1, Interdistrict Attendance Appeals
Per the Board's request, Board legal counsel reviewed Board Policy and Administrative Regulation No. 5117.1, Interdistrict Attendance Appeals, to ensure compliance with current Education Code. Legal Counsel's suggested changes were noted via strikethroughs, bold and italics. A copy of relevant Education Code was also included in the explanatory materials.

Mr. Bates moved the Board waive the second reading and approve revisions to Board Policy and Administrative Regulation No. 5117.1, Interdistrict Attendance Appeals. Mr. Kunicki seconded the motion.

Further discussion was held on this item. Mrs. Peterson requested an explanation of why the section of limitations of Board's authority was deleted; and why, on page 11 of 13, the word "shall" was changed to "may."

Mr. Bates called for the question on the motion. Mr. Kunicki seconded the call for the question. The motion to call for the question failed upon a 2:3 vote with Mr. Kunicki and Mr. Bates voting aye; and Mr. Valenzano, Mr. Matthews, and Mrs. Peterson voting nay.

Mr. Valenzano called for a vote on the original motion, that the Board waive the second reading and approve revisions to Board Policy and Administrative Regulation No. 5117.1, Interdistrict Attendance Appeals. The motion passed upon a 3:2 vote; with Mr. Valenzano, Mr. Bates and Mr. Matthews voting aye; and Mr. Kunicki and Mrs. Peterson voting nay.

2. Awarding of Contract for Architectural Services for VCBE - Frank Intermediate School Learning Cluster Project

On November 27, 2006, the Ventura County Board of Education approved a long-term ground lease with the Oxnard Elementary School District and granted VCOE staff permission to request proposals for architectural services to design a new Special Education School on the Frank Intermediate School site. DC Architects of Upland was selected to make a presentation to the Board. Mr. Richard Duncan and Mr. Alan Camerano of DC Architects were in attendance.

DC Architects has experience with educational agencies, including designing two similar facilities for Riverside County Office of Education. The Board and a building committee would provide input into the design. Checkpoints such as what the customer desires; budgetary limits, construction documents, quality assurance review, DSA plan check, and cost verification are provided. The firm works to insure continual client contact. Mr. Mantooth noted that the \$600,000 budget for architectural services includes soil study, environmental study, traffic study, etc., and is provided through the State School Building Program, a separate funding source.

Mr. Kunicki moved the Board award the contract for architectural services for the new Frank Intermediate School Learning Cluster Project to DC Architects of Upland. Mrs. Peterson seconded the motion, and it carried 5:0. A copy of the architectural contract will be e-mailed to the Board President.
3. Annual Review and Setting of Superintendent's Salary

Mr. Kunicki stated that the subcommittee does not have a report at this time. Due to his other commitments, he has not had an opportunity to meet with Mr. Matthews. Mr. Matthews asked to be removed from the subcommittee as he is going to have to resign from the Board after the January 28, 2008 meeting. Mr. Valenzano appointed Mr. Bates to serve with Mr. Kunicki on this subcommittee. This item will be heard in late February.
4. Opening of 30-Day Review Period for Adoption of Standards-Aligned Social Studies and Science Textbooks for Grade K-5 Ventura County Office of Education Students

Dr. Dritz reported that a committee comprised of VCOE Special Education Department administrators and teachers reviewed all State adopted curricular materials for Grades K-5 Social Science and Science. The committee recommends the Ventura County Board of Education adopt the Houghton Mifflin and Harcourt publications for both Social Science and Science. The Board's adoption of this curriculum will allow the use of instructional materials funds to purchase core materials that support student success on the California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA). The recommended materials will be available for review in the Administrative Services Center, Upstairs Lobby, 5189 Verdugo Way, Camarillo, beginning January 14, 2008, and continuing through the anticipated adoption date of February 25, 2008. This item was presented for information only.

5. Report from Subcommittee to Establish the 2008 Mid-Month Meeting Day / Dates for the Ventura County Board of Education
On December 10, 2008, a subcommittee of Mr. Valenzano and Mrs. Peterson was established to determine the day/dates of the remaining mid-month meetings for 2008. The subcommittee reported on their findings and proposed a schedule for mid-month meetings.

Mr. Valenzano moved the Board adopt the second Wednesday of each month as the day for mid-month meetings, with the following modifications:
March 12 moved to Monday, March 10, 2008; May 7 to Monday, May 12, 2008; September 10 to Friday, September 5, 2008; and November 12 to Friday, November 7, 2008. Mrs. Peterson seconded the motion, and it carried 3:1:1, with Mr. Kunicki voting nay, and Mr. Matthews abstaining.
6. Information Relative to SELPA Space Utilization
This item was tabled from October 12, 2007. Per the request of Mr. Bates, staff provided information relative to SELPA space utilization. This information included amount of space now being utilized by SELPA; location of SELPA Office; cost per square foot of this office space; and possibility of relocation to Camarillo Airport facility. Dr. Weis provided information on allowed activities of the Board in regards to the construction of facilities. This item was presented for information only.
7. Williams Lawsuit Settlement Quarterly Report to County Board of Education
Education Code 35186 stipulates that the Superintendent or designee shall report summarized data on the nature and resolution of all complaints to the Board and the County Superintendent of Schools on a quarterly basis. The report shall include the number of complaints, by general subject area, with the number resolved and unresolved complaints. The report shall be conveyed publicly, on a quarterly basis, at a regularly scheduled Board meeting. The Williams Coordinator for the Ventura County Office of Education quarterly report for October 1, 2007 – December 31, 2007 was presented, which showed no complaints filed during this period. This item was presented for information only.
8. Approval of Board Budget Consultant Agreement for 2007-08
Staff has prepared an agreement for Board Budget Consultant services, to be provided by Dr. Tom Kimberling, for the 2007-08 fiscal year. The agreement incorporates a maximum amount of \$4,000, per the Board's adopted budget. Dr. Kimberling has indicated that this will be the last year of this contract as he anticipates retiring at the end of the 2007-08 fiscal year. Mr. Kunicki moved the Board approve the contract for ongoing budget consultant services by Dr. Tom Kimberling. Mr. Matthews seconded the motion, and it carried 5:0.

M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

1. Mr. Matthews reported that he will need to resign at the end of January 2008 due to family concerns.
2. Mr. Matthews asked if it would be feasible for the County Office to provide an elective that would assist students in becoming U.S. citizens. Dr. Weis explained that students must be 18 years of age in order to apply for citizenship, and that U.S. History courses provide some of the information needed. In addition, the Office has no legal right to question whether or not a student is a citizen. The adult education programs in the County offer citizenship courses, and students can attend adult education courses even though they are not yet 18.
3. Mr. Bates stated that it has been his pleasure to work with Mr. Matthews for the past 12 years. He asked that Mr. Valenzano ask staff to look into the process for finding a replacement, and provide this information to the Board at the next meeting.
4. Mr. Kunicki stated that he and Mr. Matthews made an unannounced visit to Vista Real Charter High School, and were very impressed with the program. The facility has recently been expanded.
5. Mr. Kunicki further reported that he met with Mr. Bohl, Grace College, during the holidays.
6. Mr. Kunicki stated that Mr. Yocca, Capitol Venture, LLC, will arrive early on January 28, 2008 if any Board member would like to meet with him individually.
7. Mrs. Peterson requested that staff prepare a celebration marking Mr. Matthews contribution to this Board. She requested that his family be invited to attend.

N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Re-evaluation and Possible Termination of Anchor Consulting Contract (requested by Mrs. Peterson, January 28, 2008).
2. Possible Termination of Contract with Capital Venture (requested by Mrs. Peterson, January 28, 2008).
3. Second Reading and Approval of Minutes of Regular Meetings of September 24, October 12, and October 23, 2007. Unapproved minutes have been e-mailed to all Board members for their written input (January 28, 2008).
4. New Certificate of Appreciation. Mr. Kunicki suggested that ROP have a contest to produce a certificate (requested by Mr. Kunicki, February 2008).

5. Existing or Proposed Board Policy authorizing censure of Board members. Mr. Kunicki asked that this item be removed.
6. Discussion of Board Policy, or Legal Opinion, on Public Records Act Procedures. Item to include Mrs. Peterson's suggested language, a report of any complaints or requests for Board records or minutes. Mrs. Peterson asked that this item be removed.
7. Form for Board Input on Goal 5, Objective B (requested by Mr. Bates, TBD). Mr. Bates asked that this item be removed.
8. Board-Hosted Event for Countywide Business Owners to Highlight VCOE Regional Occupational Program, to be held at the Conference Center (Requested on December 10, 2007 by Mr. Kunicki, Mid February, 2008).
9. Mrs. Peterson moved the following future agenda item be considered: a review of the Board Policy on the authority of the Board President, including the limitation of access to contractors hired by the Board to the Board President, and the denying of such access to all other Board members specifically the Board Legal Counsel. In addition, Board Legal Counsel would be asked to review whether the unilateral actions of the Board President are a violation of the Brown Act. This motion failed due to lack of a second.
10. Process for Filling Opening on County Board of Education (January 28, 2008).
11. Annual Review and Setting of Superintendent's Salary (February 25, 2008).
12. Adoption of Standards-Aligned Social Studies and Science Textbooks for Grade K-5 Ventura County Office of Education Students (February 25, 2008).

O. FUTURE MEETINGS

Date: Monday, January 28, 2008
 Time: 6:00 p.m.
 Location: Board Room, 5100 Adolfo Road, Camarillo
 Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

P. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

Approved as Amended by Board Action on 1/28/08.

*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.*