

**VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF  
January 22, 2007**

**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 No. 07-02, was called to order by Mr. Chris Valenzano, Vice-President, at 6:13 p.m. on Monday, January 22, 2007, in the Conejo Room of the Administrative Services Center, 5189 Verdugo Way, Camarillo. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Mr. Valenzano and followed by a moment of reflection.
  
2. Roll Call  
Trustees Present:  
Mary Louise Peterson, Area 1  
Chris Valenzano, Area 3  
Dean Kunicki, Area 4  
Ron Matthews, Area 5  
Marty Bates, Area 2 – *Absent*  
  
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  
Sandra Shackelford, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services  
Stan Mantooth, Associate Superintendent, Administrative Services  
Dr. Cary Dritz, Associate Superintendent, Student Services
  
3. Approval of Agenda  
Mr. Matthews moved the agenda be approved. Mrs. Peterson seconded the motion, and it carried 4:0. Mr. Bates was absent.

**B. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**C. HEARINGS**

1. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Case No. 430 – Rubin

The parent, Lorraine Rubin, and the student, Brooke Timmons, were in attendance. Ventura Unified School District did not send a representative. Mrs. Peterson moved the Board uphold Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Case No. 430; and set the term of the release at the balance of the student's high school career. Mr. Matthews seconded the motion, and it carried 4:0.

**D. CLOSED SESSION**

None.

**E. PRELIMINARY**

None.

**F. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

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

1. Mrs. Peterson reported that she attended a joint meeting of the CCBE and CSBA Legislative Committees on January 12, 2007. The focus this year will be on addressing declining enrollment and Charter schools. She asked that at a future Board meeting, the Board discuss these two issues and develop any concerns they would like CCBE to address.
2. Mr. Kunicki reported that Mr. Bates has been developing a packet of information pertaining to ROP funding issues. Excellent work has been done thus far towards this project. In order to meet the deadline for the current legislative session, the executive summary pertaining to the inequities of ROP funding will be sent to legislative representatives. This will allow a placeholder to be issued by the Legislative Analyst Office. Mr. Kunicki indicated that he will send a copy of the draft to all Board members when it is completed.
3. Mr. Kunicki also reported that he will be in Sacramento in February and hopes to meet with Interim Secretary Himelstein and Mr. Skinner to discuss ROP funding inequities.
4. Mr. Valenzano reported that he may not be able to attend the VCSBA Dinner on January 30, 2007, due to military service. He will notify the Office as soon as his calendar is confirmed.

## **H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

None.

## **I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

1. Mrs. Peterson reported that the deadline for legislative bills is February 23, 2007. Mr. Kunicki asked if staff has any legislative items they would like the Board to pursue. Dr. Weis noted that the Office had anticipated that the Board was going to proceed with the hiring of a lobbyist as part of the 2007-08 budget.

## **J. CONSENT/ACTION**

1. Temporary Certificates  
Mr. Matthews moved the Board approve 289 Temporary Certificates issued by the County. Mr. Kunicki seconded the motion, and it carried 4:0.

## **K. PRESENTATIONS**

1. Vista Real Charter High School  
Dr. Dritz stated that at the December Board meeting he made an incorrect statement based on information that was misinterpreted and misrepresented to him. He apologized for not reviewing the data himself prior to making that statement. To correct his error, Dr. Dritz invited Vista Real Charter High School to make a presentation on their accomplishments during their first year in operation.

Nancy Spencer, Principal, Vista Real Charter High School, provided information pertaining to Vista Real Charter High School's academic achievement, school statistics, and other pertinent data. Vista Real had an initial WASC visitation on December 4, 2006.

Current student enrollment is 316, with an 84% average attendance rate for 2006-07. There was 80% attendance for the California Standards Tests; therefore Vista Real will not have an API for this year. Vista Real Charter High School participates in the Alternative Schools Accountability Model (ASAM) and has chosen the following three indicators: student persistence, credit completion, and high school graduation.

Vista Real teachers are working to be NCLB qualified by June 2007. Student demographics and ethnicity were reviewed. 85% of the students are 16-17, or 18 years or older. 59% of students are at the 9<sup>th</sup> grade level in terms of credit completion. The majority of the enrolled students come from Pacifica High School, probably due to physical proximity of the schools.

A breakdown of English Language Learners by grade level, gender and ethnicity; and CAHSEE and CST Results for 2006 were presented. There are currently 35 students enrolled at Vista Real with an IEP; most receive RSP support.

Mrs. Spencer and Mr. Mendoza stated that if a student leaves Vista Real Charter High School and does not return to their home school, the student is contacted in an effort to direct them to Gateway. Vista Real also participates in the SARB. Mrs. Spencer reviewed the Vista Real Charter High School Improvement Plan for 2006-07. Vista Real is working to develop realistic goals for their students, i.e. increased CAHSEE passage rate and increased parent involvement, possibly through developing English classes and free math classes. In addition, Vista Real is working with Cal-SAFE to assist students in completing high school.

Mrs. Spencer reported that ADA is generated by the amount of assignments completed by the student. Students must complete a learning log which notes which days an assignment was worked on. The program can be tailored to the individual student. Students can work at the school, meet with tutors, or their individual teachers.

Mr. Kunicki suggested that a representative from the Charter School attend Board meetings on a regular basis to answer questions from the Board. Mr. Mantooth noted that the Office does not currently have any financial concerns regarding Vista Real Charter High School.

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

### **1. Annual Review of Existing Memorandums of Understanding with the Vista Real Charter High School, Inc. and the School of Arts & Global Education (Ventura Charter)**

On July 8, 2005, and July 26, 2006, respectively, the Ventura County Board of Education entered into agreements with Vista Real Charter High School, Inc., and the Ventura Charter School of Arts & Global Education. These Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) are to be reviewed annually. Dr. Weis noted that the Vista Real Charter High School MOU, Appendix C, has been changed. This portion of the initial MOU, referring to the establishment of its special education funding plan, required that a number of special education students served in the first year be recorded, in order for the Vista Real to receive special education funding in the second year.

The Memorandum of Understanding for the Ventura Charter School of Arts and & Global Education will have the name changed throughout.

Mr. Matthews noted, and Mr. Valenzano concurred, that it should be the Board President or Vice President who signs the MOU, as it is an agreement with the Board, not the Office.

Mr. Matthews moved approval and acceptance of the Memorandums of Understanding with the Vista Real Charter High School and the Ventura Charter School of Arts and Global Education as presented. Mrs. Peterson seconded the motion, and it carried 4:0.

*The Board took a 10 minute break from 7:25 to 7:35 p.m.*

2. 2006-07 Consolidated Application for Funding Categorical Programs, Part 2  
Dr. Dritz reported that the 2006-07 Consolidated Application for Funding Categorical Programs, Part 1, was approved by the Board on June 28, 2006. Part 2 lists the sources of categorical funding that VCOE schools will use to provide programs and services, specified in the No Child Left Behind Act, to its students in 2006-07. Mr. Matthews moved the Board approve the 2006-07 Consolidated Application for Funding Categorical Programs, Part 2. Mrs. Peterson seconded the motion, and it carried 4:0.
  
3. Approval of Gateway and Providence Single Plan for Student Achievement  
Dr. Weis noted that this Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) is required per NCLB. The SPSA is a plan of action developed to raise the academic performance of all students to the level of performance goals established under the California Academic Performance Index (API). The content of the SPSA must be aligned with school goals for improving achievement by implementing strategies that provide all students opportunities to reach proficient and advanced levels of academic achievement, using methods that are based upon scientific research or proven practice. The SPSA must be reviewed annually, data analyzed and the plan updated to include proposed expenditures of funds allocated to the school through the Consolidated Application. The plan must be approved by the School Site Council (SSC) prior to approval by the governing board of the local educational agency. The School Site Council has approved the plan.

Mr. Matthews noted some typographical errors in the SPSA. Mr. Valenzano questioned that the 77% suspension rate listed for Gateway. Staff will review and report back.

Mr. Valenzano moved the Board approve the Gateway and Providence Single Plan for Student Achievement, with the removal of the suspension and expulsion portion listed on page 17. Mrs. Peterson seconded the motion, and it carried 4:0.

4. Adoption of Science Textbook for Court & Community Schools, Grade 7  
Dr. Weis noted that the Science textbook for Court & Community Schools, Grade 7, is presented to the Board for review. This opens the 30-day viewing period required before adoption of this textbook. The textbook recommended is: Focus on California Life Science, Pearson Prentice Hall, copyright 2008. The Board's adoption of this curriculum will allow the use of state textbook funds to purchase these materials. The recommended materials will be available for review in the Administrative Services Center, Upstairs Lobby, 5189 Verdugo Way, Camarillo, beginning January 17, 2007 and continuing through the anticipated adoption date of February 26, 2007.

Mr. Valenzano asked how hard it would be for a Board member to get a copy of the textbook to take home to review. Dr. Dritz responded that it is pretty hard to get copies of textbooks unless they are purchased. The textbook on display must stay there at all times. There is an additional copy on display in the Instructional Materials Display Center in the Educational Services Center. Mr. Valenzano said that it would be nice for Board members to have a copy to take home to review as they are approving the textbook with public input. This may be something to look at for a future textbook adoption.

This item was presented for information only.

5. First Reading and Possible Approval of Revisions to Board Policy No. 6020, Parent Involvement

Dr. Dritz presented Board Policy No. 6020, Parent Involvement, which has been revised to reflect new law that mandates each district receiving federal Title I, Part A, funds have a written parent involvement policy. Education Code Section 11504 mandates districts to adopt a policy on parent involvement that is applicable to all school programs even if they do not receive Title I funds. Board Policy No. 6020 and its accompanying Administrative Regulation contain language satisfying this mandate.

Mrs. Peterson moved that the Board deny the Revisions to Board Policy No. 6020, Parent Involvement. Mr. Matthews seconded the motion for discussion purposes.

Mrs. Peterson stated that this Board Policy adds another layer of administration, citing that the Board has been clear that it wants parent involvement and that there should be no barriers to that communication. Mrs. Peterson stated that she is concerned that changes in policy are being driven by administration, rather than by policy makers. Dr. Dritz explained that the changes in this policy came about from legislation that came from the federal government related to NCLB and what it did was add an administrative regulation. Dr. Dritz referred the Board to the new Administrative Regulation which makes it mandatory that you have parent involvement in almost every decision in the school.

Mrs. Peterson requested that changes in Board Policy be brought to a Policy Subcommittee prior to changes being drafted. Dr. Weis reported that existing Board Policy states that staff is to draft changes to Policy and that those changes are to be brought to the Board for discussion, review, and possible adoption.

The vote on the motion failed upon a 2:1:1 vote, with Mrs. Peterson and Mr. Matthews voting aye; Mr. Valenzano voting nay; and Mr. Kunicki abstaining. Dr. Weis noted that Board Policies require three votes to pass.

6. First Reading and Possible Approval of Revisions to Board Policy No. 6171, Title I Programs

Dr. Weis reported that Board Policy No. 6171, Title I Programs, was also revised to reflect new law which supports basic programs designed to improve the academic achievement of disadvantaged students. Additionally, language on parent involvement has been updated and moved to Board Policy and Administrative Regulation No. 6020. No action was taken on this item.

7. Approval of Educational Broadband Service (EBS) Excess Capacity Lease

At its November 27, 2006 meeting, the Ventura County Board of Education took action to move forward in soliciting “best and final” offers from qualified firms for the lease of VCOE’s Excess Broadband Service Capacity. Subsequently, at its December 11, 2006 meeting, the Board approved an award for the lease with Clearwire Spectrum Holdings. Mr. Mantooth reported that since that time, VCOE staff, with the assistance of Legal Counsel, has negotiated a final contract agreement for lease of the EBS Excess Capacity with Clearwire Spectrum Holdings. All of the stipulations originally presented have been included. Subsequent to approval, application will be made to the the FCC for its approval. Mr. Kunicki moved the Board grant approval to execute and implement the agreement with Clearwire Spectrum Holdings for the EBS Excess Capacity Lease. Mrs. Peterson seconded the motion, and it carried 4:0.

8. Superintendent’s Salary

On October 23, 2006, a Subcommittee was established to review the Superintendent’s salary. Mrs. Peterson distributed copies of the Subcommittee recommendations. The Subcommittee recommended no change in the salary of the Superintendent. Given the increased statutory responsibilities from the State and Federal Government for more accountability, the Subcommittee recommended that the Board and the Superintendent adopt a well-defined Superintendent evaluation system as a pre-requisite for any future change in salary. The Subcommittee recommended that the Board follow the protocol established by CSBA in Masters in Governance, Book Three, “*Maximizing School Board Leadership Series.*” The Subcommittee further requested that the Board approve that Mrs. Peterson and another Board member be appointed to develop a Superintendent evaluation system in collaboration with the Superintendent and appointed staff. Mr. Valenzano added that the evaluation process would have to be tailored to a County Board, as CSBA represents school boards with appointed superintendents, rather than elected superintendents. Mrs. Peterson stated that the Board could look to other County Offices to see what other processes are utilized.

At Mr. Kunicki’s request, Dr. Weis shared the process that has been utilized in the past. Dr. Weis related that, per existing Board Policy, the Board adopts the goals for the Office; and the Superintendent provides an annual report on the accomplishments. The Board could then consider a COLA or merit increase for the Superintendent. The Board has reviewed the 2005-06 accomplishments and adopted the goals for 2006-07.

Mr. Valenzano distributed copies of the Superintendent's Salary History, and noted that from 1998-2006, Dr. Weis' salary increased 35.3%, while staff received approximately 32% in on- and off-schedule increases during the same time period.

Mrs. Peterson directed the Board to CSBA, Masters in Governance, Book Three, "*Maximizing School Board Leadership Series.*" Mrs. Peterson noted that the evaluation tool should be developed in collaboration with the Superintendent and staff. Mrs. Peterson will develop a template for discussion at a future meeting.

Mr. Kunicki requested that this item be tabled until all Board members are in attendance. Mr. Matthews concurred that Mr. Bates needs to be a part of this discussion.

Mr. Valenzano stated that his issue is not that Dr. Weis should be denied a salary increase, but that there should be justification for a salary other than competing with other salaries in the area.

Mr. Valenzano appointed Mrs. Peterson and Mr. Matthews to a subcommittee to develop an evaluation template which will be brought to a future meeting.

Dr. Weis requested to address the Board. Dr. Weis stated that he was just re-elected for a fourth consecutive term with 97% of the vote. In addition, the Board did establish goals last year, and the Board was given all the reports they requested on those goals. Dr. Weis noted that there are two options available to the Board in terms of the Superintendent's salary: COLA and a merit increase; and asked that the Board consider both.

Mr. Valenzano requested that the agenda item on the Superintendent's Salary be returned to the February 26, 2007 meeting. The work of the Subcommittee to establish evaluation protocols will be brought to a future meeting.

9. Nominations for CCBE 2006 Legislator of the Year Award  
The California County Boards of Education Legislative Committee is requesting nominations for CCBE 2006 Legislator of the Year Award. A Board resolution or letter of the recommendation (limit one page) must accompany each nomination form. Nominations must be postmarked by February 16, 2007. No action was taken on this item.
10. Board Legal Counsel Statement for Services  
Board Legal Counsel's statement for representation of the Ventura County Board of Education in matters relating to School District Organization was presented for the Board's information and review. Dr. Weis noted that the purpose in presenting these statements is to confirm that these services were provided to the Board.

**M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

1. Mr. Matthews gave staff a copy of a flyer on “Super Camp.”
2. Mr. Matthews noted that on the East Coast there is a video being shown to all students pertaining to child abductions. He requested that the Office get a copy of this video.

**N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Board’s Intent to Hire a Lobbyist (TBD)  
  
Mr. Valenzano appointed Mr. Kunicki and Mr. Bates to a Subcommittee to research potential lobbyists. Dr. Weis requested that the Subcommittee also provide an anticipated range of cost.
2. Discussion of Report on Purchase Orders and Requisitions (Requested by Mr. Bates / TBD).
3. Collaboration Efforts with Probation and Mental Health Agencies (Requested by Mrs. Peterson / TBD).
4. Subcommittee Report on Superintendent Evaluation Protocol (TBD).
5. Approval of Consortium Application for AB172, PreKindergarten and Family Literacy Program (February 26, 2007).
6. Superintendent’s Salary (February 26, 2007).

**O. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Date: **Friday, February 2, 2007 (*Budget Study Session*)**  
Time: 8:00 a.m.  
Location: 5189 Verdugo Way, Conejo Room, Camarillo  
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: Monday, February 26, 2007  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Location: 5189 Verdugo Way, Conejo Room, Camarillo  
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

**BOLD denotes modified schedule**

**P. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

*Approved as Amended on 2/26/07, by Board Action on 03/09/07.*

*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.*