

**VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
February 10, 2006**

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. 06-03, was called to order by Mr. Marty Bates, President, at 8:08 a.m. on Friday, February 10, 2006, in the Conejo Room of the Administrative Services Center, 5189 Verdugo Way, Camarillo. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Mr. Bates and followed by a moment of reflection.

2. Roll Call
Trustees Present:
Mary Louise Peterson, Area 1
Marty Bates, Area 2
Ron Matthews, Area 5
Dean Kunicki, Area 4 - *Absent*
Chris Valenzano, Area 3 – *Absent for Military Deployment*

Don Hurley, Assistant County Counsel, Attorney for the Board

VCSSO 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
Mary Samples, Executive Director, SELPA
John Gahan, Director, Special Education
Tom Etchart, Director, Business Services
Benny Martinez, Budget & Accounting Manager

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

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Geoffrey Glick, Resident of Ventura
Mr. Glick stated that he is a member of the School of Arts and Global Education Board. This charter school has submitted their charter petition to the Ventura County Board of Education and is requesting that the Board hold a Public Hearing on the petition on February 27, 2006. Mr. Glick indicated that the petition would be coming to the Board on appeal.

C. HEARINGS

1. Expulsion Appeal Case No. 05-02.
Mr. Bates stated that the appellants had requested that Expulsion Appeal Case No. 05-02 be held in Open Session. The following persons were in attendance:

Appellant, Bautista

Jorge & Rose Bautista, Parents of Daniel Bautista
Daniel Bautista, Student
Dr. Mark Lopez, Bautista Family Representative

Respondent, Conejo Valley Unified School District

Dr. Richard Simpson, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services
Charles Ecklund, Director, Secondary Education
Mildred Collins, Attorney, District Representative

Patricia Ward, Court Reporter, Devine-Hall, transcribed Expulsion Appeal Case No. 05-02.

D. CLOSED SESSION

1. Deliberations on Expulsion Appeal Case No. 05-02.
Mr. Bates adjourned the Board into Closed Session at 8:57 a.m. for deliberations on Expulsion Appeal Case No. 05-02.

E. PRELIMINARY

1. Report of Action Taken in Expulsion Appeal Case No. 05-02.
Mr. Bates reconvened the Board meeting into Open Session at 9:18 a.m.

Mr. Bates reported that a motion was made and seconded to uphold Expulsion Appeal Case No. 05-02. The motion failed upon a 1:2 vote.

The Board took a ten minute break.

D. CLOSED SESSION (Continued)

2. Expulsion Appeal Case No. 06-01.
Mr. Bates convened the Board meeting into Closed Session at 9:28 a.m. for Expulsion Appeal Case No. 06-01.

E. PRELIMINARY (Continued)

2. Report of Action Taken in Expulsion Appeal Case No. 06-01.
Mr. Bates reconvened the Board meeting into Open Session at 10:10 a.m.

Mr. Bates reported that a motion was made and seconded that the Board deny Expulsion Appeal Case No. 06-01. The motion carried 3:0.

3. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 13, 2006.
4. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 23, 2006.

Mr. Matthews moved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 13, 2006 and January 23, 2006 be approved. Mrs. Peterson seconded the motion, and it carried 3:0.

F. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Dr. Weis reported that the School of Arts and Global Education did deliver a charter school petition to the Board, stating that the petition was being submitted on an appeal basis. The California Department of Education has been contacted for an opinion as to whether a charter petition can be submitted on appeal prior to action being taken by the local district.

G. PRESIDENT'S AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

1. Mrs. Peterson reported that she has completed preliminary research on the Countywide Gang prevention. She hopes to begin interviews with various agencies, including law enforcement, soon. Dr. Weis indicated that the Ventura County Office of Education currently has a grant to operate a Gang Reduction and Intervention Program in Santa Paula. John Klee oversees the program.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

None.

I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

None.

J. CONSENT/ACTION

None.

K. PRESENTATIONS

None.

L. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/ACTION

1. Budget Study Session

As provided in the budget calendar, designated budgets for Fund 001 (Special Education Instruction), Fund 002 (Special Education Transportation) and Fund 003 (SELPA) were provided for review and discussion. A synopsis by Dr. Tom Kimberling, Board Budget Consultant, was attached in the explanatory materials. Dr. Weis introduced John Gahan, Director, Special Education; and Mary Samples, Executive Director, SELPA, and Tom Etchart, Director, Business Services.

Mr. Mantooth reported that the budgets presented are very preliminary and that there will be a final opportunity to review these budgets before they are adopted. The budgets include a COLA of 5.18% for State funds, but not federal funds. Step and Column increases are included, while salary increases are not; indirect costs of 7.88% are also included in the budgets, based upon the State prescribed calculation. Employee health benefit costs are again budgeted to increase by approximately 15%. Mr. Mantooth distributed information from School Services explaining COLA for Categorical Programs.

Fund 001, Special Education Instruction

Revenues for this \$17.7 million budget are restricted for use in the program. The formula for distribution is developed through the SELPA. Mrs. Peterson asked if SELPA is prepared to address services for districts in declining enrollment. Mrs. Samples responded that districts are reviewing the issue.

Mrs. Peterson asked if space is rented from the school districts to house various programs. Mr. Mantooth responded that the County Office enters into annual leases for a number of classrooms at school district sites, on a direct cost basis; allowing the districts to recover the cost of maintaining the classroom.

Fund 002, Special Education Transportation

Mr. Mantooth reported that the Office currently has a contract with Durham Transportation for all County Office special education students, as well as some district students. Funds are restricted for use within the program. The expenses are almost entirely in services. A COLA increase is included in the Durham contract. Options for bio-diesel or fuel additives are being considered.

Mrs. Peterson stated that the County Board of Supervisors is currently developing a transportation plan and asked if local school districts are taking part in the study. She stated that Supervisors Bennett and Parks are heading this effort and asked that the Office look into joining in this effort. Mr. Mantooth reported that there is a study group within the school districts that address ways to save money in transportation. A number of areas have been identified where money could potentially be saved.

Fund 003, SELPA

Mr. Mantooth reported that this fund is approaching \$90 million, primarily in pass-through monies. Mrs. Samples stated concern that the COLA will only be applied on State funds, not federal funds. As a result, it is anticipated that the COLA for SELPA will be 3.71%. Next year, there will be less money than in the past, as there will be no federal increase. Although IDEA legislation passed, with an eight year plan to increase the funding, the appropriations were cut. This year there will actually be a decrease, and there will not be enough money coming from the federal side to cover the bifurcation of the COLA. SELPA is looking at lobbying efforts.

Mr. Mantooth distributed a breakdown of “other outgo” in all three funds.

Mrs. Peterson asked what strategies are being used to address the funding cuts at SELPA. Mrs. Samples indicated that a large group of CBOs are meeting to develop options. In addition, the SELPA is now in declining enrollment with 14 districts declining. This will mean a loss of growth funds as well. This year the SELPA will actually experience a cut in funds. The group will meet to address how to cover the decline and the growth for one year. Mrs. Peterson requested updates on this issue.

Dr. Weis stated that whatever Special Education services are stipulated in a student’s IEP must be provided, regardless of whether there is funding. The encroachment may therefore go up. In many other project/program areas, the services could be reduced if the funding decreased. This cannot occur in SELPA.

M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

1. Dr. Weis asked Dr. Dritz to provide an update in reference to Expulsion Case No. 06-01. Dr. Dritz reported that the student will be enrolled at Gateway within the hour. The parent has requested the student be enrolled in the independent study program. If the student is not successful in that program, they will be moved into the seat time program. There are some questions regarding the timeline given by the appellant. During the time period stated, the employee mentioned was out on medical leave. Further investigations will be performed.

N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Report or Suggested Action from Subcommittee to Research Establishing Task Force to Address County-Wide Gang Prevention and Rehabilitation/Recovery of Gang Members (TBD).
2. VCBE Visioning and Goal Setting, requested by Mrs. Peterson (March-April).

O. FUTURE MEETING

Date: Monday, February 27, 2006
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5189 Verdugo Way, Conejo Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: Friday, March 10, 2006 (*Budget Study Session*)
Time: 8:00 a.m.
Location: 5189 Verdugo Way, Conejo Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: Monday, March 27, 2006
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5189 Verdugo Way, Conejo Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

P. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Approved by Board Action on 02/27/06.

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