

**VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
APRIL 9, 2009**

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. 09-07, was called to order by Mary Louise Peterson, Board President, at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 9, 2009, 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 Mrs. Peterson, followed by a moment of reflection.

2. Roll Call

Trustees Present:

Mary Louise Peterson, Area 1
Dr. Mark Lisagor, Area 3
Dean Kunicki, Area 4
Dr. Ramon Flores, Area 5
Marty Bates, Area 2 - *Absent*

VCOE Personnel Present:

Stanley C. Mantooth, Ventura County Superintendent of Schools and Ex-Officio Secretary and Executive Officer of the Board
Sandi Shackelford, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services
Ken Prosser, Associate Superintendent, Fiscal & Administrative Services
Dr. Roger Rice, Associate Superintendent, Student Services

Tim Weir, Principal, Providence Community School
Peggy Velarde, Director, Career and Technical Education
Tracy Rohlfsing, Principal, Gateway Community School

Tom Etchart, Director, Internal Business Services
Benny Martinez, Budget & Accounting Manager
Lisa Worsley, Senior Accountant
Peggy White, Accountant

Nancy Manley, Executive Assistant to the County Superintendent

3. Approval of Agenda
Mr. Kunicki moved the agenda be approved. Dr. Lisagor seconded the motion, and it carried 4:0.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

C. HEARINGS

None.

D. CLOSED SESSION

None.

E. PRELIMINARY

1. Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting of March 26, 2009.
Dr. Flores moved the Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 26, 2009, be approved. Dr. Lisagor seconded the motion, and it carried 4:0.

F. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Mr. Mantooth distributed copies of e-mail correspondence from Mr. Bates, dated April 7, 2009, titled, "Agenda on Line." Mr. Mantooth has researched this product and discussed the results with Mr. Bates.

G. PRESIDENT'S AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

None.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

1. CDE Information on Receipt of New Instructional Materials
Mr. Kunicki requested that this document be sent to Mr. Carl Olson.
2. April 2, 2009, News Release, "Ventura County California Distinguished Schools Awards"
3. Local ROP Student Wins First Place in State Commercial Foods Competition
4. Update from CCSESA regarding Pending Dispute with CalPERS
5. VCOE DVD, "Educating the Future, What We Do and Why We Do It"

6. Mr. Mantooth discussed the six ballot measures, noting that five will affect educational funding. The failure of any of the first three measures will unravel the budget that currently exists. VCOE will host a School Services of California workshop on June 5, 2009 pertaining to the budget. CCSESA has taken a support position on Measures A-C; and no position on Measures D-E.

I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

None.

J. CONSENT/ACTION

None.

K. PRESENTATIONS

None.

L. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/ACTION

1. Budget Study Session

Mr. Prosser distributed additional materials on Fund 014 which were inadvertently left out of the Board packet. The funds presented today are Fund 014 (Juvenile Court Schools), Fund 015 (County Community Schools) and Fund 016 (Regional Occupational Program). Dr. Kimberling's analysis is included in the explanatory materials.

These programs represent the largest non-special education student population that our Office serves. This is a very diverse group of students with very diverse needs. These programs have received extensive cuts in this fiscal year and the next.

Fund 014 (Juvenile Court Schools)

Fund 014 serves approximately 250 ADA with cuts of 2.62% this year and another 1.72 % next year in revenue limit fundings. The Court Schools program is unique due to the setting and the budget does include selected reductions in staff – a resource teacher, staff assistant, and paraeducator. In almost all cases, the Office has been able to relocate personnel to new assignments within the organization.

Dr. Rice reported that this program serves 180 to 210 incarcerated youth in Ventura County. Currently, there are 183 students in the program. The program employs 16 teachers and 6 paraeducators. Two of the teachers are temporary, not on probationary contracts, which allows for consolidation efforts when needed.

The Probation department is working to maximize their efficiency and has closed some units. Our office has therefore moved teachers and students in response.

Fourteen out of 28 10th graders passed the Math portion of the CAHSEE; 7 10th graders passed both portions of the CAHSEE and 8 students have graduated so far this year. There are 3 more graduations scheduled. In addition, three ROP classes have been incorporated at Providence – computer repair, landscaping, and silk screening. Staff continues to work to maximize opportunities for these students, even in times of budget challenges.

Providence is unique in the generation of ADA. Due to the extended year program, a student can generate more than 1.0 ADA if the student attends the program for more than 180 days. This is unique to the Providence program. It is projected that Providence will have an ending balance of approximately \$385,000 for 2009-10.

Mrs. Peterson asked if the average length of stay has been extended. Staff responded that students arrive in the detention unit where the average stay is 3 weeks. Once a student is adjudicated, they enter the commitment program. The stay can last from 90 days to up to 240 days. Providence now has approximately 15 students who are facing more than 240 days of incarceration. These students are housed together in one single unit. Probation received a grant that funds the three ROP courses that are now offered to these students. It is hoped that these programs will assist these students in becoming productive citizens.

Mrs. Peterson asked if other agencies such as Mental Health services, Drug and Alcohol, work with students at Providence. These services, as well as a staff counselor who works with students on GED requirements, graduation requirements, etc, are provided in the units.

Dr. Rice reported on a Juvenile Justice Youth Summit which was attended by staff and representatives from community based agencies. The purpose of the summit was to begin working towards a more comprehensive approach to providing wraparound services for students who are transitioning from incarceration to local schools. There is still a high percentage of recidivism. There is a vision for a type of community center that would house those types of facilities and services, so that once the students are released from Providence, they are tracked, and given the assistance they need to be successful.

Fund 015 (County Community Schools)

This program includes the Gateway School. Students who attend Gateway come from throughout the County. Gateway serves approximately 220 students but the ADA is only about 122, due to an extremely poor attendance rate. The program has experienced an increase in the number of middle school students referred to the program. This program is subject to cuts of 2.62% this year and another 1.72 % next year in revenue limit funding.

The program has experienced the reduction of Administrative Dean contract days this year and staff has been moved. There is an anticipated cumulative deficit of \$1.2 million. Last year, districts were charged excess cost, in proportion to the students that attended; but this year, the decision was made not to charge this excess cost due to the fiscal situation. Any additional changes to our school districts will result in reductions in staff at the local school district level. The projected 2009-10 deficit would be funded through various flexible funds within County Operations funds.

There are efforts to increase ADA in the program. One example is the recovery program at Gateway which was developed as a partnership with Probation to provide more comprehensive services to students. It is one self-contained classroom with one teacher, a paraeducator, and a probation officer who monitors the students' attendance. The attendance rate is approximately 90%. One of the discussion points is the possibility of the expansion of the recovery program. To the degree that the Office can make it cost-effective, the Office would be in favor of this.

Mr. Prosser noted that the Cal- SAFE program is included in Fund 015. This fund will be moved into Fund 013 in the next budget cycle. Cal-SAFE provides services to pregnant mothers and their children from the various districts. Cal-SAFE is a categorical program, and has experienced a 15% cut this year and an additional 4.5% cut next year. A large percentage of the budget is in personnel. The program has made a number of cuts and still has a deficit balance of approximately \$15,000. Dr. Rice noted that they are reviewing current staffing levels. Our office has taken over some programs from OUHSD and has made a commitment to add a service center at Hueneme High School, where additional services are needed. There is also a need for a program at Pacifica High School, although due to limited space at the site, this is not likely at this time.

Mrs. Peterson requested that staff look into improving programs for teenage fathers. There are two programs – Boys to Men and Mankind Project – both of which are character building programs for boys and student fathers.

Fund 016 (Regional Occupational Program)

The Regional Occupational Program serves over 4,000 students countywide with an ADA of approximately 1,200. ADA in this program is based on hours served. The program is capped by the State at 1,200 ADA. This program is receiving a 15% cut this year, and an additional 6% cut next year. ROP will change from a revenue limit program to a grant based program for the next five years. The State has said that whatever the revenue limit was last year, reduced by 15% this year and 6% next year will be the new base grant funding level. There are questions as to how this will be calculated.

The program has proposed a number of reductions to address the loss of funding – reduction of one office assistant, reduction of hours in a few positions, and the closing of a few of the programs due to lack of attendance, or teachers leaving. Many classes are offered at the Camarillo Airport ROP campus and at many local high schools. Districts have been notified that we will continue to support the ROP programs at their sites for the next fiscal year.

It is anticipated that the program will run at a deficit of \$200,000 in 2008-09. The Office will support this program from flexibility in other restricted program funds i.e. Williams, Teacher Support and Professional Development programs.

Dr. Rice noted that the ROP program has enrolled 4,295 students this year and currently employs 70 teachers (44 of whom are contracted from local school districts). Training is provided in 38 career pathways and occupational areas. ROP is offered at 18 school district sites, with 16 programs at the ROP campus. Students can earn approximately 10 credits per semester towards graduation. Students can earn industry certification in some programs. Three programs have been added at the Providence School.

Every High School District that has a grade 9-12 population has ROP available to them. Santa Paula Union High School District is the only district that we do not contract for a portion of a teacher salary and benefits, but they send their students to the ROP campus and our Office provides the transportation. The programs that are being closed will end in June. All current students will have the opportunity to complete the program prior to that time.

In closing, Mr. Prosser noted that the Office is hearing that some of the Federal Stimulus Title I and Special Education monies will be released as early as next month. The Office is still not aware of how the districts are to report use of the money, or how the office is to monitor the use of that money. A portion of the Special Education money can be used to offset district excess cost contributions.

M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

1. Dr. Flores commented that many of the programs offered by our office cannot be reviewed based on monetary return on investment. The investment that the Office puts into the students is more qualifiable than quantifiable.

N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Continuation of Goal Setting Discussion (April 27, 2009).

O. FUTURE MEETINGS

Date: Monday, April 27, 2009
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: Friday, May 8, 2009 (*Budget Study Session*)
Time: 8:00 a.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: ***Tuesday, May 26, 2009***
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

P. MEETING ADJOURNED TO VENTURA CHARTER SCHOOL OF ARTS & GLOBAL EDUCATION, 2060 Cameron Street, Ventura

Mrs. Peterson adjourned the meeting for Board members to travel to the Ventura Charter School of Arts & Global Education, 2060 Cameron Street, Ventura, at 9:03 a.m.

Q. TOUR OF VENTURA CHARTER SCHOOL OF ARTS & GLOBAL EDUCATION

The County Superintendent of Schools, staff and three Board Members toured the Ventura Charter School of Arts and Global Education.

R. ADJOURNMENT

The tour of Ventura Charter School of Arts & Global Education ended, and the meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Approved by Board Action on 4/27/09.

*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.*