

**VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
November 26, 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. 07-21, was called to order by Mr. Marty Bates, President, at 6:02 p.m. on Monday, November 26, 2007, in the Board Room of the Conference & Educational Services Center, 5100 Adolfo Road, 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 – *Arrived at 6:23 p.m.*
Marty Bates, Area 2
Chris Valenzano, Area 3
Dean Kunicki, Area 4
Ron Matthews, Area 5 – *Arrived at 6:23 p.m.*

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

John Hayashida, Legal Counsel for the Board

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

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. *Carl Olson, Woodland Hills resident*
Mr. Olson distributed a letter regarding four news items: Letter from CSBA regarding the nominations for Director-at-Large positions; textbook accuracy; and two articles regarding the e-verify service.

2. *Jessica Murphy, Newbury Park resident*
Ms. Murphy, teacher at the Ventura Charter School of the Arts and Global Education, spoke in support of the Charter School.
3. *Ashley Carey, Ventura resident*
Ms. Carey, teacher at the Ventura Charter School of the Arts and Global Education, spoke in support of Charter School.
4. *Sherianne Cotterell, Superintendent, Rio School District*
Mrs. Cotterell expressed her appreciation for the efforts of Valerie Chrisman and her staff in support of the Rio School District.

Dr. Weis noted that the team Mrs. Cotterell spoke of, will be presenting at the CSBA Annual Conference.

C. HEARINGS

1. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Case No. 465.
The parent, Mrs. Gloria Mulberry, and the student, Michael Mulberry, were in attendance. There were no representatives from the Fillmore Unified School District in attendance; however, the Fillmore Unified School District provided additional documentation at the time of the meeting.

Mr. Matthews and Mrs. Peterson arrived at 6:23 p.m. The Board took 5 minutes to review the documentation provided by the Fillmore Unified School District.

Mr. Hayashida indicated that the Board can make a decision based on the merits of the case. He does not see sufficient evidence to support Fillmore's statement that the District has reached their 3% cap; and indicated that the Board could therefore base their decision on the merits of the case.

Mr. Matthews moved that the Board uphold the Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Case No. 465. Mrs. Peterson seconded the motion, and it carried 3:2, with Mr. Bates and Mr. Valenzano voting nay.

Mr. Valenzano requested an amendment to the motion, that the motion be to uphold the appeal for the remainder of this school year only; and that the student be required to correct his disciplinary issues. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Case No. 466.

Dr. Weis stated that this case was cancelled by the parent on November 26, 2007.

D. CLOSED SESSION

1. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation

Mr. Bates adjourned the Board into Closed Session at 6:47 p.m.

Mr. Bates reconvened the Board into Open Session at 7:10 p.m., and reported that no action was taken in Closed Session.

Mr. Valenzano moved the Board dispense with the order of the day and proceed with Agenda Item L.7. Mrs. Peterson seconded the motion, and it carried 5:0.

L. DISCUSSION / INFORMATION / ACTION

7. Board Legal Counsel Statement for Services

The September and October statements for services, provided by Board Legal Counsel, John Hayashida, pertaining to the Writ of Mandamus and other education issues, were presented for the Board's information and review.

Mrs. Peterson requested the rationale for the Board President requesting additional input on SB964, when it was vetoed by the Governor and recommended for denial by CSBA.

Mrs. Peterson moved the Board request that the Board President provide an explanation as to why research on SB964 was authorized. The motion failed for lack of a second.

This item was presented for information only.

Per the Amended Agenda, the Board proceeded with Agenda Item E.1.

E. PRELIMINARY

1. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 14, 2007.

Mr. Valenzano moved the following change be made to Agenda Item E.2, page 7, first paragraph, first sentence: clarify to read, "Mr. Valenzano noted that, through his time working for the California State Assembly, he found the biggest concern ..."

Mr. Valenzano further requested that the third sentence in the first paragraph be reworded based on a review of the audiotape.

Mr. Valenzano requested the following change be made to Agenda Item E.2, page 7, fourth paragraph: delete "there is a need," replace with "there may be a need."

Mrs. Peterson moved to amend the motion to include the following corrections: Agenda Item E.2, page 4: delete “is one of the best things that can be done” and replace with, “helps them develop more productive behaviors.” Agenda Item E.2, page 7: Note that Mr. Valenzano made the statement that there are colleges that receive Homeland Security funds. Mr. Kunicki seconded the amended motion, and it carried 5:0.

2. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 24, 2007.
3. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of October 12, 2007.
4. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of October 23, 2007.

Mr. Bates directed that the approval of the minutes of the Regular Meetings of September 24, 2007, October 12, 2007 and October 23, 2007 be delayed; and directed Board members to submit requested changes in writing to Dr. Weis prior to the minutes being returned for a second reading and approval.

F. CORRESPONDENCE

1. October 24, 2007 letter from Conejo Unified School District inviting Board members to participate as a judge for the “Seventh Annual We the People...the Citizen and the Constitution simulated congressional Hearings” scheduled for December 10 and December 11, 2007. Mr. Bates indicated that he has volunteered to assist. Anyone else should contact the District directly.
2. October 24, 2007, E-mail from Diana Narvaez, CSBA, titled, “California County Boards of Education’s New Web site is Live!”
3. October 30, 2007, E-mail from Scott Wilk, Anchor Consulting, LLC., titled, “Today’s L.A. times story on NCLB.”
4. On October 15, 2007, per the request of Mr. Valenzano, the Board sent a letter to the County Committee requesting to receive copies of all future meeting agendas, explanatory materials and correspondence of the County Committee. The resulting correspondence that has been received to date is included in the Board packet. Mr. Valenzano noted that correspondence was sent to the State Board of Education.

G. PRESIDENT’S AND BOARD MEMBERS’ REPORTS

1. Mr. Valenzano reported that he attended a meeting in Sacramento regarding the transfer of duties of the County Committee on School District Organization to the County Board. The Camarillo Unification issue is currently slated to be heard in January or March.

2. Mr. Matthews stated how impressed he was with the VCOE Stars event and the Grand Opening of the Conference Center.
3. Mrs. Peterson reported that she has been in correspondence with Senator Feinstein regarding the reauthorization of NCLB. Growth models and concerns regarding an adequate data base are being addressed. Congress may consider a growth model as part of NCLB.
4. Mrs. Peterson further reported that she attended a Building Bridges conference on the impact of the built environment on health and obesity prevention. This conference addressed housing for public servants.
5. Dr. Weis noted that the travel packets for Mr. Bates and Mrs. Peterson were at their desks. Also, each Board member received an invitation to the Rio School District Office opening.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

1. Memo from staff regarding Ventura County Committee on School District Organization, Education Code questions from Mr. Valenzano on October 23, 2007, regarding whether they held their meetings in the appropriate timelines.
2. Application for CCBE Exemplary Program Award for Channel Islands Live Program.
3. Application for CCBE Exemplary Program Award for CBL (Character Based Literacy) Assessment Program offered at VCOE operated schools. These applications will be submitted by the deadline of November 30, 2007.
4. Note to Dr. Weis from the American Cancer Society, thanking him for his service as the Gold Coast Partnership Council Chair.
5. Letter to Dr. Weis from Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, thanking him for the invitation to visit and to share the success of the Ventura County ROP.
6. Newspaper Articles relative to activities of the Office.

I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

None.

J. CONSENT/ACTION

1. Temporary Certificates
2. Travel Expense Claim

Mr. Kunicki moved Consent Items 1 & 2 be approved. Mrs. Peterson seconded the motion, and it carried 5:0.

K. PRESENTATIONS

1. Ventura Charter School of Arts and Global Education (25 minutes)

Public Comment:

Lisa Navarro, Ventura resident

Mrs. Navarr, parent of 2 students attending Ventura Charter spoke in support of the school.

Mary Galvin, Director of Operations, Ventura Charter School; Lisa Hildebrand, Curriculum Director; Andy Gilman, Board member; and Cindy Hansen, Business Services Authority, were in attendance. Copies of the powerpoint presented were distributed to all Board members.

Mr. Kunicki moved the Board meeting be extended to 9:30 p.m. Mrs. Peterson seconded the motion, and it carried 5:0.

L. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/ACTION

1. 2006-07 Audit Report

Mr. Mantooth reviewed the 2006-07 Audit Report of the Ventura County Office of Education. On an annual basis, the Office is required to have an independent audit. The report again indicated that there were no findings. This is the second year that the Office has had a totally clean audit. Kelly Cabanaugh, Audit Manager, was in attendance to review the report.

Mr. Matthews moved the Board accept the 2006-07 Audit Report for the Ventura County Office of Education as presented by the auditor. Mr. Kunicki seconded the motion, and it carried 5:0.

2. Annual Review of Williams Lawsuit Settlement Countywide Visitations Report
Education Code 1240, as modified by the Williams Lawsuit Settlement, requires that the County Superintendent visit schools in Ventura County that were ranked in Deciles 1-3 on the 2003 API, and report to the County Board the results of these visits. Visits showed that the students of Ventura County did have access to sufficient textbooks and/or instructional materials and that school facilities were safe, clean and functional. This item was presented for information only.

3. Approval of Gateway Community School as a Title 1 Schoolwide Program
Gateway Community School has been a Title 1 Targeted Assistance School for the past three years. Student enrollment data now indicates that the program meets and exceeds the 40 % threshold of students from families at the poverty level and the School is therefore eligible to become a Title 1 Schoolwide Program.

Mrs. Peterson moved the Board approve Gateway Community School as a Title 1 Schoolwide Program. Mr. Matthews seconded the motion, and it carried 5:0.

4. Approval of Revised Gateway Community School Single Plan for Student Achievement
The Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) was 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 has been revised to include the WASC recommendations and API recommendations. The School Site Council has approved the plan, which must be done prior to approval by the governing board of the local educational agency.

Mr. Valenzano moved the Board approve the Gateway Single Plan for Student Achievement. Mrs. Peterson seconded the motion, and it carried 5:0.

5. First Reading and Possible Approval of Revisions to Board Policy No. 1312.3, Implementing the Uniform Complaint Procedures
Board Policy 1312.3 defines the process used to address all complaints which allege that the Ventura County Office of Education has violated federal or state laws or regulations governing educational programs. During the Coordinated Compliance Monitoring audit, it was determined that no policy items were non-compliant. However, CDE has further reviewed this policy and notified VCOE that additional language needed to be reflected in the policy. Revisions to Board Policy 1312.3, Implementing the Uniform Complaint Procedures, reflects mandated language required by the California Department of Education. Corresponding Administrative Regulations and Exhibits are included for the Board's information.

Mr. Valenzano moved the Board waive the second reading and approve revisions to Board Policy No. 1312.3 Implementing the Uniform Complaint Procedures. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, and it carried 5:0.

6. Board Legal Counsel Statement for Services
The August and September statements for services, provided by Board Legal Counsel, Don Hurley, pertaining to Interdistrict Attendance Appeals and the Fillmore Lawsuit, were presented for the Board's information and review.

Per the modified agenda, the Board proceeded with Agenda Item M.1.

M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Re-evaluation and possible termination of Anchor Consulting Contract (requested by Mrs. Peterson, January 2008).
2. Termination of Contract with Capital Venture (requested by Mrs. Peterson, January 2008).
3. Form for Board Input on Goal 5, Objective B (requested by Mr. Bates, TBD).
4. New Certificate of Appreciation (requested by Mr. Kunicki, TBD).
5. Options for Recording of Board Minutes (requested by Mr. Bates, TBD).
6. Existing or Proposed Board Policy authorizing censure of Board members (requested by Mr. Kunicki, January 2008).

O. FUTURE MEETINGS

The proposed 2008 Calendar of Board meetings will be presented on December 10, 2007. Dr. Weis requested that Board members review the proposed calendar and come ready to discuss potential dates.

Date: Monday, December 10, 2007
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Organizational Meeting of the Board

P. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Approved as Amended by Board Action on 12/10/07.

*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.*