

**VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
JANUARY 24, 2022**

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. 22-03, was called to order by Rachel Ulrich, Board President, at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 24, 2022, via Zoom teleconference. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Ms. Ulrich followed by a moment of reflection.

2. Roll Call
Trustees Present:
Rachel Ulrich, Area 1
Michael Teasdale, Area 2
Dr. Mark Lisagor, Area 3
Arleigh Kidd, Area 4
Dr. Ramon Flores, Area 5

VCOE Personnel Present:
Dr. César Morales, Ventura County Superintendent of Schools and
Ex-Officio Secretary and Executive Officer of the Board
Misty Key, Deputy Superintendent, Fiscal & Administrative Services
Dr. Consuelo Hernandez Williams, Associate Superintendent, Student Services
Lisa Salas Brown, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services
Emily Mostovoy Luna, Associate Superintendent SELPA
Teri Page, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Lisa Bork, Senior Executive Assistant
Wanda Runcie, Executive Assistant

3. Approval of Agenda.
Dr. Lisagor moved the agenda be approved. Mr. Kidd seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous vote (5:0).

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

C. HEARINGS

None.

D. CLOSED SESSION

None.

E. PRELIMINARY

1. Approval of Minutes of Annual Organizational Meeting of December 13, 2021.
2. Approval of Minutes of Special Board Meeting of January 19, 2022.
Dr. Lisagor moved the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of December 13, 2021 and the minutes of the Special Board Meeting of January 19, 2022 be approved. Dr. Flores seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous roll call vote (5:0).

F. CORRESPONDENCE

None

G. PRESIDENT'S AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

(Reports by Board members regarding their individual activities affecting the Office pursuant to Govt. Code Sec. 54954.2(a)).

1. Upcoming Events
Academic Decathlon.....January 8, 2021- February 5, 2022
VCOE All Staff Gathering..... Postponed
Mock TrialFebruary 8-11, 15-17, 2022
VCSBA Meeting..... March 7, 2022
Hackathon by the Sea March 11-19, 2022
CSBA Delegate Meeting March 14, 2022
County Board Governance Workshop Sacramento, March 11-12, 2022
Science Fair March 18, 2022
VCOE Equity Conference March 22, 2022

Mr. Kidd will be attending an orientation meeting with senior management staff on January 31st, he is looking forward to getting to know more about the county office.

Mr. Kidd is hoping to attend school board meetings of the Simi Valley Unified and Moorpark Unified school districts to introduce himself and explain his role as a county board member. The California budget looked good, however he was surprised there was no mention of CalSTRS and CalPERS. He is hoping these will be taken into consideration. Mr. Kidd also honored Gabriela Jaquez who plays girls basketball at Adolfo Camarillo High School; she will be going to UCLA.

Dr. Flores mentioned the Naval Base is supporting VCOE's Academic Decathlon, Hackathon by the Sea, and the Science Fair. He is looking forward to the Equity Conference and hearing from Dr. Joe Mendoza.

Ms. Ulrich said the CCBE Professional Development is being finalized and is looking great. There has been talk this conference may go virtual, but they are hoping it will in person. The March 7, 2022 VCSBA meeting, which is scheduled to be held in person, will be very informative.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Morales noted this is legislative season and a time for our organization to reach out to our legislators. He is currently attending the CCSESA quarterly meeting.

I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Ms. Ulrich mentioned the word from Capital Advisors regarding CalSTRS and CalPERS is that the governor has withheld these to possibly give him more bargaining chips.

Mr. Teasdale encouraged Board members to go to Washington DC on April 25 to advocate for federal contributions to Special Education funding.

J. CONSENT/ACTION ITEMS

(All matters specified as Consent Agenda are considered by the Board to be routine and will be acted upon in one motion. There will be no discussion of these items prior to the time the Board votes on the motion unless members of the Board request specific items be discussed and/or removed from the Consent Agenda)

1. Mileage Reimbursement Claim
2. Temporary County Certificates
3. Disposal of Property
4. Williams Quarterly Report to County Board of Education.
5. School Accountability Report Cards

Mr. Kidd moved the Board approve Consent Items J1 through J5 be approved. Dr. Flores seconded the motion and the motion carried upon a unanimous roll call vote (5:0).

K. PRESENTATIONS

None.

L. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/ACTION

1. 2020-21 Audit Report
Ms. Key introduced Mr. Royce Townsend from EideBailly. Mr. Townsend stated there are three specific areas addressed in this audit - financial statements and federal and state awards. The auditor's responsibility is to express opinions on the financial statements based on government auditing standards. Unmodified is the highest assurance provided. Auditing provides assurance of business management and risk assessments on key critical areas. Critical for a governing Board's review is the Summary of Auditor's Results and the Schedule of Financial Trends. This year there were three major federal programs tested which included two COVID 19 programs. For the financial statement and the state and federal awards, the auditor's opinion was unmodified.

On the Schedule of Financial Trends page, this is the only page where there is historical data. The County incurred operating surplus two of the past three years and is projected to deficit spend in the 2021-2022 budget. Reserves remain stable and ADA is projected to decline.

Mr. Kidd inquired about the distortion of enrollment on page 12 of the Final Financial Statement and asked if this is due to Covid. Ms. Key said these are pre-Covid numbers and are due to countywide declining enrollment. These are the demographics we are facing in Ventura County.

Dr. Flores asked about how we identify our auditors. Ms. Key stated VCOE is in the final year of the current three-year contract with EideBailly – partners are rotated. After this year, we may have another partner or go out to bid.

Dr. Lisagor, thanked Mr. Townsend for a very clean and concise audit.

Ms. Ulrich asked about Page 9 – the Statement of Net Position – inquiring why our assets increased so drastically and why liabilities almost doubled. What part of our budget ties into this? Ms. Key said we would have to research this item, Mr. Townsend said it isn't one specific source, it is all of the funds of the county, it would have to be broken down, which he offered to do. Ms. Key thanked him for offering to provide that detail. She thanked the auditors for showing up in person and working through Covid challenges for the audit. She also thanked Executive Director of Internal Business Department, Lisa Cline and her staff for working in partnership with our audit firm.

Dr. Lisagor moved to accept the 2020-21 Audit Report. Mr. Kidd seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous roll call vote (5:0).

2. Annual Programmatic Audit by Bridges Charter School.

On February 16, 2010, the Ventura County Board of Education approved the charter school petition for Bridges Charter School. On March 23, 2020, the Board approved the renewal of Bridges Charter School, with the term of the charter expiring on June 30, 2027. In accordance with the VCOE Charter School Progress Report Timeline, representatives from Bridges Charter School will present information required in the annual programmatic audit detailed in the Memorandum of Understanding.

Ms. Hernandez-Williams introduced Marlo Hartsuyker, Charter School Director who welcomed Dr. Kelly Simon, Bridges Charter School Director, Cindy McCarthy, Assistant Director, and Rudy Calasin, Director, School Business Services who will be presenting on the programmatic audit.

Dr. Simon shared the school's accomplishments. She stated this has been a very challenging year due to Covid. Bridges as well as all schools in Ventura County have been hit by significant shifts in enrollment. Many parents have shifted their students towards Bridges Homeschool program. The homeschool is at full enrollment with wait list of 20 students. There has also been a shift of parents homeschooling their children independently and moving out of the area. The attendance has been steady at about 95%. There is a decline in enrollment since returning in January as a result of Covid cases. Bridges has hired an independent consultant to determine how families have shifted mindsets and what they are doing as a result of covid. They hope is to learn how staff can reinvent themselves and address concerning issues.

The health and safety of staff and students is vital. Many protocols have been in place since March 2020. New policies are developed as new information emerges. Bridges contracts with a lab to provide onsite weekly testing; in February, this will increase to twice a week. Short term independent study is offered for students who are quarantined.

Assessments have been complicated during Covid. In 2020-21 CASSPP assessments were given to students in grades 3-5. Local assessments were given to students in grades 6-8.

The results are questionable as some students were off site when taking tests, others were in a full year of distance learning and parent support varied.

Bridges has implemented more targeted math interventions in math and hired a full-time resource teacher to address the student with disabilities population. Supports on site are providing additional resources for students to address learning loss.

Staff is focused on whole child learning. The school has invested in academic interventions in reading and math. Hours have been increased for the counselor and psychologist and a bilingual coordinator has been hired. This year, teacher committees in literacy and math have been formed.

Bridges has partnered with UC Santa Barbara's CoVitality Program to use Universal Monitoring to help identify needs in social and emotional learning. They are looking at student strengths, measuring student gratitude, zest, optimism and persistence in grades 3-5 and measuring belief in self, belief in others and emotional competency and engaged learning in grades 6-8. The preliminary results show 97% of students were classified as thriving.

Partnerships have been established with CSUN's Psychology program and student teachers from CLU. Bridges has also partnered with the Moorpark College Early Education Development Department and hosted 10 internships.

Mr. Calasin reviewed a three-year budget proposal, first interim and two projection years. Not much is expected to change for the 2nd interim budget. Some assumptions will need to be changed for the 2022-23 adopted budget. The 2020-21 CBEDS enrollment was 399; Bridges projected 415 enrollment. The enrollment has been significantly lower. The 3.3 million on row 7 of the budget chart reflects the LCFF revenue based on lower enrollment. There is a \$200,000 drop, however, this is more than made up in state and federal revenues. Mr. Calasin isn't sure how much Omicron will affect ADA attendance and if the state will help, this is an unknown factor. There has been an unexpected wave of absences.

There has been an increase of over \$200,00 including ESSER 3 funds. These funds were used to keep a teaching position to keep classes small and increased the hours of the resource teacher to address learning loss.

Row 11 – the 4.2 million was an increase of \$100,000 compared to the adopted budget amount. Although we lost \$200,000 in LCFF revenues, the overall revenues increased by \$100,000.

Bridges under spends its expenditure budget by one to three percent every year which is not reflected in the first interim budget. This has been a tougher year than last year. One to three percent equals \$45,000 to \$135,000.

A number that jumps out is a deficit of \$302,592; this is smaller than expected. The ELO Grant was supposed to be state revenue recognized in 2020-21 spent during 2021-22. CDE changed allocations of the grant and they were ultimately recognized last year. Typically these funds aren't recognized until they are spent. This requires a change in the way ELO funds are recognized.

A deficit sounds negative, but there is still a very healthy reserve. Because of one-time revenues this year, it is projected to increase by \$29,000.

Budget committee meetings are being held as budget adoption nears. For now, they are going to be very conservative and are waiting on the governor's budget proposal hoping for one-time funds.

Mr. Kidd understands declining enrollment. He is trying to reconcile the 20 students on the homeschool waiting list. Dr. Simon indicated the interest is mostly in the higher grades and those grades are already capped. This has completely flipped – there used to be waiting lists in K-2.

Dr. Lisagor said hearing of this reverse is a troubling trend in terms of projecting for the future. Dr. Simon said they are being proactive and trying to get to the root of the issue with hiring an educational consultant. She feels they can't really respond to make changes until they understand why these families are making these decisions. What are they looking for as they have experienced this deep trauma? This is true across the nation. Bridges is engaging deeply with families with focus groups to understand what families are looking for.

Dr. Simon stated again that this year has been very challenging. She acknowledged that reopening school was a success. The six-year WASC self-study was positive. Bridges is improving stake holder engagement and continue to collect data around social emotional learning. She said they are grateful to be part of VCOE.

Dr. Flores enjoyed hearing about what is being put into place for the students. He asked what support systems are in place for the faculty. Dr. Simon said this is a huge concern, there is much emotional fatigue that needs to be validated. For her, it is about empathizing and being more flexible. It is recognizing the heavy loads being carried. Staff has been going non-stop for two years. She doesn't want to build in more, just have empathy and understanding that we are all in a hard place. Dr. Ramon agreed and noted the recent news article by Dr. Morales thanking the education community and asking the public to do so as well. Dr. Flores thanked everyone on the Bridges staff for staying open and doing what has to be done.

Mr. Teasdale echoed Dr. Flores and commented on how the role of educators has changed – they are much more than a classroom teacher. The time they invest in the health and welfare of our students is admirable. Mr. Teasdale is a big believer of tracking results of students over time and measuring the impact of intervention. He would appreciate more details about tracing focused on academic results.

Dr. Simon indicated NWEA math assessments have been adopted by many of our local districts. Students can be tracked as the assessment is administered three times a year. Students can be grouped, seeing growth over time that isn't necessarily connected to the grade level. Targeted interventions can take place based on the results. Giving social emotional surveys twice per year enables them to see the trends in student population and measure success in the spring. The school psychologist and counselor provide a social emotional curriculum in the general education classrooms.

Mr. Kidd commented this has been a rough two years, he appreciates the work being done.

Ms. Ulrich thanked Dr. Simon and appreciates the specificity of comparing student performance this year versus last year and how they are doing on their social journey. She also enjoys seeing Dr. Simon grow in her role.

3. Reschedule March 14, 2022 Board Meeting

The March 14, 2022 Ventura County Board of Education meeting conflicts with the 2022 CSBA Legislative Action Day in Sacramento on March 15, 2022.

Ms. Key pointed out the reason the March Board meeting is so early is because the second Interim budget requires Board action before March 15. Tuesday, March 8 is an option, as Monday, March 7th is a VCSBA meeting.

Dr. Lisagor noted that typically on advocacy day, the Board members fly to Sacramento in the morning and return in the evening.

Mr. Teasdale said the CCBE Conference is March 11-12th and he will mostly likely stay in Sacramento until the advocacy day on March 15th.

Ms. Ulrich suggested having a virtual meeting on March 14th would be the best way to proceed.

Mr. Key indicated we need to renew the virtual meeting resolution every 30 days. This can be put on the agenda for the February 28th meeting.

The March 14th Board meeting date will stay as is.

M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Kidd appreciated the informative presentation by Bridges; it was very helpful.

Mr. Teasdale said he has been a Board member for over three years. He is concerned about testing and the ability to actually measure true progress. He would like an update on how we really measure learning and what the efforts are to improve this. This could be a future agenda item – how are we assessing learning loss. He will also have a deeper discussion with Dr. Morales.

Dr. Flores requested a hard copy of the documents for the Special Board meeting on February 7, 2022. Lisa will email Board members to see if others would like a hard copy.

Ms. Ulrich mentioned the State mandates what our testing measurements have been. Pre-Covid it wasn't up to us what we measure our students by. It will be interesting to see what happens in the future.

N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Measurement parameters.

Virtual meeting resolution – February 28, 2022

O. FUTURE MEETINGS

Date: Monday, February 7, 2022
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Special Meeting of the Board – Expulsion Hearing

Date: Monday, February 28, 2022
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: Monday, March 14, 2022
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: VIRTUAL
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Ms. Ulrich adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

P. ADJOURNMENT

Board meetings are recorded by audio tape pursuant to Government Code Section 54953.5(b). Auxiliary aids and services include a wide range of services and devices that promote effective communication for individuals with disabilities. If you require such assistance, please notify this office at (805) 383-1900 as soon as possible or ***at least 48 hours prior to any meeting.*** We will make every effort to give primary consideration to expressed preferences or provide equally effective means of communication to ensure equal access to Ventura County Office of Education programs and events.

The agenda for this Regular meeting is posted for minimum of 72 contiguous hours prior to Board meeting at the entrance to the Ventura County Office of Education, Conference & Educational Services Center, 5100 Adolfo Way, Camarillo. The agenda is also posted at the following locations:

1. Conejo Valley Unified School District, 1400 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks
2. Ojai Unified School District, 414 E. Ojai Avenue, Ojai
3. Oxnard School District, 1051 S. A Street, Oxnard
4. Santa Paula Unified School District, 201 S. Steckel Drive, Santa Paula
5. Simi Valley Unified School District, 875 E. Cochran Street, Simi Valley
6. Ventura Unified School District, 255 West Stanley Avenue, Ventura

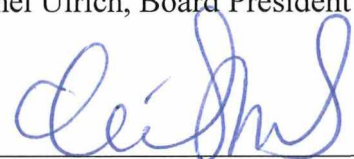
The full agenda packet, with explanatory materials, is available for public review on the Internet at:
<http://www.vcoe.org/About/Board-of-Education/Agendas-and-Minutes>.

Date: 2/28/22



Rachel Ulrich, Board President

Date: 3/1/22



Dr. César Morales, Ex Officio Secretary and
Executive Officer of the Board