

**VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
October 28, 2019**

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 19-12, was called to order by Dr. Mark Lisagor, Board President, at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 28, 2019, 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 Dr. Lisagor and followed by a moment of reflection.
2. Roll Call
Trustees Present:
Rachel Ulrich, Area 1
Mike Teasdale, Area 2
Dr. Mark Lisagor, Area 3
Rob Collins, Area 4
Dr. Ramon Flores, Area 5

VCOE Personnel Present:
Misty Key, Associate Superintendent, Fiscal and Administrative Services
Dr. Antonio Castro, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services
Dr. Cesar Morales, Associate Superintendent, Student Services
Emily Mostovoy-Luna, Assistant Superintendent, SELPA
Dr. Jane Wagmeister, Executive Director, Curriculum and Instruction
Marlo Hartsuyker, Director, Charter School Support
Consuelo Williams, Director, County Program Support & Accountability
Laurie Arnold, Executive Director, Career Education
Nancy Akkerman, Senior Executive Assistant
Manny Ruiz, Facilities Technician
3. Approval of Agenda
Mr. Collins moved the agenda be approved. Ms. Ulrich seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous vote (5:0).

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following members of the Public addressed the Board:

1. *David Maron, Ventura County Civic Alliance*, distributed copies of the State of the Region Report, available online at civicalliance.org.

C. HEARINGS

None.

D. CLOSED SESSION

None.

E. PRELIMINARY

1. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 23, 2019
Mr. Teasdale moved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 23, 2019 be approved. Mr. Collins seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous vote (5:0).

F. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

G. PRESIDENT'S AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

1. Dr. Flores reported that he attended the VCSBA Dinner meeting. Kevin Gordon, Capitol Advisors and Mike Fine, FCMAT, addressed legislative issues.
2. Mr. Collins noted that AB328 passed, making California the first state with a late start time for middle and high school.
3. Mr. Teasdale reported that he attended a presentation on anti-bullying and being kind to one another at a Conejo Valley Unified School. In his conversation with school administrators, it was noted that one of the challenges schools are facing is having enough time for teachers to coordinate plans for IEPs.
4. Ms. Ulrich reported that she attended the VCSBA Dinner meeting and an event highlighting the Naval Grant for Robotics. She plans to attend the River Oaks VIP breakfast.
5. Dr. Lisagor reported that he also attended the VCSBA Dinner meeting. The need for full and fair funding for schools is as critical as ever but there is a concern that this initiative will compete with the split roll initiative which could cause both to be defeated.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Key reported on the following activities of the Office:

1. Education Partnership Agreement between VCOE and Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division.

Dr. Morales introduced representatives from the Naval Base – Retired Navy Captain, Rich Burr, STEM Champion for the Navy; and Candace Whitesell, STEM Coordinator and Human Resources Specialist for the Navy.

The ongoing partnership with the Naval Base is extremely beneficial to Ventura County students. The Navy is the number one employer in Ventura County for STEM careers and this partnership promotes STEM education throughout the County. Captain Burr noted that the purpose of the partnership is to aid in the education of Ventura County students, staff and faculty. The Navy provides aviation simulators, technology and engineering equipment, tours, and STEM workshops. The Navy will continue to develop programs so Ventura County students have the best employment possibilities; renewing this educational partnership agreement is beneficial to all.

2. CDE Notification that the VCOE Budget complies with Criteria and Standards for Fiscal Stability.
3. VCOE Letter requesting Governor's Veto on AB218, AB500, and SB328. Each has been adopted.

I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

1. Mr. Collins noted that SB328 which legislates a later school start time for middle school and high school has passed. By 2023, Middle schools can begin no earlier than 8:00 a.m. and high schools no earlier than 8:30 a.m.

Dr. Morales noted that this will have an impact on transportation. Districts could need to add 20-30% more busses as they can no longer stagger start times. It is hard to hire bus drivers in Ventura County. From a social perspective, working class parents will have a harder time dropping off students and getting to work on time. More schools may need to provide before school care; and after school programs may have to run later. The legislation is well intentioned, but the implementation will be another unfunded mandate. Dr. Lisagor noted that rural districts are exempted, but the definition of "rural" has yet to be provided.

J. CONSENT/ACTION

1. Temporary County Certificates
2. 3rd Quarter 2019 Disposal of Property Report
3. 2020-21 County School Services Fund Budget Calendar
4. Annual Review of Williams Countywide Visitations Report for 2018-19 School Year
5. Williams Quarterly Report to County Board of Education
6. Change Order No. 11 to Viola, Inc. for Camarillo Special Education New Construction: 20 Classroom School Bid 2018-34.

Ms. Ulrich moved the Board pull Consent Item 6 and approve Consent Items 1-5. Dr. Flores seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous vote (5:0).

Regarding J.6, Ms. Ulrich asked how many more change orders are anticipated, as construction seems to be reaching the upper limits of the estimated cost.

Ms. Key explained that extensive change orders have been needed as the school plans were developed 10 years ago without information on the actual site needs. Construction standards have changed, as well as City requirements, i.e., the City is now requiring a deceleration lane on Adolfo Road which was not anticipated 10 years ago.

Mr. Teasdale asked what the upper limit for construction is? The total cost for the project includes construction, furniture, equipment and materials. If the building costs go up, there will be less money available for furniture and equipment.

Mr. Teasdale moved the Board approve Consent Item 6. Ms. Ulrich seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous vote (5:0).

K. PRESENTATIONS

None.

L. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/ACTION

1. Annual Programmatic Audit Presentation by Meadows Arts and Technology Elementary School (MATES)

Ms. Hartsuyker welcomed representatives for MATES and three other charter schools. Brenda Olshever, Executive Director, presented information on MATES. MATES Charter is a conversion charter and therefore must enroll students based on the existing Meadows boundary. MATES continues to reach out to other geographic areas as space allows. A home school program was created in the hopes of creating additional spaces so more students on the waiting list can enroll. There are currently five students enrolled in the Personalized Learning Program (home school program). MATES has experienced growth in the percentage of socio-economically disadvantaged students since a free and reduced lunch program was added. Staff longevity is a benefit with many staff members being at MATES the full 10 years.

Benny Martinez reviewed the budget. MATES has a 10 member budget committee which reviews personnel, capital expenditures, reserves, salary demands, etc. The budget is built on enrollment of 401 students. MATES budget is based on 96% attendance and this goal is consistently reached. The yearly audit has consistently been successful. There are no one time discretionary funds in this budget. Expense includes step and column increases; decreases in STRS and PERS which have resulted in a \$21,000 decrease in expenses. \$50,000 is set aside for Math textbook adoption. Personalized Learning Program is expected to break even in a few years. The budget is strong with healthy reserves.

English Language Arts scores were exceptional with 84.9% meeting or exceeding the requirements; in Math, 88.08% met or exceeded requirements. Comparison data for Lang Ranch and Westlake Hills Schools was provided. Sub populations: 75% of students with disabilities met or exceeded in Language Arts; 68.75% in Mathematics. Socio-economically disadvantaged students are also doing very well. Hispanic students are also meeting or exceeding requirements in Language Arts and Mathematics. ELPAC results were reviewed with 67% scoring level 4. 50% of population was redesignated in 2018-19 school year. Students have an individualized learning program for their English language development which includes ways that parents can assist at home.

Complaints are handled by a grievance process. Two due process complaints in 2017-18 were resolved.

Progress on LCAP Goals is hard to present as Dashboard results are not yet in. Socio-economically disadvantaged learners experienced a 23.51% increase on the CAASPP ELA assessment. Response to Intervention program is utilized. An afterschool homework club is offered three days a week. Students with disabilities experienced a 22% increase. Suspensions decreased by 1%. Teachers created a behavior matrix. Socio-emotional support groups were started. Conflict resolution has been offered.

A personalized learning program for the 2019-20 school year has begun. A teacher has been hired and 5 students are enrolled. Students attend field trip, and participate at family events.

Strategic Framework has been developed by the MATES Board. MATES Vision and Mission have not changed but five pillars were developed: Drive the Whole Child education (socio-emotional learning); Ensure facility permanence; expand MATES educational access (personalized learning program); Develop our staff as engaged and empowered leaders (MATES Valued Leaders); Be community and charter advocacy leaders (new charter school laws have to be addressed). All of these are supported by Financial Stability.

Examples of how Best practices are shared with others were provided. Parent and Student Climate Survey results were reviewed.

Mr. Collins congratulated MATES on a successful charter school and asked how MATES accounts for difference in diversity from other CVUSD Schools? As a conversion charter MATES must give preference to students who reside within the original Meadows School boundaries. Enrollment priority is also given to siblings. Most spaces are filled by the MATES community.

Dr. Flores noted that there is not an LCAP goal for assisting Hispanic students to increase academic scores. Dr. Flores asked in the future that the trend for redesignation of students be provided.

Ms. Ulrich asked why the Personalized Learning Program was started. PLP was started to address the enrollment wait list, with a hope that students would take advantage of this program, opening positions for those on the wait list. Ms. Ulrich asked that next year the results for the PLP students be provided separately.

Dr. Lisagor asked if the PLP was brought before this Board for review and approval. The addition of the PLP was approved as part of last year's renewal.

Mr. Teasdale asked to what does MATES attribute the gains in Math scores. This is the fourth year of the Math programs and also the first time those students who have the September 1st enrollment deadline were tested.

Suspensions were reduced by addressing them differently and since many came from theft at the Book Fair, changes were made to how the Fair operates.

Mr. Teasdale thanked MATES for sharing best practices and asked if the response is positive. Parent Nights have been successful. This past month was the first time a district person came to view the MATES technology program. MATES will continue to reach out.

Mr. Teasdale asked about the employee value proposition. What has MATES found to be important to their teachers? Collaboration and teamwork; hands are not tied (trust and freedom in what they do); and payments for lifelong learners.

2. 2019-20 California School Dashboard: Local Indicators Self-Reflection

Ms. Hernandez-Williams reported that California's Accountability System requires all LEAs to annually reflect on Local indicators in order to identify strengths, challenges, and reflect on areas in need of improvement. Each LEA is required to complete the Self-Reflection Tool provided by CDE, report the results to the local governing board at a regularly scheduled meeting, and to stakeholders and the public through the Dashboard by November 1, 2019.

The Dashboard identifies areas of strength and areas of needs. It is scheduled to be released November 9 -13. This data will inform our LCAP goals. Over the last 2 ½ months staff has been reflecting on the indicators. Priority 4, 5 and 8 include the state accountability testing which are reported through the Dashboard.

Priority 1: All teachers must be appropriately assigned; student have access to instructional materials; and facilities are safe, clean and functional. The standard was to Priority 1 at all sites; and promptly address and facility deficiencies.

Priority 2: Implementation of State Academic Standards – Annually measure progress on state standards.

Priority 3: Parent and Family Engagement – promote parental input in decision making and participation in programs.

Priority 6: School Climate – Survey administered every other year. The Healthy Kids survey is done every year and provides current data.

Priority 7: Students have access to and are enrolled in a broad course of study.

Priorities 9 and 10: County Offices of Education Only. Coordination of services for expelled and foster youth. VCOE will annual measure progress in coordinating instruction and services for expelled and foster students.

Self Reflection: VCOE used local data, surveys and questionnaires at team meetings, principal meetings, and branch meetings. Since August, staff have continually discussed the self-reflection process. Dr. Heidi Christensen, Research Analysis; and Internal Business also participated. Currently the requirements of the self reflection process have been met. The challenge is to allocate time to engage in meaningful conversations about the process. Are there any changes that VCOE needs to make to provide services for students?

To make the self reflection process meaningful requires that staff determine where requirements are being met; and were additional resources need to be allocated. The results of the Healthy Kids Survey allowed staff to see the need to address social emotional support based on suicidal thoughts of students.

Dr. Lisagor questioned the survey distributed to everyone asking for input on the LCAP template. Are the questions assigned by the State or are they determined by staff? Staff was provided with Option I or Option II. There is incredible room for growth. Dr. Castro noted that there were many sample surveys that were sent out. The SBE was supposed to approve the LCAP template but the final template will be shared until January.

Williams settlement had zero misassignments and zero vacant teacher positions. All students had access to instructional materials; and no facilities issues. That was amazing. Countywide, there have been a number of years of zero complaints and compliance.

Mr. Collins noted that parents are still having an issue with comparing schools and that it is not very user friendly. Staff concurred, stating that in the past, the LCAP was designed for the practitioner. It has been modified and is more user friendly but it could be better.

Mr. Teasdale asked why Priority I continues to be a Priority when VCOE is 100% successful in this area. The CDE is grounded in insuring that all students have access to equal quality educational materials and facilities. Ms. Key noted that this is a legal issue as well. Priority I addresses the agreed upon settlement to a legal issue that was brought forward.

Dr. Flores noted that the Board approved the LCAP in June. A self reflection is now required four months later. Are charter schools held to the same requirement and who do they report to? This question will be shared with Ms. Hartsuyker for her response.

3. Information on 2020 Census Activities

Mr. Schermer and Dr. Morales provided written information on Census activities occurring in the education committee. Mr. Teasdale noted the importance of getting the information to the hardest to reach populations.

M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS.

1. Ms. Ulrich inquired about Mr. Mantooth's recovery. He is doing much better and recovering quickly.

N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Charter School Programmatic Audits and Renewal Requests
Ventura Charter School Programmatic Audit – *November 25, 2019*
River Oaks Academy Programmatic Audit and Renewal – *February 2020*
Bridges Charter School Programmatic Audit and Renewal – *March 2020*
Vista Real Charter Programmatic Audit and Renewal – *April 2020*

2. Mr. Collins requested a presentation on how to decrease the number of due process hearings. What can the County Office do, or what is it currently doing, to help districts avoid these hearings and to train teachers and administrators in IEPs.

O. FUTURE MEETINGS

Date: Monday, November 25, 2019
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: Monday, December 16, 2019
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board

P. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Lisagor adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Minutes Approved by Board Action on 12/16/19.