

**VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF**  
**March 23, 2020**

**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 20-03, was called to order by Dr. Ramon Flores, Board President, at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 23, 2020, in the Salons of the VCOE Conference & Educational Services Center, 5100 Adolfo Road, Camarillo. The meeting was also held via teleconference with four (4) Board Trustees and members of the public participating in the meeting via teleconference/video conference. Mr. Mantooth gave instructions for the teleconference and requested that all participants keep their speaker muted unless speaking. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Dr. Flores and followed by a moment of reflection.
2. Roll Call  
Trustees Present:  
Dr. Ramon Flores, Area 5  
Rachel Ulrich, Area 1 – *Participated via teleconference*  
Mike Teasdale, Area 2 – *Participated via teleconference*  
Dr. Mark Lisagor, Area 3 – *Participated via teleconference*  
Rob Collins, Area 4 – *Participated via teleconference*  
  
VCOE Personnel Present:  
Stanley C. Mantooth, Ventura County Superintendent of Schools and Ex-Officio Secretary and Executive Officer of the Board  
Misty Key, Associate Superintendent, Fiscal and Administrative Services  
Dr. Antonio Castro, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services  
Dr. Cesar Morales, Associate Superintendent, Student Services  
Dr. Julie Judd, Chief Technology Officer  
Marlo Hartsuyker, Director, Charter School Support  
David Fateh, Director, Director Facilities  
Nancy Akkerman, Senior Executive Assistant  
Manny Ruiz, Conference Facilities Technician
3. Approval of Agenda  
Ms. Ulrich moved the agenda be approved. Ms. Teasdale seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous roll call vote (5:0).

**B. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**C. HEARINGS**

None.

**D. CLOSED SESSION**

None.

**E. PRELIMINARY**

1. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 27, 2020.
2. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 24, 2020.

Dr. Lisagor moved the Minutes of Regular Meetings of January 27, 2020 and February 24, 2020 be approved. Mr. Teasdale seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous roll call vote (5:0).

**F. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Vista Real Charter High School DASS Application.

**G. PRESIDENT'S AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS**

1. All Events have been cancelled for the near future.
2. Dr. Lisagor reported that he attended the VCSBA Dinner Meeting. It was a very educational meeting on vaping.
3. Mr. Teasdale extended his wishes and compassion to society.
4. Ms. Ulrich reported that she has spent numerous hours on Zoom meetings with students and staff.
5. Dr. Flores reported that he attended the VCSBA Dinner Meeting on vaping. This is a very challenging issues for our students; vaping is very unregulated at this time.
6. Mr. Mantooth noted that all upcoming student events and competitions have been cancelled and expressed his sincere sadness that these events cannot be shared with our students.

**H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

*Mr. Mantooth presented the following information on the activities of the Office:*

1. CDE received and accepted the First Interim Report of the Office.  
  
COVID-19 Update. Mr. Mantooth noted that VCOE is currently acting as a source of communication between the districts, other county office of education and Boards. The most important concern is the safety of students and staff throughout the county. He applauded the actions of local school districts in their ongoing support of food services. Applaud school districts for their ongoing support of food services. Currently, all school districts are closed until May 4<sup>th</sup>. All staff members will be paid during this time. The next effort is to set up on online distance learning and virtual meetings.

There are a number of details and questions that still need to be addressed. What about the seniors? Will they be given credit or can they improve their grades? LCAP and Differentiated Assistance – there are efforts underway to extend the

timelines. Can teacher credential renewal deadlines be extended? Budget timelines are being discussed. There are continual conference calls addressing these issues. The Governor has done an excellent job of convening all parties to develop a common sense and pragmatic way. Rest assured that VCOE and our local districts will not waiver from our task.

Mr. Teasdale asked about the efforts to go to online learning throughout the county. Mr. Mantooth noted that each of the 20 school districts is addressing this issue as quickly as possible but not all in the same way. Some are farther ahead. Some have to address online access. The first thing that VCOE is doing is making a connection with each of our 600 students and their families to find ways to assist them. There are an abundance of nonprofit agencies that are helping address a multitude of needs. VCOE has posted a distance learning page on our website. The school districts have made phenomenal progress in this area in the last week.

Dr. Lisagor stated that this is an excellent opportunity for districts to collaborate on best practices. VCOE is an ideal agency to be the central gathering place for all of the districts and is doing a wonderful job. Mr. Mantooth noted that VCOE has established a google drive where all districts are sharing what they are doing and asking questions. Mr. Mantooth encouraged people to be mindful of the mental and emotional health of themselves and others.

## **I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

1. Mr. Collins indicated his hopes that Congress will get a stimulus package passed.

## **J. CONSENT/ACTION**

1. Mileage Reimbursement Claim
2. Temporary County Certificates
3. Change Order No. 15 to Viola, Inc. for Camarillo Special Education New Construction: 20 Classroom School Bid 2018-34.
4. Change Order No. 4 to United Construction & Landscape, Inc. for Carl Dwire School Modernization Phase III All Remaining Work Bid 2018-31.
5. Approval of Revised 2019-20 Gateway Single Plan for Student Achievement.
6. Approval of 2019-20 Providence Single Plan for Student Achievement

Ms. Ulrich moved the Board pull Agenda Item J.3 for discussion purposes. Mr. Teasdale seconded the motion.

Mr. Teasdale asked for clarification on the addition of a deceleration lane and changes to Room 200. David Fateh, Director, Facilities, reported that the deceleration lane was not included in the original design for the building. This is an added safety benefit and was also required for the conference center also. Costs include demolition of the existing curb and planting areas. The City of Camarillo has approved the plans.

Room 210 and 200 were flipflopped. Room 210 was made into a staff lounge and Room 200 is being converted into a conference/training room with added flexibility. The ceiling and wall panels were upgraded to mimic the Conference Center. Utilities were added for TV monitors and power outlets in the walls and floors, which allow the room to be used as a conference room. These were VCOE initiated changes.

Dr. Lisagor moved the Board approve Consent Items 1-6. Mr. Collins seconded the motion; and the motion carried upon a unanimous roll call vote (5:0).

**K. PRESENTATIONS**

None.

**L. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/ACTION**

1. School Safety Plans

Dr. Morales introduced Pamela Heron, Risk Manager, who provided an overview of the 2019-20 Comprehensive School Safety Plans. In accordance with Board Policy No. 0450, Safety Plans are reviewed on an annual basis by the school safety planning committee. JPA recommended changes were made and approved by the County Superintendent of Schools. Changes include plans for the safe evacuation of all students who require special assistance; other emergency procedures sections were updated; and rules and regulations were updated to include the most current Board Policies. Complete School Safety Plans will be available for review in the Superintendent's Conference Room for the next 30 days.

Mr. Collins asked if VCOE has social distancing practices in place for employees. Mr. Mantooth noted that social distancing is in place at our sites and in the offices. Distance learning will not take place in the classroom; if students come in for learning materials, social distancing will be in place.

2. Acknowledgement of Receipt and Adoption of Timeline for Review of Renewal of the Vista Real Charter High School (VRCHS) Petition

Mr. Mantooth noted that Vista Real Charter High School has submitted its renewal petition. At the April Board meeting, VRCHS will be given the opportunity to present their programmatic audit and renewal petition, and staff will present their findings. The Board will then take action in April or May. Paper copies of the petition are available for all Board members. Appendices are available if requested.

Ms. Ulrich moved the Board acknowledge receipt of the Petition Renewal Request of Vista Real Charter High School and adopt the proposed timeline. Mr. Collins seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous roll call vote of those in attendance (5:0).

3. Programmatic Audit and Renewal presented by Bridges Charter School

Ms. Hartsuyker introduced representatives of Bridges Charter School: Dr. Kelly Simon, Executive Director, Bridges Charter School; Benny Martinez, Schools Business Advisory Services; and Cindy McCarthy who joined remotely.

Dr. Simon thanked VCOE for the information that has been shared with the Charter Schools regarding distance learning. Dr. Simon reported that the Charter petition revision was a collaborative process conducted by staff, students and Board members. A renewal committee was established 2 years ago. VCOE also assisted in the editing process.

Bridges Charter School focuses on is based on whole child and includes, inquiry across the curriculum and parent engagement. In the past 5 years, Bridges has made significant strides in their educational program and there have been many changes. A robust RtI program has been developed; project-based learning is provided and Lego robotics have been integrated. Bridges continues to work collaboratively with CVUSD developing a new marque and school security system. Bridges also became part of the national school lunch program; and participated in VCOE three-year network improvement committee for Math improvement.

Enrollment demographics remain consistent is consistent. Bridges makes targeted efforts to enroll more diverse students. Non-classroom-based program continues to grow from 58 – 67 students. A material change in lottery preference was made for families living in the boundaries of the former Park Oaks Elementary School where enrollment was 93% Hispanic. The Bridges website is multilingual and Spanish translations of all communications are available.

Whole Child learning is executed from the ground up. Every child needs to feel safe, practice a healthy lifestyle, be actively engaged in learning; has access to personalized learning; and is academically challenged. A shared vision that a child cannot realize their full potential unless their social and emotional needs are met. Parent engagement is stressed.

Results from the Healthy Kids Survey which measures school connectedness were reviewed. In 2018, 62% of 7<sup>th</sup> grade students in Ventura County indicated that they feel safe at school; 98% at Bridges. 5<sup>th</sup> grade responses were also reviewed.

Benny Martinez reviewed the budget for Bridges Charter School. In the past five years, enrollment has stayed consistent. 1.74 fte teachers were added and 3.4 fte for classified staff. Annual state audits have been clean audits. Bridges works with CVUSD on \$200,000 for energy improvements. This year a cafeteria program was started. A budget committee of seven members exists and they review personnel and facility needs, fiscal policy, and reserves when they develop the budget. Certificated staff are invited to the LCAP meetings. The budget is built on 416 students. The Governor's January proposal was used. The May revise projects a 2.2% COLA. STRS contributions have increased to 18.4%. PERS has increased as well. Budget includes an inflation plan. The current drop in the economy will likely affect the May Revise and the budget may look different. Bridges is in good financial state.

Dr. Simon reviewed student achievement trends on the CAASPP. Over the past 5 years, all Bridges students have shown achievement growth over time. Comparison data to Glenwood, Ladera, and Westlake Hills was provided. Glenwood and Ladera are the schools most students would have attended if they did not enroll in Bridges. Bridges students consistently score higher than students at Glenwood and Ladera and are comparable to Westlake Hills.

Student subgroup – Students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged, hispanic, and English learners - results were also reviewed. Scores are in line with comparison schools.

Comparison data for middle school students was also reviewed. Redwood and Colina Middle Schools were used for comparison. Bridges consistently outperforms these two schools in English Language Arts. In Math, their scores are comparable. Student subgroups significantly outperformed the comparable schools in ELA. In Math, Bridges students scored comparably to the comparable schools.

Math trends led to the formation of a teacher-led Math committee charged with making data driven decisions to be put in place. A new highly skilled Math teacher was hired; teachers in lower grades participated in professional development; and curriculum maps have been adapted this year. Bridges experiences the same challenges in Math that are faced by many middle schools.

Continuous enrollment trends and how they affect student achievement in ELA and Math were reviewed. 77% of students who have attended Bridges for 3 years scored at equal or exceeding their initial score. 74% of students experienced growth. 100% of ELA showed growth on the CAASP assessment. In Math, 57% of students who attended for 3 years met or exceeded expectations.

Bridges DASHBOARD results were discussed. Highlights include improvement in suspension rate (was 3.2%, now 1.8%); consistency in ELA and Math growth; and drop in chronic absenteeism.

Annual Bridges Parent Survey shows that 70% or higher agree/strongly agree across target categories: that students are challenged, engaged; that methods of conflict resolution are effective; that there are meaningful opportunities for parents to volunteer; and that administration communication is effective.

LCAP Goal 1: Improve student achievement for all Bridges students and subgroups. Still working towards their goal of having all subgroups increase by 2% in ELA and Math. Progressing toward goal of 82% of students meeting or exceeding in reading and 71% in Math. Currently 73% of students in ELA and 72% in Math. Goal that 20% of students receiving intervention will improve by 20T was met. Percentage of EL students advancing at least one performance level will increase by 2% year to year was met.

LCAP Goal 2: Train and support teachers to implement instruction was met. 100% of teacher met the goal of receiving professional development on CCSS, NGSS, and CAASPP; and teachers indicate a 2% increase in implementation of digital literacy standards.

LCAP Goal 3: Provide a health environment for learning based on whole child tenets. Progress made on goal that 85% of students will set and evaluate their own learning goals (85% completed during 1<sup>st</sup> trimester; dropped to 57% in 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester). Bridges families met volunteer goal with volunteering at an all time high; student attendance rate increased and suspensions decreased; and parent survey indicated satisfaction.

Mr. Teasdale thanked Bridges for their presentation. He asked about the middle school math scores and how the middle school is organized. There is 1 math teacher who teaches 6, 7, 8 grade math. The teacher gets to know the students well. Bridges indicated that they did not have an effective teacher in that position and this was reflected in the test scores. A new, highly effective teacher uses data driven instruction and Bridges is confident they will see significant achievement growth.

Mr. Teasdale asked about the Whole Child focus. How do Bridges students perform in High School? Anecdotal evidence shows that students are built up from the inside out. The vast majority become leaders in their schools, advocate for what they want. That independence isn't always valued like it is at Bridges.

Mr. Teasdale asked if the 3% increase in expenses and a 15-16% decrease in service/operating expenses. What is that? Mr. Martinez noted that resource for parent donations is 5800. This decrease is posted each year. Historically we have a budget savings of 3.5% each year. That savings is budgeted each year.

Mr. Teasdale about the \$160,000 savings each year? Budget is kept the same, but the projected savings are built into the budget. It is an accumulation of targeted savings.

Mr. Collins noted that the 8.2% Hispanic population is lower than the average countywide. He asked for further explanation of the changes made to the charter. Dr. Simon noted that the material change in the charter included a lottery preference for families living in the boundaries of the former Park Oaks Elementary School where enrollment was 93% Hispanic. This should help Bridges attract additional Hispanic students. They will begin to provide neighborhood advertising. Bridges believes their educational program will be beneficial to these students.

Dr. Lisagor questioned the distinction between students who have attended for 3 years rather than 1. Does Bridges lose a lot of students at the middle school break?



Bridges noted that the tend to lose 20% of the students. This jump is due to attrition, parents wanting students to experience middle school prior to high school, moving, etc.

4. PUBLIC HEARING on Renewal of the Bridges Charter School

Bridges has presented its request for renewal for the Board's consideration pursuant to Education Code 47607. The process and required timeline for reviewing this charter school renewal were adopted on February 24, 2020. Pursuant to Education Code 47605, the Board will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on the Bridges Charter School Renewal Petition.

- a. Dr. Flores opened the PUBLIC HEARING on Bridges Charter School Renewal Petition at 7:40 p.m. Hearing no further comments, Dr. Flores closed the PUBLIC HEARING at 7:41 p.m.

5. Staff Analysis of River Oaks Academy Charter School Renewal Petition

Pursuant to Education Code Section 47605, staff performed its review of the Bridges Charter School Renewal Petition and presented their findings at this meeting. A review committee including staff from SBAS, SELPA, and Curriculum, took part in the process.

Staff Findings on the Renewal Petition were reviewed. Pages 10 – 14 list required changes that were made to the petition. Items 7-12 address required changes for service to English Language Learners, including EL assessment and progress. These changes are being addressed with a new professional development plan. Required changes to language on Expulsion appeals was added (Item 13);and language detailing separate lotteries for classroom based and non-classroom based instruction was added (Item 14).

A material revision, adding that students from Park Oak boundaries will be given lottery preference and adding a 10% cap on the children of staff receiving lottery preference; was made to the petition

Reviewers noted that all groups of pupils have experienced academic achievement, but there have been fluxuations, especially with the hispanic population. Bridges is making a concerted effort to closely review data to address these issues. A complete list of the changes is included in the staff analysis.

Ms. Ulrich noted that Hispanic students at Bridges did not score as well as the comparison schools.

Bridges responded that because they have a small population of hispanic students, students who move in or out can cause large changes on the testing results. There have been improvements since the math intervention. The number of minutes receiving math instruction have been increased and grade level teachers are doing individual assessments of the students. There was a decline in math achievement scores in 2018-19 but Bridges is hopeful that the change in the Math teacher will help. Ms. Ulrich hopes that the achievement increases.



Ms. Ulrich asked why the number of staff students given lottery preference was limited to 10%.

Bridges noted that this was done based on attorney's advice. Other charter schools have this limitation. Currently, children of staff account for 6% of enrollment.

Mr. Teasdale asked about cost savings. Is it attainable?

Mr. Martinez explained that every year Bridges seems to spend 3-5% less than budgeted. This year, things could change. But this has been their budgetary history. Mr. Mantooth noted the ending balance which is very healthy. Staff will continue to watch to make sure funds are being spent on the students generating the funds.

6. Action to Approve or Deny Bridges Charter School Renewal Petition

Ms. Ulrich moved the Board approve the Bridges Charter School Renewal Petition with the term of the renewal being from July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2025.

Mr. Teasdale seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous roll call vote (5:0).

7. Revised Memorandum of Understanding for River Oaks Academy Charter School Renewal Petition

Based on the Board's action to approve the Bridges Charter School Renewal Petition, revisions are required to update the Memorandum of Understanding.

Ms. Hartsuyker noted that changes made to this MOU include: updates based on new legislation, insurance, testing requirements, expulsion appeal processes; and the MOU aligns with that of other VCBE approved charter schools.

Dr. Lisagor moved the Board approve the Revised Memorandum of Understanding between Bridges Charter School, the Ventura County Office of Education and the Ventura County Board of Education as presented. Mr. Collins seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous roll call vote (5:0).

**M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

1. Dr. Lisagor thanked Dr. Judd for her work on the Zoom conferences. He appreciates her effort.
2. Mr. Teasdale thanked the team for the work done on the charter schools.
3. Mr. Collins stated that Zoom was an excellent way to handle this meeting.
4. Ms. Ulrich noted that her whole life now seems to involve Zoom and she is learning a lot of technology.
5. Dr. Lisagor thanked Dr. Simon and Bridges staff for their collaborative efforts tonight.

**N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Charter School Programmatic Audits and Renewal Requests  
Vista Real Charter School – April 2020

2. Training on New Charter School Legislation - May 2020

**O. FUTURE MEETINGS**

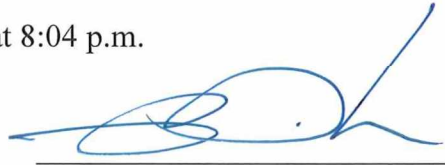
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 (*Budget Study Session*)  
Time: 8:00 a.m.  
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo  
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: Monday, April 27, 2020  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo  
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board


**P. ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Flores adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

4/27/2020  
Date

  
Dr. Ramon Flores, Board President

4/27/20  
Date

  
Stan Mantooth, Ex-Officio Secretary and  
Executive Officer of the Board

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