

**VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF
DECEMBER 13, 2021**

A. CALL TO ORDER / ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

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. 20-16, was called to order by Dr. César Morales, Ventura County Superintendent of Schools and Ex-Officio Secretary and Executive Officer of the Board, at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 13, 2021. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Dr. Morales and followed by a moment of reflection.
2. Roll Call and Acknowledgement of Guests
Trustees Present:
Rachel Ulrich, Area 1
Mike 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
Cathy Samuel, Executive Assistant
Brian Meza, Conference Facilities Technician
3. Approval of Agenda
Ms. Ulrich moved the agenda be approved. Dr. Lisagor seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous roll call vote (5:0).
4. Organizational – Election of Officers: Board President
Dr. Morales began by giving Mr. Teasdale a plaque and thanking him for his leadership as the 2021 Board President.

Ms. Ulrich appreciated Mr. Teasdale's thoroughness and congratulated him on becoming the CSBA County Board Member at-Large Representative for the State.

Dr. Flores said Mr. Teasdale is now a member of the State CSBA Board of Directors. He thanked Mr. Teasdale for his steadfast leadership in guiding the Board through a tough year.

Dr. Morales opened the nominations for the position of Board President for 2022. In accordance with Board Policy No. 9121, the elected president will also serve as representative to vote in election for members of the County Committee on School District Organization at the County Committee's annual meeting.

Dr. Flores nominated Ms. Ulrich as Board President for 2022. Dr. Lisagor seconded the motion. Ms. Ulrich accepted the nomination. Ms. Rachel Ulrich was elected Board President for 2022 upon a unanimous roll call vote (5:0).

Organizational – Election of Officers: Board Vice President

Dr. Morales opened the nominations for Board Vice President for 2022.

Ms. Ulrich nominated Arleigh Kidd as Board Vice President for 2022. Dr. Flores seconded the nomination. Mr. Kidd wanted to nominate Dr. Lisagor, however Dr. Lisagor declined. Mr. Kidd accepted the nomination. Dr. Lisagor moved the nominations be closed. Dr. Morales closed the nominations. Trustee Kidd was elected Board Vice President for 2022 upon a unanimous roll call vote (5:0).

5. Organizational – Set Date, Time and Place of Meetings

Dr. Morales presented the proposed calendar for the 2022 Ventura County Board of Education meetings. Regular meetings are scheduled on the fourth Monday of each month from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. In addition, two mid-month meetings, for the purposes of Budget Study Sessions, are held on Friday from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. The March meeting will be held on March 14th rather than March 28nd to meet the timelines for the Second Interim Report.

Mr. Teasdale moved the Board adopt the proposed 2022 Ventura County Board of Education Calendar of meetings as proposed. Mr. Kidd seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous roll call vote (5:0).

6. Organizational – Certification of Signatures

The Board members signed the updated Certification of Signatures. Ms. Rachel Ulrich, Board President for 2022 assumed leadership of the meeting.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

C. HEARINGS

None.

D. CLOSED SESSION

None.

E. PRELIMINARY

1. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 29, 2021.

Dr. Lisagor moved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 29, 2021 be approved. Dr. Flores seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a roll call vote (4:0). Ms. Ulrich abstained.

F. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

G. PRESIDENT'S AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

Dr. Flores attended the CSBA conference in person to present alongside Mr. Teasdale and Dr. Morales on Career Technical Education; it was very well received.

Mr. Kidd met with Dr. Morales and discussed the different functions and vision of VCOE. He attended his first Providence graduation today and was impressed by the young lady and all the support she received. Dr. Lisagor did a great job of speaking on behalf of the Board and VCOE. Mr. Kidd has spoken to a lot of educators and has consistently heard that this has been a tough year. He hopes going forward we can find new and innovative ways to support districts.

Dr. Lisagor echoed Mr. Kidd's words regarding the graduation. He has been attending graduations for 13 years and noted this girl gave a truly inspiring graduation speech. He attended some very informative budget sessions at the CSBA conference.

Mr. Teasdale thanked Dr. Morales and Dr. Flores for presenting at the CSBA conference. There were a lot of questions at the end; the interest was very high. Mr. Teasdale wished to thank Ms. Ulrich for coaching him in CCBE matters.

Ms. Ulrich said Mr. Teasdale gave a phenomenal speech at the conference. She also noted that Dr. Flores is a former president of CCBE. She chairs the CCBE Professional Development Committee which is finalizing the professional development workshop to be held on March 11 & 12, 2022 in Sacramento. This workshop will be held in person; the sessions are interactive and timely. She hopes all of our Board members will attend. The Board of Directors meetings at CCBE went well. They are moving forward as a cohesive group with new talent. She is working on the VCSBA meeting in March. Dr. Lisagor provided a topic for this meeting, it should be very informative.

Dr. Lisagor pointed out that advocacy days in Sacramento and Washington DC are around the 14-15 of March 2022; our Board meeting on March 14th may need to be rescheduled.

Ms. Ulrich noted the upcoming date of the VCSBA meeting is March 7, 2022. Let Lisa Bork know if you wish to attend.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Morales complimented CEC leadership on obtaining a Strong Workforce grant. Ms. Arnold helped put together a collaborative application to benefit Simi Valley, Conejo Valley, Moorpark and Fillmore school districts. Separate individual awards went to Santa Paula, Oxnard Union, Ventura and Ojai school districts. The only district who didn't participate was Oak Park Unified. Our application is to fund a "My Choice My Career" project, which has the intent of increasing the number of students transitioning to Moorpark College programs specifically biotechnology, computer network systems, engineering data science, electronics engineering, mechatronics, specifically targeting DI students, English learners, socio-economic disadvantaged students with disabilities, foster and homeless. Possible funding for full time counselors in Simi and Conejo, and part time in Fillmore. Ms. Arnold will work with each district's CTE liaisons.

Money through DGS (Department of General Services) has been set aside for 8 grant awards totaling \$250 million. This will need to be a group effort by school districts, the County Office of Education, CSUCI and UC Santa Barbara. The RFP won't be coming out until April or May of 2022. There is a possibility of receiving \$30-50 million if we would apply as a consortium. We may ask higher educational institutions like CSUCI to lead the work with higher education to develop more FTEs in all the pathways destinations in the community colleges.

Dr. Morales expressed his appreciation for his 2021 appointment as superintendent of schools. His team has evolved and he enjoys serving school districts. Our partners at VCBH, VCPH, Probation, Health and Human Services Agency and our community college and university partners have been unwavering. He believes we are going to be stronger as a community as a result of the collaboration. He acknowledged our non-profit community and who have come together for the neediest members during this time.

I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Dr. Lisagor mentioned the IDEA Full Funding Act which is trying to take us from 10-15% of the federal funding for SPED up to the mandated 40%. There is a feeling of hope surrounding this. There is power in each of us doing some advocacy as well as getting our members of congress onboard to be co-sponsors. Ms. Ulrich suggested a letter from our Board might be worthwhile. Dr. Morales will work on this.

CSBA is sponsoring an advocacy day in Washington in April 2022 separate from the national organization. Ms. Ulrich said VCSBA does provide some funding for school board members to attend. She mentioned the student board representative legislation sponsored by representative Steve Bennett. We should consider having policies in place in the event a student does become part of our Board. Dr. Morales will work on this.

J. CONSENT/ACTION

1. Mileage Reimbursement Claim
2. Temporary County Certificates

Dr. Lisagor moved the Board approve Consent Items J1 and J2. Mr. Teasdale seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous roll call vote (5:0).

K. PRESENTATIONS

None.

L. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/ACTION

1. Adoption of the Ventura County Office of Education Educator Effectiveness Funds 2021 Block Grant Plan

At the November 29, 2021 Board meeting, Christina Mahone, Director, County Program Support and Accountability, presented information on the Educator Effectiveness Block Grant. Funds may be expended during the 2021-26 fiscal years. A final data and expenditure report will be due on or before September 30, 2026.

Dr. Lisagor moved the Board adopt the Educator Effectiveness Funds 2021 Block Grant. Mr. Teasdale seconded the motion and the motion carried upon a roll call vote (5:0).

2. First Interim Budget Report 2021-22 – INFORMATION / DISCUSSION / ACTION – (20 minutes)

Administration recommends the Board acknowledge review of the First Interim Budget Report with the Superintendent's positive certification.

Ms. Key thanked the business office staff for their work putting this information together. Implemented changes include updates to the revenue pursuant to the contracts we have in place with our customers for services. The most notable changes were in the salaries. The reclassification for the minimum wage adjustment and the Collective Bargaining unit approved a 2% ongoing cost of living adjustment. We also agreed to remove our most expensive insurance plan; this is not in the current budget as we just finished the open enrollment process. This will be noted in the 2nd interim report in March 2022. Removing the plan will save \$500,000, which will then be put into salaries. In the total overall budget, we are deficit spending to the extent of \$9 million - which is deliberate.

SELPA – The special education funding we received from the state can be carried forward. Those funds are distributed to school districts to provide services for special education students. In this version of the budget, we are deficit spending \$1.3 million.

Educational Services is focusing its efforts on shifting services to today's needs. Deficit spending is approximately \$2.3 million in Educator Support Services. Grants are winding down. ESE trains and prepares classified employees in receiving their credential and get fully cleared to become teachers; these efforts were delayed during Covid. There has been an increased need for charter school teacher credentialing.

The new grant for Career Education in Student Services is not reflected in the numbers presented tonight. Typically, those funds are received late in the year and are usually spent the following year.

Fiscal and Administrative Services. One-time funds from last year are being spent this year. We are investing in technology and facilities throughout the county. We have also invested in a second data center. We host software programs like the payroll system for all educators in the county, we pay 23,000 educators every month.

Dr. Flores asked if the second operating system kicks in if the first one shuts down. Misty said that is the idea, the testing is working so far.

Dr. Flores inquired about the Board of Education budget. Ms. Key said the Board's budget is for meeting room rentals, travel, registrations, mileage, supplies, fees and services, and BoardDocs software, etc.

Ms. Key said we are investing heavily in infrastructure and facilities to keep them up to date, especially with one-time dollars. We have purchased Newline boards for every classroom. They are a lot safer and have a technology device in the boards. Ms. Ulrich asked if these boards connect to the wireless system and if we have problems with WiFi connections. Ms. Key said they are hard wired for the most part, however some classrooms use WiFi connections which have been stable.

Ms. Key said we try hard not to spend money on salaries with funding that is not ongoing. Through Covid funds and ESSER funds, we have hired social emotional specialist positions. These funds will end at some point and we will have to find new revenue. Declining enrollment also has an impact. Attendance is down countywide. This year the attendance is 125,000, last year it was 130,000. We do receive funding on total countywide attendance.

There is no internal borrowing this year. We bill our customers every three months for our services.

Property taxes have increased to a much higher rate than projected. In total, the Board adopted budget in June was \$112 million. With what we know now, we will bring in \$117 million. Minimum wage is now \$15.00 which increased salary expenses. Even though this is deficit spending, it is deliberate.

Ms. Ulrich asked why the Blue Cross HMO is the most expensive. Ms. Key said we are self-insured on Anthem PPO; there are less claims in self-insured plans. The HMO increased our premiums by 7%. Ms. Ulrich said VCOE does offer health insurance plans at a much lower rate than districts to the benefit of all VCOE staff. Ms. Key also noted the cost of the plan for employees this year is 3%, down from 4% last year.

For multi-year projections, the plan is to spend restricted grant dollars. If ESSER funds end, we need to find different funding. We are projecting to reduce our expenditures to \$128 million this year, \$124 million next year and \$118 million the following year if nothing changes. Ms. Key hopes for more revenue coming from districts purchasing our services. She feels confident the Board can approve this first interim budget.

Dr. Flores asked if the fund balance increase noted on page 81 is a concern? Ms. Key said this is deliberate. Assuming no additional revenue is coming in, we need to maintain the minimum reserve. There needs to be a balance between dollars carried forward and reducing expenditures at the same time. Ms. Ulrich asked what the comfort reserve would be. Ms. Key said she would be comfortable with three months of payroll, which is \$6 million a month, totaling \$18 million.

Mr. Teasdale asked if our fee for services pay for themselves? Ms. Key said this is a constant judgement call. Sometimes we do invest county office funding, sometimes we cover services completely. We receive funding to provide services countywide.

Ms. Ulrich asked if the Educational Conference Center will be paid off this year and if we anticipate some revenue for facility use. Ms. Key said the payoff amount will be paid in January 2022. Fees for using this facility just pay for operations and custodial upkeep. It doesn't pay for the building or repairs. We can only recover funds, we can't make a profit. We are saving \$3 million in interest by paying this debt early.

Dr. Lisagor moved to acknowledge the First Interim Budget with the superintendent's positive certification. Dr. Flores second it and the motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote (5:0).

3. Redistricting of Trustee Areas – INFORMATION / DISCUSSION / ACTION (15 minutes)

In conjunction with the recently released 2020 census data, and per the provisions of Education Code Section 1002, the County Board of Education which elects trustees by trustee area has until March 1, 2022, to consider adjusting the boundaries of the trustee areas to reflect population changes and minimize the population variance between trustee areas. The Board reviewed the proposed revisions to the supervisorial map of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors at the November 29, 2021, Board meeting. The Ventura County Board of Education would like to explore the 2020 census data to determine if there is a need to modify the current trustee area map. VCOE staff will present information from a demographer.

Ms. Key noted that two weeks ago we believed we might not have to change boundaries because VCOE fell under the 10% variance. Currently the greatest variance is 6.9%. With the latest information received today, the majority minority trustee area comes into play now because our Board of Supervisors were able to have two majority minority trustee areas. Even though the population is still balanced, we should also be looking at two majority minority areas. This doesn't mean we have to follow the same map as the Board of Supervisors, but we should analyze our demographic area. We can look at the population shift between trustee areas being more in balance and still achieve the majority minority. We have two choices – to go with the Board of Supervisors map or have a demographer analyze the voter data and come up with solutions that might align more with the education thinking and still obtain two majority minority trustee areas.

Dr. Morales said we do have the option of going with the Board of Supervisor's map or pursue an education focused process. From talking to the community college representatives, they have not finalized their process yet; their board meeting is tomorrow night, December 14, 2022. He noted that if VCCCD does have an interest in aligning with us, we could come up with a proposal to share the cost. We could spread the cost over 10 years. For something this significant, investing this amount of money is a good investment.

Ms. Key said the basic fee would be \$25,000. This would include two public hearings, analyzing data and presenting multiple maps for discussion. The community college district has an interest in following VCOE trustee areas.

Ms. Ulrich asked if we have had less than a 10% shift in population, does that give us the option to do nothing? Ms. Key said we are subject to the California Voting Rights Act and we need to look at demographics, ethnicity, etc.

Dr. Morales wants VCOE to have minimum exposure to liabilities. Once the Board of Supervisors establishes a process where there are two majority minorities, there is a baseline. We need to do the right thing from a liability perspective. Whatever process we entertain as long as we have two majority minorities, we have protected VCOE.

Ms. Ulrich was concerned about the process being completed within the timeline. Ms. Key proposed adding two special board meetings in January and then take action at the January 24th meeting. The new map needs to be submitted to Elections by March 1,

2022, and we need to have a county committee meeting before that as well. Ms. Key said the demographer is remote participation only.

Dr. Morales said our fall back is to go with the Board of Supervisors' map. Engaging in a process is a thorough way to see if tweaking the map would enhance our services with an education lens in mind. Mr. Kidd commented it is difficult to see the district boundary changes in the Board of Supervisor's map.

Mr. Teasdale said if we made the move to explore options, it doesn't mean we would necessarily change the boundaries. It gives us knowledge to make a decision. Mr. Teasdale made a motion to move forward with employing a demographer to explore a map that would align school districts and two majority minority districts. Mr. Kidd seconded the motion, and the motion passed with a roll call vote (5:0).

4. Determine Date for Governance Retreat - *DISCUSSION / ACTION (5 minutes)*
The Board wishes to discuss potential dates for a Governance Retreat. After some discussion, Mr. Teasdale moved to set the Governance Retreat date to April 8, 2022. Mr. Kidd seconded the motion and the motion passed with a roll call vote (5:0). The meeting will start after the regularly scheduled Board meeting and go through lunch (approximately 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.). This meeting may include a big picture budget discussion and/or a vision type of conversation.

M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Dr. Lisagor indicated Dr. Consuelo Hernandez Williams conducted an elegant ceremony at the Providence graduation today.

Mr. Teasdale said setting a date for the retreat is important to him. As a board member it helps him understand the thinking of the office and why funds are spent where they are. It is important to bring some depth and reasons behind approving the budget.

Ms. Ulrich thanked the Board for their confidence in her and welcomed Mr. Kidd to the Board.

N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Annual Programmatic Audit for Briggs Charter School
2. CCBE Computer Survey
3. 2020-21 Audit Report

O. FUTURE MEETINGS

Per the adopted 2022 Ventura County Board of Education Calendar of Regular meetings (Agenda Item A.5), future meetings are as follows:

Date:	Monday, January 24, 2022
Time:	6:00 p.m.
Location:	5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose:	Regular Meeting of the Board

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: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

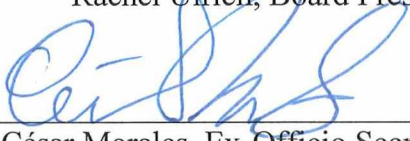
P. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

1/26/22
Date


Rachel Ulrich, Board President

1/24/22
Date


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

*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.*

