

**VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
October 26, 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 20-12, was called to order by Dr. Ramon Flores, Board President, at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 26, 2020, via ZOOM. 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
Mike Teasdale, Area 2
Dr. Mark Lisagor, Area 3
Rob Collins, Area 4

VCOE Personnel Present:
Stanley C. Mantooth, Ventura County Superintendent of Schools and Ex-Officio Secretary and Executive Officer of the Board
Dr. Cesar Morales, Deputy Superintendent, Student Services
Dr. Antonio Castro, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services
Misty Key, Associate Superintendent, Fiscal & Administrative Services
Dr. Julie Judd, Executive Director, Technology Services
Marlo Hartsuyker, Director, Charter Schools
Nancy Akkerman, Senior Executive Assistant
3. Approval of Agenda
Dr. Lisagor moved that agenda be approved. Mr. Teasdale seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous vote (5:0).

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following member of the public addressed the Board:

1. Jacob Lesner-Buxton, Systems Change Advocate, spoke in support of the October Resolution pertaining to Disability History Week.

C. HEARINGS

None.

D. CLOSED SESSION

None.

E. PRELIMINARY

1. Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting of September 28, 2020.
Mr. Teasdale moved the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 28, 2020 be approved. Ms. Ulrich seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a 4:0:1 vote, with Dr. Flores, Dr. Lisagor, Mr. Teasdale and Ms. Ulrich voting aye and Mr. Collins abstaining.

F. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

G. PRESIDENT'S AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

1. Ms. Ulrich reported that she will be attending both the CSBA Annual Meeting and the CCBE General Membership Meeting. Ms. Ulrich also noted that on November 30, 2020, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., VCSBA will be hosting a virtual meeting. Speakers will include Ms. Ulrich, Dr. Julie Judd, and Dr. Ana De Genna discussing virtual learning experiences.
2. Mr. Teasdale indicated that he will be attending both meetings.
3. Dr. Lisagor noted the digital divide exists not just in education but in jobs as well. He has become involved with the Pacific Coast Broadband Consortium which is addressing this issue. They are currently having discussions with VCCF regarding possible outcomes. He will keep the Board posted.
4. Mr. Collins thanked Dr. Judd for helping him to connect to these meetings. He congratulated Dr. Flores and Dr. Lisagor for their commitment to the Board. Mr. Collins stated that he spoke with Dr. Peplinski today who wanted to express his thanks for all the support the County Office has been providing. Prop 15 is barely ahead in the polls. Safety of the schools is paramount.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Mantooth reported on the following activities of the Office:

1. COVID / Re-Opening Schools

Website on School District Re-Opening Dates: vcoe.coronavirus

Mr. Mantooth noted that as of October 21st, Ventura County is in the Red Tier and schools in Ventura County are eligible to open. Moorpark Unified opened at all grade levels last week and Pleasant Valley School District opened today. Most districts are electing to start the lower grades and most are deferring the starting of high school until after the start of the year.

He had an opportunity to participate in the ten by ten discussion hosted by the Las Virgenes and Conejo Unified School Districts. A link to the video presentation can be found at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GTz2yKHPvOKemzLYmX4dJPZ85QYzmVxA/view>

Dr. Flores found the video informative and very beneficial.

Ms. Ulrich asked where VCOE schools are in the reopening process?
VCOE schools are ready to go and the small class sizes allow for re-opening with full classes rather than cohorts. Discussions with VCOE employees should be finalized this week. Staff looks forward to starting education with our children.

Mr. Teasdale asked if the Triton Academy will be part of the opening?
It will, it is ready to go and just awaiting students.

Mr. Teasdale asked how VCOE students are doing in the distance learning structure?

Dr. Morales reported that teachers talk with the students daily. Staff is communicating much more with parents and providing much needed services to them. Principals are working to coordinate services for students. There is a lot of enthusiasm to have students back in the classroom in a way that can ensure the safety of staff and students.

I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

None.

J. CONSENT/ACTION ITEMS

1. Temporary County Certificates
2. Annual Review of Williams Countywide Visitations Report for 2019-20 School Year
3. Williams Quarterly Report to County Board of Education
4. 2021-22 County School Services Fund Budget Calendar
5. Ratification of October Resolutions on National Bullying Prevention Month, Disability History Week and Unity Day
6. Change Order No. 21 to Viola, Inc. for Camarillo Special Education New Construction: 20 Classroom School Bid 2018-34

Dr. Flores requested that Consent Item 5 be removed. Dr. Flores thanked the speaker for bringing this need to our attention.

Ms. Ulrich moved Consent Items 1-6 be approved. Dr. Lisagor seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous vote (5:0).

K. PRESENTATIONS

None.

L. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/ACTION

1. Notice of Revisions to Administrative Regulation and Exhibits 0420.4, Charter Schools

Ms. Hartsuyker, Director of Charter Schools reported that the Board received a presentation in May regarding the charges that were made to California's *Charter Schools Act* as a result of the implementation of Assembly Bill 1505. Board Policies and Administrative Regulations are posted to the Charter School website and have now been revised to be in-line with current AB 1505 requirements.

Changes include the date a charter school petition is considered received. In the past, staff held a premeeting with charter school representatives in order to review the petition document and schedule a time to submit the petition to the Board. Now the Board is required to hold the first public hearing with 60 days of receipt of the petition; rather than 30 days; and the staff report must be posted 15 days in advance of the meeting, rather than 72 hours.

AB1505 established two new grounds for denial of the petition. These have been added to the charter review document. One, the charter school is unlikely to serve the interests of the entire community in which the school is proposing to locate; and two; the school district is not in a position to financially absorb the impact of the charter school.

Ms. Ulrich asked how the Board will be able to make the second determination. Districts receive an annual budget certification of positive, qualified or negative. If a district would enter into a negative certification if the charter school petition was granted, would be a concrete objective measurement.

Appeals to the State Board are now only allowed under a very limited exceptions and the appeal must be submitted to the State Board within 20 days.

Teachers in charter schools must hold a credential equivalent to that required of teachers in public schools.

Clearer language requiring petitioners to approve the MOU at the Board meeting has been added. This revision was made to avoid instances where the petition is granted and the MOU is approved after the fact. VCOE has high standards for the Charter Schools and the MOU requires the charter schools to meet those standards.

Mr. Collins questioned if a district denies a charter stating that the charter school is offering the same programs, is that appealable to the County Board and how does the Board make that determination. Ms. Hartsuyker noted that transcripts of the hearing between the District and petitioners must now be provided to the County Board. The County Board would only be reviewing the documentation.

Mr. Teasdale asked if there has been an increase in interest in developing new charters due to the COVID-19. No new applications have been received.

Dr. Flores commended the review matrix and asked if there have been any changes related to granting countywide charters. The timeline for reviewing the countywide charter did not change as it was already 60 days. Teachers in countywide charters will also be required to have appropriate credentials.

Ms. Ulrich stated that VCOE authorized charters have proven to be very well administered. Are there charters out there that do not have appropriately credentialed teachers? Ms. Hartsuyker noted that there were charters that were not monitored as well, and the CDE has just adopted a new credential review system. Ventura County does an excellent job of monitoring credentials, but that was not the case throughout the State.

Mr. Mantooth noted that VCOE has good relationships with our charters and the MOU and Matrix have become a model across the State which has forestalled many of the problems that are being experienced across the state. Many charter teachers are now enrolling in the VCOE teacher induction program in support of their credentials.

Ms. Ulrich complimented VCOE on their existing work with Charter Schools.

This item was presented for information only.

M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

1. Mr. Teasdale noted that recently a teacher in France was beheaded for teaching a lesson on free expression and showing a picture of Mohamed. In the aftermath, there was a huge outpouring of homage to teachers for helping to develop our students and the way they think critically. The issue has given Mr. Teasdale, and hopefully many others, a renewed awareness of the importance of teachers.
2. Ms. Ulrich noted that she has been teaching for 11 weeks at the Oxnard Community College and there have been no COVID incidents. She hopes that our students can get back to school as soon as possible.

N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Mr. Mantooth noted that the MATES Programmatic Audit has been moved to March. There are currently no agenda items for the November meeting and the December meeting will follow two weeks after. Administration is therefore recommending that the November 23, 2020 Board meeting be cancelled.

Ms. Ulrich moved the Board cancel the November 23, 2020 Board meeting. Mr. Collins seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous vote (5:0).

O. FUTURE MEETINGS

Date: ~~Monday, November 23, 2020~~ CANCELLED
Time: ~~6:00 p.m.~~
Location: ~~ZOOM or 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo~~
Purpose: ~~Regular Meeting of the Board~~

Date: Monday, December 14, 2020
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: ZOOM or 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Annual Organizational Meeting

P. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Flores adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Minutes Approved by Board Action on 12/14/20.

*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.*