

VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
March 14, 2022

A. CALL TO ORDER

1. Call To Order, Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and Moment of Reflection
The Regular Board Meeting of the Ventura County Board of Education, Agenda No. 22-06, was called to order by Rachel Ulrich, Board President, at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 14, 2022, via Zoom webinar. 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
Lisa Salas Brown, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services
Emily Mostovoy Luna, Associate Superintendent SELPA
Dr. Julie Judd, Chief Technology Officer
Teri Page, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Lisa Bork, Senior Executive Assistant
Aurelia Roman, Executive Assistant

3. Approval of Agenda.
Mr. Teasdale 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

Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Case No. 22-02

Dr. Flores moved the Board deny Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Case No. 22-02. Dr. Lisagor seconded the motion and the motion carried upon a unanimous roll call vote (5:0). The decision of the Board is final in this matter.

D. CLOSED SESSION

None.

E. PRELIMINARY

Approval of Minutes

Corrections: Page 5, paragraph 7 - change student to teacher
Page 7, paragraph 6 - change low to high

Dr. Lisagor moved the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of February 28, 2022, be approved as amended. Mr. Kidd 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)).

Upcoming Events

2022 Hackathon by the Sea	March 11-19, 2022
Science Fair	March 18, 2022
VCOE Equity Conference	March 22, 2022
All Staff Gathering	May 25, 2022

Dr. Lisagor commented on the CCBE Governance conference he attended last week in Sacramento. He was impressed with Ms. Ulrich's leadership skills; the conference was well run, and he came away with great ideas. He was impressed by Dave Schermer's professionalism during his presentation on communication. Ventura County was well represented with Dr. Charles Weis also presenting.

Dr. Lisagor was privileged to be a judge at the Hackathon last weekend, and he wished to acknowledge Dana Thompson and Dr. Julie Judd for their work.

The VCSBA dinner on March 7th focused on homeless and runaway youth. Dr. Lisagor praised VCOE staff in collaboration with the Oxnard Union High School District and the Oxnard Elementary School District and the people who run these programs for Interface. Interface appreciated the opportunity to work with these school districts to support at promise youth in our county.

Mr. Kidd agreed the VCSBA event was eye opening about the work being done for our most vulnerable students. It was a good opportunity to meet other school board members around the county. This was his first time attending a CCBE meeting which was focused on county boards. He enjoyed hearing about our CTE programs and thinking of ways to help advocate for the program so students are informed and can take advantage of them. He expressed a desire to tour the Career Education Center at the Camarillo airport.

Mr. Teasdale thanked Dr. Flores for his legislative efforts. Ms. Ulrich thanked Dr. Flores for being her right hand on the CCBE committee and Ventura County staff for stepping up. Ms. Ulrich mentioned the VCSBA May 31st dinner meeting which will be focused on declining enrollment.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Morales said it was great to be at the CCBE meeting in Sacramento. There was abundant energy and he was proud to be part of VCOE.

Dr. Morales said every year VCOE looks at our enrollment and programs. We employ some teachers who have not finalized all of their credential requirements. Eight teachers are on provision or short-term permits. Teachers on PIPs (Provisional Internship Permit) and STSPs (Short Term Staff Permits) will be given notice by the end of the year. They will probably be hired, if they don't, they will most likely get picked up by a district. Special Education teachers are the most sought-after employees.

He also acknowledged Dr. Flores and his efforts to highlight legislation in regard to CTE. CCSESA has recently shared their priority for asking for additional funding for county offices for differentiated assistance. County offices have very limited resources to do this work. There are no funds for COEs to work on prevention efforts. CCSESA campaigned to request 120 million dollars based on ADA to all county offices.

I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Mr. Teasdale and Mr. Kidd emphasized the upcoming CSBA legislative action week focusing on the base funding for education. It is a chance to have our voice heard.

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

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. Ventura County Office of Education A-G Completion Improvement Grant Program
The A-G Completion Improvement Grant provides additional supports to local educational agencies (LEAs) to help increase the number of high school pupils, particularly unduplicated pupils, who graduate from high school with A-G eligibility requirements completed for admission to the California State University and the University of California. School districts, county offices of education, and charter schools with 2020-21 Grades 9-12 Unduplicated Pupil Counts are eligible to receive the A-G Completion Grant funds which are available through 2025-26.

In accordance with CDE guidelines, the local plan for the A-G Completion Improvement Grant was heard in a public meeting of the County Board of Education on February 28, 2022.

Dr. Flores made a motion to approve the A-G Completion Improvement Grant as presented. Mr. Kidd seconded the motion and it carried (5:0)

2. Second Interim Budget

Ms. Key thanked Lisa Cline, Executive Director, Internal Business Office and her team for their efforts in putting together the second interim report. Ms. Key said the Board can confidently accept and approve the positive certification.

Ms. Key noted the Board has awarded one scholarship of \$250.00, which leaves \$4,250 in the scholarship fund if the awarded student submits reimbursement. She noted these scholarships are awarded to students at the recommendation of staff. The scholarships are given to all of our students with an emphasis on Providence students.

On the second interim budget report, Ms. Key noted the deliberate deficit spending to expend any balances carried forward from prior years. COVID relief funds are part of deficit spending. Dollars which were received in the prior year will be spent in the next couple of years.

SELPA's deficit spending is approximately one million. Funds brought forth from the prior year are being spent.

The majority of our expenditures (6.4 million) is in the Student Services Branch in direct services to students. VCOE bills back for the costs to provide these services. Home to school transportation is anticipated to go up significantly due to the recent hike in the cost of fuel.

Educational Services deficit is at about 2 million dollars. Funds need to be spent due to grants ending. This includes a Local Solutions grant/Designated Subject Credential which helps teachers acquire credentials. This is important due to the teacher shortage.

Ms. Key addressed the Average Daily Attendance. This is an odd anomaly outside the trend of anything experienced in the past. COVID has severely affected enrollment. At P2 we had estimated attendance to be at 125,000, whereas estimated attendance is now projected at 119,000. This is a 5% decline from what was projected. The ADA is going to be much lower. There were severe absences due to Omicron in January and February and the population is down by about 4%. The students enrolled are attending school less. Funding is provided by attendance, not enrollment. This is very abnormal and is something to watch as projections are made.

Ms. Ulrich asked if the state has a remedy since students are discouraged to attend school if they have any COVID symptoms. Ms. Key said school districts have one year of hold harmless. There are some proposals anticipated including averaging the three prior years.

VCOE is at 20 million hold harmless. VCOE has enough cash cover expenses and will be in good shape for the next three years.

Page 11 is the deficit spending of unrestricted funds. The original adopted budget predicted the amount of \$852,082. When the first interim was approved, this amount increased to 1.2 million. There is now a projected increase of 3 million.

Ms. Ulrich asked at what point do we pull back on deficit spending? Misty noted her staff is constantly watching this and will pull back when needed. It is done very narrowly with specific departments and services.

Mr. Kidd asked what percent of the budget does this represent? Ms. Key said this represents about 10% of the unrestricted only. There are 128 million worth of operating expenditures that go through the general fund. The goal is to have three months of payroll on hand.

The restricted funds are where the bulk of deficit spending is. Projected year totals increase deficit spending up to almost 8 million dollars. In the second interim report, there is a better idea of revenue coming in, and what the expenditures are.

Page 26-27 represents the entire general fund. There is 121 million in revenue and 128 million worth of expenditures in unrestricted and restricted funding. The net is 7 million and after we transfer to other funds, the net deficit spending is in the amount of 9 million. VCOE is providing services with these dollars. Mr. Teasdale stated this is not a real deficit, but more of a timing issue. Ms. Key agreed.

Ms. Key announced that VCOE is going to pay off the Certificate of Participation (COP) for the conference center which will have saved 3 million dollars. The bonds became callable in December 2021. Lisa Cline has worked with US Bank to get details in place in coordination with the county treasurer. This is all in place and the maturity date to pay off the bonds is at the end of March. In our second interim, there is 8.7 million in payment outgo. At the end of the fiscal year, we will close out the debt service fund and completely own the building.

The Multiyear Projections are on page 76. Over the next couple of years, annual adjustments will be made on expenditures based on revenue and demands of schools. Projected revenue and expenditures are expected to go down. By the third year in 2023-24, projected expenditures are expected to go down to 117 million based on current information.

Board members thanked Ms. Key for her concise presentation and her vision of paying down the conference center.

Mr. Kidd made a motion to acknowledge the second interim budget based on the Superintendent's positive certification. Dr. Lisagor seconded the motion and it passed 5:0.

M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Kidd is working on dates to visit Simi Valley Unified and Moorpark Unified school board meetings. He would also like to have a conversation about solar energy throughout the county.

Mr. Teasdale would like to have a written document regarding the Board scholarship procedures for future Board members.

Dr. Flores mentioned he would like to tag along with others as they visit the Fillmore and Santa Paula school districts.

Dr. Flores congratulated Dr. Morales who is running unopposed on his election bid for County Superintendent of Schools. This speaks volumes on his leadership.

Ms. Ulrich thanked those who assist in making virtual meetings happen.

N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

O. FUTURE MEETINGS

Dr. Lisagor mentioned the CSBA Coast2Coast advocacy day in Washington conflicts with the April 25th Board meeting. There are at least two trustees attending.

Date: Friday, April 8, 2022 (*Budget Study Session*)
Time: 8:00 a.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: Friday, May 6, 2022 (*Budget Study Session*)
Time: 8:00 a.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: Friday, May 6, 2022 (*Governance Retreat*)
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Ms. Ulrich adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

P. ADJOURNMENT

Date: 4/8/22



Rachel Ulrich, Board President

Date: 4-11-22



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