

**VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
May 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 20-07, was called to order by Dr. Ramon Flores, Board President, at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 26, 2020, via ZOOM teleconference. All Board Trustees, staff and members of the public participated 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 Participating via Teleconference:
Dr. Ramon Flores, Area 5
Rachel Ulrich, Area 1
Mike Teasdale, Area 2
Dr. Mark Lisagor, Area 3
Rob Collins, Area 4

VCOE Personnel Participating via Teleconference:
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
Michele Harding, Special Education Program Specialist
David Fateh, Director, Facilities
Nancy Akkerman, Senior Executive Assistant

Approval of Agenda
Mr. Mantooth requested that the Agenda be amended to include reference to Resolution 20-03 in Agenda Item L.3. Dr. Lisagor moved that agenda be approved as amended. Mr. Collins 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 April 24, 2020.
2. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of April 27, 2020.
3. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of May 8, 2020.

Mr. Collins moved the Minutes of the Regular Meetings of April 24, April 27 and May 8, 2020 be approved. Mr. Teasdale seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous roll call vote (5:0).

F. CORRESPONDENCE

1. April 13, 2020 letter to Governor Gavin Newsom; and May 6, 2020 letter to State Superintendent Tony Thurmond; urging support for education due to COVID-19 pandemic.

G. PRESIDENT'S AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

1. Mr. Collins asked if the County Superintendent or Director of Public Health will determine when schools reopen or when distance learning will begin. Mr. Mantooth explained that the district superintendents are working in conjunction with the Director of Public Health on a weekly basis.
2. Dr. Lisagor read that some County Offices are working to reopen County Office programs.
3. Mr. Teasdale recognized the efforts of district superintendents and school leadership in determining ways to make graduation meaningful for seniors in the loss of face to face graduations. Their efforts are appreciated. Mr. Mantooth noted that County operated program graduation will be held; however, our schools are very small in scale and therefore fortunate that they will be able to affect some type of graduation while maintaining social distancing.
4. Ms. Ulrich reported that she attended a virtual CSBA Delegate Assembly meeting. The CSBA Delegates took a neutral position on the Schools and Communities First ballot issue. They also discussed School Re-Openings. Ms. Ulrich attended a workshop on equity issues in re-opening and the social emotional effects of social distancing.
5. Dr. Flores attended a virtual session on the Budget presented by Capitol Advisors. The issues surrounding the budget are very involved. Dr. Flores also recognized the teachers honored with Impact II Awards and expressed his thanks for the work of John Tarkany, Dave Schermer, and Mr. Mantooth on this annual honor.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Mantooth presented on the Activities of the Office:

1. CDE Notification of Acceptance of 2019-20 Second Interim Report.
2. End of Year Activities. A list of County-operated program graduations was distributed. Board members are asked not to attend so social distancing can be maintained.
3. COVID-19 Update.

Graduations. Dr. Levin, Ventura County Public Health Director, provided an initial set of guidelines for graduations. The Office and district superintendents have submitted a request to Dr. Levin asking that the guidelines be loosened to allow for drive thru graduations where graduates can exit their car, walk briefly across the stage, and then return to the car. We hope to have guidance later tomorrow.

Mr. Teasdale asked Mr. Mantooth to urge the district superintendents to be as transparent as possible about the possibilities of graduation and what is being considered. Mr. Mantooth noted that the district superintendents will have another call next week.

Ms. Ulrich asked if Board members could do a video graduation message for VCOE graduates. These messages could be done via Zoom. Mr. Mantooth will share this request with Mr. Shermer.

Re-Opening of Schools. Dr. Castro is leading a re-opening of schools task force. The task force has developed a reentry framework that has been shared with all district superintendents and reviewed by Dr. Levin. The framework seeks to address how many students can be in a classroom, what happens in testing and tracing, what would reopening look like, including the students' schedules. This is a framework only and implementation will likely look different at each district as some districts have 200 students and others have 16,000 students.

All districts agree with the need to preserve the safety of students and staff and have committed to some degree of distance learning.

4. May Revise. The latest word on the budget is that there will be a 10% reduction in education funding. For VCOE, this amounts to a \$2 million reduction. There is also a possible 50% reduction to Career Education. The budget is still an active discussion. The Senate and Legislature must also weigh in and seem to be looking for ways to offset those cuts. The budget will be presented to the Board for adoption on June 22nd; any additional changes will be presented at that time.

Mr. Teasdale asked if there are any areas where Board members should focus their advocacy efforts. Mr. Mantooth responded that preservation of the base funding formula helps everyone. These funds are typically the most flexible. Advocacy for full and fair distribution of federal funds that are received, as well as advocacy for more federal funding.

I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

None.

J. CONSENT/ACTION

1. Mileage Reimbursement Claim
2. Temporary County Certificates
3. Change Order No. 17 to Viola, Inc. for Camarillo Special Education New Construction: 20 Classroom School Bid 2018-34

Ms. Ulrich moved the Board approve Consent Items 1-3. Mr. Teasdale seconded the motion, and the motion passed upon a unanimous roll call vote (5:0).

K. PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation on Charter School Legislative Changes
Ms. Hartsuyker reviewed the significant changes made to California's *Charter Schools Act* as a result of the implementation of Assembly Bill 1505.

Ms. Hartsuyker noted that nine changes were made to the Charter Schools Act including: two new bases for denial for new charter petitions, timelines for initial/renewal updated, appeals to the County Board and State Board revised, renewal criteria, teacher credentialing, and technical assistance. These changes will be effective July 1, 2020. A moratorium on non classroom-based charter school authorizations went into effect on January 1, 2020.

The two new bases for denial were added – the charter school is demonstrably unlikely to serve the interests of the entire community in which the school is proposing to locate; and the school district is not positioned to absorb the fiscal impact of the proposed charter school. These two new bases cannot be used when considering a renewal request but can be used if there is a material revision to the charter school.

When considering whether a charter school will meet the needs of the entire community, the extent to which the proposed charter school will undermine existing services, academic offerings, or programmatic offerings; and whether the proposed charter school will duplicate a program currently offered by the school district; must be considered. These terms are open to interpretation and there is no legal guidance yet.

A school district is not positioned to absorb the fiscal impact of the charter school when a qualified interim certification would become negative; when a negative certification was already received or if a district was in State receivership.

Timelines have changed. Two public hearings are now required – one within 60 days to determine interest in the charter school; and the second within 90 days to take action on the charter petition. The petition is now received on the day the petitioner submits the petition. This will require a change to administrative regulation. Staff review must be presented 15 days prior to the 2nd public hearing.

Appeals to the County Board must be submitted within 30 days. Material changes are remanded back to the district. The appeal is a complete new review of the documents. Questions include: Will the County Board defer to the district's analysis of community interest and fiscal impact.

Appeals to the State Board are only done in cases where the charter school can prove that there was an abuse of discretion. Districts and COEs will be required to prepare and submit a documentary record to SBE, including transcripts of the public hearings which will be due in 10 days. Accordingly, a court reporter will need to be used at the public hearings.

A Three Tiered Renewal System tied to performance on the dashboard has been created. Charter Schools will be categorized as high performing, middle performing or low performing based on their ratings on the dashboard for 2 consecutive years immediately preceding renewal.

High performing charter schools will have received the two highest performance levels schoolwide (green or blue) on all state indicators on Dashboard; or, for all measurements of academic performance, the charter school has received performance levels schoolwide that are the same or higher than the state average AND, for a majority of subgroups performing below state average, received performance levels higher than state average. These high performing charter schools shall not be denied renewed. These schools can also be renewed for up to seven years (instead of five).

Low performing charter schools will have received the two lowest performance levels schoolwide (red or orange) on all state indicators on the Dashboard; or, for all measurements of academic performance, the charter school has received performance levels schoolwide that are the same or lower than the state average AND for a majority of subgroups performing below state average, received performance levels lower than state average. These low performing charter schools shall not be renewed. A two year renewal may be granted only if the charter school takes meaningful steps to address underlying cause(s) of low performance and provides clear and convincing evidence that school achieved measurable increases in academic achievement.

All other charter schools are evaluated as a middle performing charter school. The school must show clear and convincing evidence demonstrating that they are achieving measurable increases. The chartering agency shall consider the charter school's schoolwide and student subgroup performance on the state and local indicators on the dashboard; and clear and convincing evidence, demonstrating school achieved measurable increases in academic achievement, OR strong post-secondary outcomes defined by college enrollment, persistence and completion rates equal to similar peers. Middle charter schools may be denied only if the charter school failed to make sufficient progress towards standards, school closure is in the best interest of the pupils, and the decision was based on student academic performance.

Dashboard Alternative School – Vista Real Charter High School is Ventura County's only dashboard alternative school. High, Middle and Low performing tiers do not apply to these schools. The chartering authority shall consider, in addition to the charter school's performance on the state and local indicators on the Dashboard, the charter school's performance on alternative metrics applicable to the charter school based on the pupil population served. Chartering agencies and the charter have to agree on alternative metrics applicable to the charter school based on the pupil population served. The chartering authority may deny a charter renewal only upon making written findings, setting forth specific facts to support the findings, that the closure of the charter school is in the best interest of pupils.

There will be no dashboard results for next year. Guidance has been given that data from 2017-18 will be used. Verified data is used if dashboard information is not available. The State Board will identify what the assessments will be by January 2021.

Non-renewal criteria were reviewed. Chartering agencies may deny renewal of any charter school upon a finding that either: The charter school is demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition due to substantial fiscal or governance factors; or, the charter school is not serving the pupils who wish to attend, as documented by Ed Code 47607(d).

30 days-notice of non-renewal must be provided with a reasonable opportunity to cure the violation AND make a finding that either: the corrective action proposed by the charter school has been unsuccessful; or, the violations are sufficiently severe and pervasive as to render a corrective action unviable

A two year moratorium on the approval of a new charter schools offering non-classroom based instruction became effective on January 1, 2020.

Technical Assistance must be provided by County Offices of Education, rather than the chartering agencies, beginning May, 2022. This revised process is intended to provide greater alignment with district criteria for identification for assistance. For charter schools operating before July 1, 2020, prior rules apply until May 30, 2022.

New Teacher Credentialing Requirements. Charter school teachers must have appropriate credentials for their certificated assignment. Teachers employed during 2019-20 have until June 1, 2022 to comply. Teachers must obtain CTC Certification of Clearance by July 1, 2020 and satisfy requirement for professional fitness.

Ms. Ulrich asked what technical assistance consists of. When a charter school is performing low on certain measures, the County Office of Education will partner with the charter school to create an improvement plan. This is much like program improvement and differentiated assistance. Ms. Ulrich asked if funding will be provided to the County Office for this. Ms. Hartsuyker noted that it is our understanding that no additional funding will be provided. Dr. Lisagor clarified that County Offices will now be required to assess all charter schools and provide technical assistance.

Mr. Teasdale asked how the level of support is determined. Charter schools can determine how this is done. Mr. Teasdale asked about appeals to the County Board based on abuse of discretion by the district. What does this mean? Ms. Hartsuyker noted that there is not much guidance as to this interpretation. An abuse of discretion could be if the district does not provide an opportunity for the charter to respond and rebut. That would be a process violation.

Mr. Collins asked for clarification of districts claiming a negative fiscal impact. Ms. Hartsuyker responded that there are three clear criteria and also a subjective finding. Ed Code 47605(c)(7) is subjective while Ed Code 47605(c)(8) is clear. What documentation could a district provide to show that a charter school is having a fiscal impact? Ms. Key noted that there would be little time available for review. Again, this area is not totally clear.

Dr. Flores noted that if a charter school makes a material change to the petition, it can be remanded back to the district. Is there a limit of how many times they can do this? No there is not. Most districts can say that a charter school will have a negative financial impact. This may cause many more appeals to come to the County Office.

Mr. Teasdale asked what the normal process is to get additional guidance? Will amendments to the law address these guidelines? There may be clean up language adopted or the charter school oversight community meets regularly and they will discuss best practices and interpretations.

L. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/ACTION

1. Opening of 30-Day Review Period for Adoption of Textbooks for County-Operated Schools

Dr. Morales introduced Ms. Harding, Special Education Program Specialist, and the team of VCOE administrators and teachers who worked on a committee to identify and test textbooks for our County operated schools. The committee has selected a comprehensive standards based History Social Studies curriculum and textbooks for Kindergarten through High School for Gateway, Phoenix, Providence, Triton Academy and Foster Schools. These materials reflect state approved texts and are aligned to the California Common Core Standards.

The team explored the framework and tool kit. A timeline for testing was developed and technology needs were reviewed. A list of valuable aspects of the textbooks was developed. Differentiation was important based on the needs of our students.

Pearson: myWorld Interactive for grades Kdg – 5th was reviewed by a team of elementary teachers. The digital presentations and MyWorld activities are excellent. Excerpts from 5th grade curriculum were shown and distance learning was piloted. The materials are very visual. Leveled readers are helpful; students can read themselves or the books can be read to them. Virtual field trips are provided; and ancillary materials are provided as well. Map skills, graphic organizers, and visual reviews are provided for each lesson. Materials can be used on the smart board. A lot of primary source information. Appreciated the lessons for google classrooms; students could access them easily. Curriculum can be read to students and students can type in short answers.

National Geographic for grades 6-8 was piloted for Middle School. The textbooks are filled with paintings and primary source documents. The textbooks present authentic history and are culturally inclusive with stories about real Americans. The information can be used online via ZOOM. It has many pictures and vibrant maps. Via Zoom, National Geographic also allows students to explore areas around the world with actual explorers.

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) for grades 9-12. World History was piloted for High School. The textbooks include virtual engaging historical support. Drop down tabs of related content help with student who have not engaged in research based learning. The program provides opportunity for students to investigate questions. How do humans interact with the environment? How did people in the past accomplish tasks? Students learn to critically think. The book is engaging, uses graphic organizers, and primary source documents.

American History textbooks were also piloted. Enjoyed the timeline in relation to world events. Links to history channel are used and the videos can be used as exit tickets. Guided reading component is provided. The textbooks break down the lessons which is useful with English Language learners and Providence students.

The following textbooks are recommended for adoption:

Elementary (Phoenix, Triton, Foster)

Pearson: myWorld Interactive for grades Kdg – 5th

Middle School (Gateway, Phoenix, Triton, Foster, Providence)

National Geographic for grades 6-8

High School (Gateway, Phoenix, Triton, Providence)

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) for grades 9-12

The recommended materials will help our unique population of students. The textbooks can also be used for continuous learning. The recommended materials are available for review via online access. The Board and general public can request a link.

Mr. Mantooth and the Board expressed their thanks and appreciation to the teachers who piloted these materials and for their presentation. The emphasis on distance learning was especially helpful.

Ms. Ulrich asked how long this process was? Ms. Harding noted that this has been a two year process to identify what would materials really work best.

Mr. Collins asked if there were any dissenting votes. Ms. Harding reported that the committee was in agreement that these textbooks were excellent for the needs of our student population.

This item was presented to the Board for information only. Textbooks will be presented for adoption on June 22, 2020.

2. Dorothy Boswell School Fire Alarm Upgrade Bid Award

Mr. Mantooth noted that the Office is completing an upgrade to Boswell School and the Division of State Architect has requested code upgrades of the Fire Alarm system be completed. This upgrade will be accomplished with State funds.

Mr. Fateh reported that the existing system is the original one and it does not have the capacity to notify the fire department. Seven contractors bid on the project.

Ms. Ulrich asked if the Office has previously done business with the Good Service Company. Mr. Fateh responded that Good Service did the upgrade at Dwire School.

Ms. Ulrich moved the Board award Bid 2020-30 for Dorothy Boswell School Fire Alarm Upgrade project to The Good Service Company for a total award amount of \$89,000. Dr. Lisagor seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous roll call vote (5:0).

3. Consideration of Resolutions and Letter requesting Support for State and Federal Funding in Light of Impacts Associated with COVID-19 Pandemic
Dr. Lisagor noted that these are unprecedented times and schools are going to be asked to do the impossible in light of the budget. LEAs need to make it clear that schools will be unable to educate students in a safe and reasonable manner with the budgetary constraints being proposed. Dr. Lisagor moved the Board adopt Resolutions 20-02 and 20-03, State Education Funding in Light of Impacts Associated with COVID-19 Pandemic; and Resolution 20-03, Federal Education Funding in Light of Impacts Associated with COVID-19 Pandemic; as presented. Mr. Teasdale seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous roll call vote (5:0).
4. Cancellation of Regular Board Meeting of June 15, 2020.
Mr. Mantooth noted that normally two Board meetings are held in June due to the requirement for a Public Hearing on the Budget and LCAP, followed by adoption at a later meeting. Due to the postponement of the LCAP, only one meeting is needed this year. Mr. Teasdale moved the Regular Board Meeting of June 15, 2020 be cancelled. Mr. Collins seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous roll call vote (5:0).

M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

1. Mr. Collins noted that we are headed into unprecedented times. School teachers are asking how schools will open and ensure the safety of students and staff. Will every student be asked to wear a mask; will temperatures be taken for entry? The World Health Organization predicts a repeat of the peak in the future which would cause another closure.
2. Dr. Lisagor expressed his appreciation for the work of the County Office.
3. Mr. Teasdale noted that he was struck by the determination, creativity and effort of our teachers. They are a key part of our society. He hopes that we can support them financially in the budget.
4. Ms. Ulrich noted her appreciation for the presentation.
5. Dr. Flores expressed his appreciation for staff and leadership.

N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Adoption of Textbooks for County-Operated Schools – *June 22, 2020*

O. FUTURE MEETINGS

~~Date: Monday, June 15, 2020~~ CANCELLED per Board Action
~~Time: 6:00 p.m.~~
~~Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo~~
~~Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board~~

Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 (*Public Hearing/Adoption of Budget*)
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

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

P. ADJOURNMENT

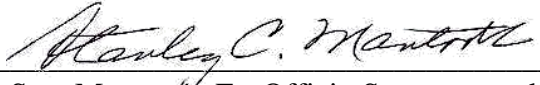
Dr. Flores adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Minutes Approved by Board Action on 06/22//20

June 22, 2020
Date


Dr. Ramon Flores, Board President

June 22, 2020
Date


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

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