

**VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
October 24, 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. 22-17, was called to order by Rachel Ulrich, Board President, at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 24, 2022, in the Board Room of the VCOE Conference and Educational Services Center at 5100 Adolfo Road, Camarillo. 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:
Misty Key, Deputy Superintendent, Fiscal & Administrative Services
Lisa Salas Brown, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services
Christina Mahone, Director, County Program Support and Accountability
Lisa Bork, Sr. Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Aurelia Roman, Executive Assistant
3. Approval of Agenda
Dr. Lisagor made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Kidd seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous roll call vote (5:0).

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Cathy Carlson, Thousand Oaks, CA

C. HEARINGS

None

D. CLOSED SESSION

None.

E. PRELIMINARY

Dr. Flores moved the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of September 26, 2022, be approved. Dr. Lisagor 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

Halloween Celebration, CESC8:00 a.m.-noon, CESC, October 31, 2022
Vex RoboticsNovember 5, 2022
Principal for a DayNovember 15, 2022
State of the County 20225:00 p.m. November 30, 2022
CSBA Annual ConferenceDecember 1-3, San Diego Convention Center
HackathonJanuary 6 & 7, 2023
School Board Trustee Training Saturday, January 7, 2023
Academic Decathlon January 17, 21, 28, February 4, 2023
Mock Trial Feb. 6-10, 2023
VCOE Equity Conference March 7, 2023
Science Fair March 24 & 27, 2023
All Staff Gathering May 24, 2023

BOARD COMMENTS:

Dr. Flores commented on the Vex Robotics event on November 5.

Mr. Kidd mentioned the Providence graduation he attended on October 11, 2022. Providence does a great job of honoring these students.

Mr. Teasdale said the report released today on the nation’s proficiency scores, was troubling. The pandemic learning loss is as big as we feared. VCOE has focused on this, but we need to do more.

Ms. Ulrich, our county’s CSBA delegate, is looking forward to the Delegate Assembly in December. The VCOE School Board Candidate Academy on October 1st was well received. There were seasoned school board members and new people as well.

H. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Morales is away at a conference; Misty Key reported on his behalf.

The Career Education Center is expanding the welding program and offering a professional welding certification. This is aligned to the need within the Port to support the Navy and Port expansion. There is a high need in the county. The other closest places to certify as an iron worker are a few hours away. CEC has set aside money to modernize the welding shop for the 2023-24 school year.

Dr. Lisagor attended an open house at the CEC and had a tour of the welding facility. He understands finding faculty is a big challenge.

Dr. Flores said the naval base has workers skilled in this area. He will make some contacts.

Mr. Teasdale also attended the CEC open house. He understands there is a waiting list to get into this program.

Ms. Key reported on the energy management/energy conservation project to support VCOE and our school districts. Power sustainability is the concept in mind to support education sites during power outages or shutdowns such as battery backup, generators, and solar projects. Southern Cal Edison is doing a usage analysis. VCOE is connecting with the Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance (VCREA) to explore parking spots that charge electric vehicles.

Ms. Key mentioned the school safety series. This has been a huge effort with six seminars planned throughout the year. Seminars 1 and 2 are completed. The first seminar focused on policies and procedures and the second seminar focused on site security. This is an exciting project and all of our school districts and charter schools are participating. Still to come:

- Seminar 3, Threat Assessment – November 9
- Seminar 4, Threat Assessment Team Training – January 11
- Seminar 5, Law Enforcement Engagement – February 8
- Seminar 6, Active Assailant Training – March 8

I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

None

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. Temporary County Certificates
2. Disposal of Property Report – 3rd Quarter, 2022
3. Williams Quarterly Report to the County Board of Education
4. 2023-24 County School Services Fund Budget Calendar

Dr. Lisagor made a motion to approve Consent Items J1 through J4. Mr. Kidd seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously (5:0).

K. PRESENTATIONS

None.

L. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/ACTION

1. Approval of Revisions to the VCOE English Learner Master Plan - DISCUSSION / INFORMATION / ACTION (10 minutes)
The English Learner Master Plan is intended for sites to use in ensuring the appropriate identification, initial assessment, placement, and services for English Learners (ELs). On October 25, 2021, the Board adopted the VCOE English Learner Master Plan. The Plan was recently updated for the 2022-23 school year and reviewed with the English Learner Advisory Committee.

Lisa Brown said the English Learner Master Plan was presented to the Board last year and there are very few changes this year.

Mr. Teasdale made a motion to approve the revisions to the VCOE English Learner Master Plan as presented. Dr. Flores seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously (5:0).

2. Annual Programmatic Audit Presentation by River Oaks Academy Charter School – DISCUSSION / INFORMATION (30 minutes)

On June 28, 2010, the Ventura County Board of Education approved the charter school petition for River Oaks Academy. On February 24, 2020, the Board approved the renewal of River Oaks Academy, with the term of the charter expiring on June 30, 2025, and extended until June 30, 2027, pursuant to AB 130. In accordance with the VCOE Charter School Progress Report Timeline, representatives from River Oaks Academy will present information required in the annual programmatic audit detailed in the Memorandum of Understanding which includes provisions for the LCAP.

Lisa Brown introduced Marlo Hartsuyker, Director of Charter School Support who recognized Benny Martinez, River Oaks Board Member and Teri Childs, River Oaks Board President in the audience.

Ms. Hartsuyker also acknowledged Claudia Weintraub, Executive Director, Nick Humphrey, Director of Operations, Maria Montagne, Director of Academics and Rudy Calasin, Director, School Business Services, as well as many other River Oaks staff members in attendance at the meeting

Ms. Hartsuyker shared that the data from this presentation does not include the testing data released today.

Mr. Humphrey talked about enrollment trends. Currently they have 341 students with 199 enrolled in Westlake and 142 at Oxnard. The average daily attendance is 98.5%

River Oaks is providing Chromebooks, wireless hotspots, enhanced support in 1-on-1 teacher check-ins and increased academic and SEL support. The students are engaging in in-person community events. Students and faculty are enjoying coming back together in person.

Focus Rooms are an on-campus place for students with a dedicated teacher; these started a few years ago. Students can communicate with a personal coaching teacher.

River Oaks also has “Bee” Well Rooms. The room at Oxnard was so successful they brought it to Westlake. Students, teachers and parents can recharge and have a quiet place to be. Students also have access to other SEL programs.

An updated school safety plan, as well as fire and earthquake drills have been implemented. There is also an active shooter training for staff.

Maria Montagne spoke on Assessments. Overall CAASPP ELA results were at 68% met or exceeded standards. Overall CAASPP Math results were 53% met or exceeded standards, a 4% increase. She believes interventions are helping students. (These numbers do not include 10/24/22 data).

River Oaks is a personalized learning independent charter school with a whole child approach. When a new student arrives, staff looks at four areas, household, assessment, wellness and academics. Are students coming to River Oaks because of trauma? Are they equipped with tools? What are their strengths? Student assessments are reviewed and local assessments are also given. River Oaks uses a multi-tiered approach to intervention and all students have access to personalized support with classes, tutoring and wellness programs.

Last year, students wanted to teach classes on bullying prevention. The students in Westlake Academy received an award for their efforts.

Rudy Calasin spoke about the financial data, saying these programs only work if there is money to provide the resources. Based on the adopted 22-23 budget, River Oaks essentially has a balanced budget.

In the December Interim Budget, River Oaks will be looking at a 500,000 surplus. It is a challenge to find worthwhile areas to focus on to spend the funds. There is a limit to what can be put in reserves; 8% has to be spent. It is a good problem to have.

Dr. Lisagor noted River Oaks is one of the few schools that doesn't deal with declining enrollment. He understands it is hard to find educators who have expertise in certain areas.

Ms. Montagne said River Oaks didn't qualify for several grants. They did receive the Learning Recovery Emergency Fund Grant. This helps with academic support and wellness resources. They are increasing focus room hours.

Ms. Weintraub thanked the Board for letting them showcase their school and allowing them to be an option in Ventura County.

Dr. Lisagor said this was a great presentation. In reading the briefing from the department of education, it looks like this cluster of CAASPP scores should be looked at as a base. Only an average of 50% of students participated.

Mr. Teasdale asked what kind of support is provided for students whose both parents work. Ms. Montagne said they want students to be successful. If both parents are working, perhaps a grandparent or an aunt can supervise. Students can also come to the Focus Rooms.

Mr. Kidd asked if River Oaks pulls students from across the county. Ms. Montagne said they are open for all students countywide and neighboring counties as well.

Dr. Flores asked about River Oak's growth in Oxnard. What is the breakdown of students by grade? Ms. Weintraub will email him. Dr. Flores also asked where River Oaks students are going after they graduate.

Richard Intlekofer, a counselor at River Oaks, said graduates are tracked. Students go all over the country. He mentioned a student attending Emerson College in Boston.

There are many in the U.S. as well as California State Universities, and of course local community colleges. River Oaks teaches the A-G requirements, so students have options. Staff prepares them socially and academically to move forward.

Ms. Ulrich asked if the students were using the Focus Rooms before the pandemic. Ms. Montagne said yes, however, it is increasing – students like seeing other students on campus. The Oxnard site is running out of room. Ms. Ulrich asked if there are plans to expand. Ms. Weintraub said they are researching.

3. County Board of Education Legal Counsel Discussion – DISCUSSION / INFORMATION / ACTION (10 minutes)

The Board will discuss identifying legal counsel for expulsion hearings.

Ms. Key indicated the attorney from Parker and Covert that the Board used for the last expulsion hearing came out of retirement to help, however, we still maintain a contract with Parker and Covert. We don't have a relationship with any other attorney in that firm. The following are law firms we maintain contracts with, and could utilize:

- School Legal Services – a JPA consortium out of Kern County
- Dannis Woliver Kelley
- Atkinson Andelson Loya Ruud & Romo
- Fagen Friedman & Fulfrost
- Lozano Smith

She suggested keeping options open. These firms might represent a school district and could be a potential conflict.

Mr. Kidd asked where Parker and Covert is located (Tustin, CA) and if there are any firms located in Ventura County. Ms. Key said none of these are located in Ventura County.

Dr. Lisagor said an attorney must have a very specific skillset and we would want someone who doesn't have to drive a long distance.

Ms. Ulrich asked if we have any attorney lined up for the November 2, 2022 Expulsion Hearing. Ms. Key said at this point, we do not.

Ms. Ulrich said this agenda item is something to bring to the Board's attention and no action is needed.

Ms. Key said we do have staff who have consulted with legal counsel regarding the expulsion matter. However, we have not identified legal counsel for your questions during the actual appeal hearing. We need to make sure there is no conflict with the school district.

Dr. Lisagor mentioned there are large attorney firms in Ventura County. It is vital to be versed in education law.

Ms. Key said she favors large firms who have attorneys with certain niches. If they don't have experience, they have access to folks who do.

Ms. Ulrich asked if staff would follow-up on who we could work with for our November Hearing.

4. Approval of Revisions and Additions to VCOE Board Policy 5119 Expulsion Appeals – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION (10 minutes)

To ensure compliance of all programs and policies within VCOE, Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5119 Expulsion Appeals have been replaced to reflect the correct policy number, 5144.3, as well as current education code and practices. The Board may choose to waive the second reading of the policy and approve the revisions/additions as presented. The Administrative Regulation and Exhibits 1 and 2 are attached for the Board's information.

Ms. Mahone gave a brief summary stating our current Board Policy 5119 was listed as expulsion appeals; BP 5119 in Gamut is "students being expelled from a district." Board Policy 5144.3 is actually student appeals. Board Policy 5144.3 regarding corporal punishment is non-existent. We now have Board Policy 5144.3 correct as "Student Expulsion Appeals." The old Board Policy 5119 from 1997 and 2000 was very brief - just one line. The Administrative Regulation was added to uphold the board policy. Exhibit 1 and 2 were added, which is mainly for parents and guardians. These exhibits take our policies and puts them in a easy to read language and is the actual form for parents/guardians to complete when filing an expulsion appeal. These policies have been cleaned up – the process hasn't changed.

Mr. Kidd would like to add "acting president" to the administrative regulation.

Mr. Teasdale moved to waive the second reading with the amended change to Board Policy 5144.3 as discussed. Dr. Lisagor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously (5:0)

5. Consideration of Action to Delete Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 3550 Food Service at Meetings –INFORMATION / DISCUSSION / ACTION (10 minutes)

Administration is currently reviewing and updating VCOE policies. Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 3550 were brought to the Board on September 26, 2022 for discussion. This is the second reading. Staff is providing the following information based on the Board discussion on September 26, 2022.

- Current Gamut Example BP 3550
- BP 3550, Service of Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages (2/24/97)
- AR 3550, Service of Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages (2/24/97)
- BP 3513, Facilities, Use of (2/24/97)
- SP 1330, Use of Facilities (8/14/17)
- SP 3311, Bids and Procurement (10/3/16)
- (Facility Rental website: <https://www.vcoe.org/reservations>)

Ms. Key reminded trustees of the conversation at last month's Board meeting regarding Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 3550. We follow the CSBA

Gamut structure in which the current BP 3550 is tied to a child nutrition program which VCOE doesn't use. The current BP 3550 from 1997 is about serving food and alcoholic beverages. This language is not connected to the current policy structure. Included in the documents is Board Policy 3513, ("Facilities, Use Of" 1997). Superintendent Policy 1330 ("Use of Facilities" 8/14/17) is the current policy which gives us guidance about how to use meeting rooms. Superintendent Policy 3311 (Bids and Procurements) is also provided. We feel strongly the guidance exists in enough documents that we don't feel the need to have the language in policy. Our structure and guidance is not about service of food at meetings. The focus is on the meeting.

Ms. Ulrich asked if the Board should consider BP 3550 and BP 3513. She also asked if there is a need to update the conference facility information. Ms. Key will check into that.

Mr. Teasdale made a motion to delete Board Policy 3550 (including the AR) and Board Policy 3513. Dr. Lisagor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously (5:0)

M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Teasdale is looking forward to the CSBA conference in December. He urges board members to attend two workshops. One will be graced by Lisa Brown which is on mental health in different populations. The other workshop is a repeat from the September CCBE conference about trustee roles and responsibilities. The new handbook is going to be launched at the conference.

Mr. Kidd is also looking forward to the CSBA conference in San Diego. He is also very happy to see the school safety series, especially given that we had another school shooting today.

N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Annual Programmatic Audit for Ventura Charter School - November 28, 2022.

Superintendent's priorities.

Agendize a date on the calendar for the Board to meet with Dr. Morales to discuss shared goals as per Board Policy 2126.

O. FUTURE MEETINGS

Date: Wednesday, November 2, 2022
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Special Meeting of the Board

Date: Monday, November 28, 2022
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: Monday, December 12, 2022
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Annual Organization Meeting of the Board

Ms. Ulrich adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

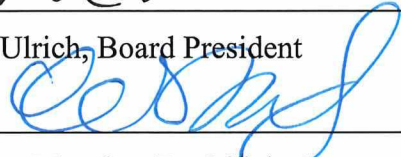
P. ADJOURNMENT

Date: 11/28/22



Rachel Ulrich, Board President

Date: 11/28/22



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