

VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
August 23, 2021

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 21-12, was called to order by Mike Teasdale, Board President, at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, August 23, 2021, in the Board Room of the VCOE Conference & Educational Services Center, 5100 Adolfo Road, Camarillo. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Mr. Teasdale and followed by a moment of reflection.
2. Roll Call
Trustees Present:
Michael Teasdale, Area 2
Rachel Ulrich, Area 1
Dr. Mark Lisagor, Area 3
Rob Collins, 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
Emily Mostovoy-Luna, Associate Superintendent, SELPA, CHPP and Hearing
Lisa Salas Brown, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services
Lisa Bork, Senior Executive Assistant
Wanda Runcie, Executive Assistant
Brian Meza, Conference Facilities Technician
3. Approval of Agenda
Mr. Collins moved the agenda be approved. Dr. Lisagor seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous vote (5:0).

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

C. HEARINGS

None

D. CLOSED SESSION

None.

E. PRELIMINARY

1. Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting of June 28, 2021.

Ms. Ulrich moved the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 28, 2021, be approved. Dr. Flores seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous vote (5:0).

F. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Mask Policy (Seven Letters)
Dr. Morales commented that educators are not the decision makers regarding mask policies; we are all adhering to CDPH guidance. All governing boards are doing the best they can with the current environment.
2. Ventura Unified Letter to Southern California Gas Company
Advocacy efforts have been fruitful in possibly stalling or moving the plant to another location.

G. PRESIDENT'S AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

Ms. Ulrich noted the CCBE Conference is offering a hybrid option. If attending in person, masks are required, and one must have proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test. Samantha Archey is the new Program Manager at CCBE. The CCBE Director at Large position is open. If anyone wants to be nominated, please let Ms. Ulrich know.

Dr. Lisagor attended the Leadership Retreat and commended staff for the amazing concept of moving the meeting around the county. It was a perfectly orchestrated day.

Mr. Collins talked with Dr. Hays, Moorpark Superintendent and she said they have had a great start of school. Dr. Peplinski from Simi Valley would like more clarity and legislation on COVID guidance. Mr. Collins would like to ensure the safety of students and staff.

Dr. Flores enjoyed the Leadership Retreat. He was pleased to learn from Ms. Peggy Kelly from the Santa Paula Times that the newspaper is printed in English and Spanish. He is also looking forward to the CCBE conference and presenting on CTE and STEM.

Mr. Teasdale congratulated the Leadership Team on a brilliant and well executed event. It focused on our customers – local school districts.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Morales thanked the Leadership Retreat planning committee. The plan is to visit different areas of the county this year and end with the Equity Conference.

School districts are open. A year ago, this was only a hope and a vision. Dr. Morales is extremely proud of how our county has communicated with each other and VCPH. There have been a few classroom closures, but no school closures to date. Teachers and staff are doing their part. Our county has a high vaccination rate. Over 90% of VCOE employees are vaccinated. A mobile testing van will be onsite once a week.

Declining enrollment is a concern in our County and will be the topic at the first CSBA meeting.

Mr. Teasdale inquired how much of declining enrollment is due to demographics and how much is due to COVID. Dr. Morales said it is probably a combination of both. There is an increase in homelessness in our county. Private industry and government agencies are reporting it is very difficult to find an affordable place to live.

I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Mr. Collins asked if there is more legislation with the variant COVID outbreak? Dr. Morales said now that one of the vaccines is FDA approved, it is yet to be seen if our national and state legislators work to make some kind of mandate. For now, the health department is providing guidance.

Ms. Ulrich said AB 438 regarding classified employees receiving a March 15 layoff notice is currently being debated in legislature. This may be a potential fiscal issue.

J. CONSENT/ACTION ITEMS

1. Mileage Reimbursement Claim
2. Temporary County Certificates (79)
3. Disposal of Property
4. Williams Quarterly Report to County Board of Education
5. Annual Parent Notification for Students Served by the Ventura County Office of Education
Ms. Ulrich was curious to know why there was no mention of COVID in the Annual Notice to Parents. Dr. Morales said a weekly newsletter goes out to parents where these type of topics are addressed. The Annual Notification is what the state requires for parents.
6. Consolidated Application for Funding Categorical Programs

Dr. Lisagor moved the Board approve Consent Items J1 through J6. Ms. Ulrich seconded the motion and the motion carried upon a unanimous vote (5:0)

K. PRESENTATIONS

None.

L. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/ACTION

1. Approval of Revisions to Board Policy 6158, Independent Study.
Assembly Bill (AB) 130 was signed into law on July 9, 2021. This bill makes changes to independent study (IS). For the 2021–22 school year only, school districts and COEs are required to offer IS as an educational option (*Education Code [EC] Section 51745*). This proposed policy will replace the former Board Policy 6158.

Dr. Williams said this bill makes changes to independent study (IS) which includes IS offering requirements as well as required parent notification, pupil-parent-educator conferences, and additions to board policies and written agreements that detail the IS criteria, instructional minutes, coursework, instructional supports, on-going monitoring along with student and school responsibilities. There is a mechanism in place to monitor students' progress. This school year, school districts are required to take their Board Policy to their Board for approval. Stefanie Rodriguez and Holly Minear put our Board Policy and Administrative Regulation together in a two-week period. Not only did our written agreement meet the letter of the law, but it is user friendly. Dr. Williams would like to

request the Board's approval of BP 6158 and asked to waive the second reading.

Ms. Ulrich agreed the document is very user friendly. She asked if there is a specific metrics of when to move someone out of IS when they are not meeting expectations. Dr. Williams indicated the AR details monitoring progress. Ms. Ulrich also asked if new teachers were hired due to the new Independent Study policy. Dr. Williams can only speak to VCOE specific programs and there have been few requests for Independent Study. Our families were eager to return to in-person learning. Once a request is made, VCOE has 30 days to respond on whether or not IS is the most appropriate option for the student.

Mr. Collins asked what would happen if a student refused to wear a mask and wouldn't go into IS? Dr. Williams said that circumstance has not happened in our schools. Attempts are made to offer the student a mask, parents are contacted, the student is are offered IS, and at that point, the parents are asked to pick up their child. We are trying to maintain a safe environment.

Dr. Flores inquired about asynchronous instruction. Dr. Williams said there is a mandate to adhere to the minimum instructional minutes. If there is a request to implement independent study, depending on the grade span, X amount of minutes will be completed synchronously, however, to ensure that we are able to recover ADA for students, there is a mechanism to archive and show as evidence what is happening during the synchronous instruction. In addition, our asynchronous teachers are required to assign time value to assignments. This allows teachers to be creative so our students don't experience "Zoom fatigue."

Mr. Teasdale said the cost would be very high if a large number of students participated in this program. At what point could we put a limit on it? Dr. Williams said the program is designed so very few people choose this option.

Ms. Ulrich made a motion to approve BP 6158 and wave a second reading. Dr. Lisagor seconded the motion and the motion carried upon a unanimous vote (5:0)

2. Board Subcommittee Report on establishing a VCBE Scholarship Fund

At the June 21, 2021 Board meeting, the Board discussed the possibility of establishing a VCBE scholarship fund. The subcommittee will report on their findings.

On behalf of the subcommittee, Dr. Lisagor recommended the already established scholarship format be followed. The Board Members can contribute funds and office staff will manage the scholarships. The scholarship recipient has to provide original receipts showing the money is being used to further their education. Each donation by Board members will be anonymous, but all members will know the total available scholarship funds. VCOE administrators will let the schools know of the scholarship availability and school staff will recommend students. There are times when the scholarships are never realized. The scholarships go to the secondary schools at CEC, Gateway, Phoenix and Triton. The subcommittee would like to also support students at Providence, however, Providence graduations are held throughout the year. After some discussion, the Board felt the investment would have the greatest impact on students at Providence. If the funds are not used by the end of the year, other students, perhaps Migrant or Foster Youth could

receive a scholarship.

Misty mentioned how the Brown Act would play into this plan. A designated person on the Board would review the nominations and bring forward the names and amounts for Board approval and it would be part of a Board action. The Subcommittee would deal with nuances. Mr. Teasdale would like the Vice President of the Board to be the designated person to oversee the scholarship.

Mr. Teasdale brought forth the motion to establish a VCBE Scholarship Fund with the priority going to students at Providence and any additional funds for the support of other qualified VCOE students. The scholarship will be funded by contributions by Board members. The motion passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

At the next Board meeting the Board President can designate a subcommittee for the Scholarship Fund.

Dr. Lisagor suggested individual Board members consider writing checks during the year. The office will provide details about who checks are made to, etc. Mr. Teasdale thanked Dr. Lisagor and Mr. Collins for their subcommittee work.

3. Discussion on Governance Retreat

The Board wishes to discuss potential dates for a Governance Retreat.

After discussing multiple dates, Ms. Ulrich made a motion for the Board Retreat to take place on Friday, October 22, 2021 from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously by a 5-0 vote.

M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

1. Ms. Ulrich started teaching her classes at Oxnard College last week. Her online class – “Intro into Kinesiology” class was moved to in-person and the class is almost full. She also teaches Anatomy twice a week and there is a waiting list. Many of these students are on campus for the first time. Declining enrollment is real. The more we are present on campus the more students are comfortable being there as well. Community colleges are giving students until October 15, 2021 to be fully vaccinated in order to be on campus.
2. Dr. Lisagor participated in the Westminster Free Clinic in Oxnard on back-to-school day. There were many farm worker families. Students received backpacks, screenings, vaccinations, clothes and dental exams. Dr. Lisagor did a survey of about 300 kids in grades K-12. He asked them how they felt about going back to school. Half of them were excited to get back to school. There was also a lot of anxiety. It made him realize our kids are going to need a lot of mental/emotional care.

Mr. Collins said classified staff at a Santa Paula school have concerns with COVID. He also inquired if we have a policy of pronouns on how students identify with gender. Dr. Morales will look for a specific policy. Currently, protocol is allowing students to choose and inform us.

Dr. Flores said his unit at the Naval Base is one of 40. His unit has offered 97 intern

positions to high school and college students. The Naval Base supports the community and educational partners.

Mr. Teasdale asked about learning loss. Ms. Ulrich and Dr. Morales indicated time is needed for students to get back to school and have some consistency. Ms. Mostovoy-Luna noted there is a variety of additional funding in support of learning loss. VCOE is working with districts to identify a plan. Dr. Morales said learning loss is an identified topic to be addressed at a CSBA meeting.

N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. California Mathematics Framework – *September*
2. Mr. Collins is concerned about keeping students and staff safe and asked about addressing the topic of mandating a vaccine. Ms. Ulrich suggested tabling this until a vaccine has been approved for all K-12 students. Dr. Morales said we would need to get a legal opinion, and this falls more under his role as superintendent. This would also be a consideration for every school district.

O. FUTURE MEETINGS

Date: Monday, September 27, 2021
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: Monday, October 25, 2021
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

P. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Teasdale adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Date: 9/27/21


Michael Teasdale, Board President

Date: 9-28-21


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.*