

**VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
January 23, 2023**

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. 23-01, was called to order by Arleigh Kidd, Board President, at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 23, 2023, 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 Mr. Kidd, 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
Emily Mostovoy-Luna, Associate Superintendent, SELPA
Teri Page, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Lisa Bork, Sr. Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Cathy Samuel, Executive Assistant
3. Approval of Agenda
Dr. Lisagor made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Ulrich seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously (5:0).

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Carole Shelton, Thousand Oaks
2. Jack Shelton, Thousand Oaks
3. Cherie Egbert, Ventura, CA
4. Anne Whatley, Ventura, CA

C. HEARINGS

Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Case No. 23-01

Ms. Ulrich moved the Board deny Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Case No. 23-01. 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 manner.

D. CLOSED SESSION

None.

E. PRELIMINARY

Dr. Flores moved the minutes of the Annual Organizational Board Meeting of December 12, 2022, be approved. Ms. Ulrich seconded the motion, and the motion carried 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

Academic Decathlon, Interview and Speech	January 28, 2023
VCSBA Dinner Meeting	January 30, 2023
805 Industry Day (Oxnard College)	February 3, 2023
Academic Decathlon SuperQuiz and Awards	February 4, 2023
Mock Trial	February 6-9, 2023
Mock Trial Awards	February 10, 2023
Migrant Education Family Conference	February 11, 2023
Digital Equity Conference	February 23, 2023
805 Industry Day (Ventura College)	February 24, 2023
VCOE Equity Conference	March 7, 2023
805 Industry Day (Moorpark College)	March 10, 2023
CCBE County Governance Workshop	March 10-11, 2023
Science Fair	March 24, 2023
Migrant Education Speech & Debate Tournament	March 25, 2023
Science Fair Awards	March 27, 2023
VCSBA Dinner Meeting	April 27, 2023
Battle of the Books	April 28, 2023
Teacher of the Year VCOE	End of April, 2023
Boswell Art Walk	May 2, 2023
Student Art Show	May 18, 2023
Impact II Awards	May 23, 2023
All Staff Gathering	May 24, 2023
Teacher of the Year-Ventura County	End of May, 2023

BOARD COMMENTS:

Dr. Flores attended the training for new and returning board members on Saturday, January 7, 2023 with his daughter, board member for Oxnard Union High School District. The VCOE Hackathon was being held the same day at the conference center. Dr. Flores was very impressed with the students' knowledge of programming language and code. He wanted to thank Dr. Julie Judd and Dana Thompson for their efforts in putting this event together.

He and Dr. Morales will sit on a panel at the CCBE meeting in March on Board member relationships. He is also hoping Ms. Key will present a deep dive presentation on budgets.

Dr. Lisagor attends meetings of the CSUCI Foundation Board. He has been immersed in the early planning that our county office is partnered with CSUCI and others to develop and build the Early Childhood Development center at the campus. They are about half-way through

raising and identifying funding for this 46 million dollar project that is vital to the county and region.

Mr. Teasdale reported that 300 of the new CCBE Board Handbooks were ordered in the last three weeks.

Ms. Ulrich thanked administration for keeping her apprised of information concerning Ojai Unified School District. The community is stressed and worried. She is looking forward to a solution. She would like to attend the CCBE Workshop in March in Sacramento.

Mr. Kidd attended a Providence graduation on January 12th and will attend two more graduations tomorrow, January 24th. He commented on the nice addition of an overhead cover in the Providence courtyard.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Misty Key reported on behalf of Dr. Morales. She thanked Dr. Flores for the offer to present at the CCBE meeting in March. She is always happy to highlight the board and the budget.

VCOE (specifically Teri Page) is leading the effort for the Briggs Superintendent search. Superintendent Deborah Cuevas is retiring.

The Board has requested more information on Transitional Kindergarten. Alicia McFarland is preparing additional information to share at a future Board meeting on what her and her team have been providing to the entire county as well as the statewide effort.

The second meeting with Engie Services will be held tomorrow to discuss the energy project. VCOE is positioning ourselves to be the “hub” or “go-to” site for business and instructional operations should there be a major power outage. She also mentioned that VCOE spent \$649,000 on electricity in 2021-22.

Mr. Teasdale asked Ms. Key to elaborate more on what being the center of the hub for electricity and energy means. Ms. Key used an example of the fires in Ventura County a few years ago; one school district was not able to meet payroll due to power outages and no internet connectivity. We want to have our buildings here to have some type of source of power to continue necessary functions.

Ms. Key highlighted the schools from Ventura County who have been honored as a 2023 Distinguished School. Ms. Ulrich congratulated the River Oaks staff in the audience on being a distinguished school.

Ms. Key mentioned that Lisa Brown is the winner of the State Leadership Award from the National Association of Federal Education Program Administrators.

I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Mr. Teasdale mentioned that CSBA is talking to a government relations person who is willing to explore sponsoring something with Career Technical Education. He is also working with other educational entities to create a coalition.

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
3. Williams Quarterly Report
4. School Accountability Report Cards

Dr. Lisagor made a motion to approve Consent Items J1 – J4. Ms. Ulrich seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously (5:0).

K. PRESENTATIONS

None.

L. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/ACTION

1. Annual Programmatic Audit Presentation by Bridges Charter School – DISCUSSION / INFORMATION (30 minutes)

On February 16, 2010, the Ventura County Board of Education approved the charter school petition for Bridges Charter School. On March 23, 2020, the Board approved the renewal of Bridges Charter School, with the term of the charter expiring on June 30, 2027. In accordance with the VCOE Charter School Progress Report Timeline, representatives from Bridges Charter School will present information required in the annual programmatic audit detailed in the Memorandum of Understanding.

Marlo Hartsuyker introduced Bridges Charter School Director, Dr. Kelly Simon. The focus areas are focusing on one-time dollars and how to use these dollars to directly impact students.

Dr. Simon talked about the shifts in the last three years moving through the Pandemic and the changes families have made for their student's education. Many have moved out of the area. Bridges has lost approximately 50 students in the pandemic years. Bridges is a community school driven by parent engagement and involvement. Last year Bridges invested in a community renewal project. They gathered information from teachers, staff, parents and students. This information was used to bring the community back together. Bridges staff also came up with seven findings to drive the school year.

Bridges is seeing some growth in enrollment, however attendance is lower than expected. They are seeing increases in RSP and COVID. The enrollment trend has shifted. The SPED population has grown 5%. Students with special learning needs are enrolling. The Hispanic population has grown by 4%. Bridges has a small number of homeless students as well as three immigrant families.

Five years ago, Dr. Flores talked about the need to be serving communities where we are established. Bridges is trying to do that, there has been very intentional outreach to

the Spanish and Latinx population. This population has grown despite the lower enrollment.

Much of the funding is all about supporting student success. Students are dealing notable increases with anxiety, depression, lack of social skills, and harassments with LGBTQ and racial conflicts. This trend is consistently reported across the country. It is clear that students are in need of more support in school. The Bridges school psychologist is now full time. Field trips are now restarting with AstroCamp, Yosemite, Catalina Island and Washington D.C.

Monthly Family Literacy Nights that started during the pandemic are continuing with the Librarian. The art teacher has made huge strides in building energy around the art programs. A Passion Project was recently highlighted in the Thousand Oaks Acorn. All three of Bridges students who applied to the National Arts Society were accepted. There were over 2200 applicants, they selected 120 of which three are Bridges students.

Bridges has reduced their governance to five Board members. Their three Board committees have become active working committees in line with strengthening governance and oversight of the school in alignment with LCAP goals. Teachers have invested in equity and diversity training as well as safety training. Staff feels prepared, not just for an active shooter situation, but how to respond to symptoms of bullying or distress.

As they look at the CAASPP results, last year was the first time state assessments have been given to students since 2019. Although they did see a drop in scores compared to 2018 and 2019, 62% percent of students met or exceeded standards, and out-performed the state by 15% and this is consistent with math scores as well. Bridges is using these scores to establish a baseline. Significant success academically is seen in students who have been at Bridges for three or more years.

For ELA scores, Bridges students on average scored 27 ½ points above the standard in 2022, which is lower than past years, but still averages above the standard similar to pre-COVID times.

Students in the 5th and 7th grade took the California Healthy Kids Survey. Despite challenges, students continue to feel safe.

For the Project Covitality with Santa Barbara, surveys were administered two times to 3rd – 8th graders. The majority of students fall into the “thriving” range. Students who are in the “non-thriving” range can also be identified which helps catch those kids who otherwise would have fallen through the cracks.

Rudy Calasin discussed the budget. Bridges enrollment is down 50 students this year. The budget was for 405 students. Bridges is looking at what can be done in future years to balance the budget. The enrollment recently increased from 357 to 360. The second interim will look better.

Going forward Bridges needs to be as conservative as possible in enrollment projections. They are seeing fruits this year from previous marketing. On the positive side, the COLA is projected to be higher next year. When dealing with drops in revenue one has to look at the expenditures. Staff has been reduced by two teachers. Despite the numbers they are still expecting a surplus of \$89,000. Mr. Calasin suggests putting the Learning Recovery Block Grant funds in reserve. Overall, even though the budget isn't great based off the enrollment curveball, there is a healthy reserve and one-time revenues to weather the storm. They are fortunate to have the one-time revenues to buy some time until the enrollment grows.

Ms. Ulrich applauded Bridges for maintaining high levels of service.

Dr. Simon said they are getting a sense of where their new baseline is. Classes are not at capacity. Scores are important, but students' needs are high priority. They are working with students and increasing their capacity as students and individuals. With all that in place, academics will fall in line – both can be done at the same time.

Assistant Director, Cindy McCarthy said as a math teacher of 27 years she feels that students can't learn until all of their other needs are met. In today's world kids have to know they are in a healthy place.

Mr. Kidd said it appears Bridges will use the flexibility of the Arts Block Grant funds for PERS/STRS, etc. Mr. Calasin said Prop 28 is not built in and they are not allowed to supplant current expenditures. One times funds should be able to help for this year and next year. Bridges is promoting their school to increase enrollment.

Dr. Flores asked if all devices are provided to all students. Dr. Simon said yes, all students have one-to-one devices.

Ms. Ulrich asked about the CAASPP numbers saying out of 391 students for the year 21-22 only 223 took the ELA and 219 took the math. Dr. Simon indicated that kindergarten through second graders don't take the assessment.

With the Expanded Learning Opportunity Program, after school care is offered free of charge to 100% of economically disadvantaged families.

One of the areas of projected growth is the expansion of the Transitional Kindergarten program through the homeschool. The program offers a four-day TK program with a 10-1 student/teacher ratio.

2. Approval of VCOE Board Policy 6146.11, Alternative Credits Towards Graduation – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION (5 minutes)

Christina Mahone gave some background on purpose of this policy. In November 2022, revisions to 6146.1 High School Graduation Requirements were approved by the Board. Those revisions included removing information pertaining to different ways that students could earn credits towards graduation. The purpose of that policy was just to state what the graduation requirements were for our students enrolled in VCOE schools.

That information was used to create this policy on different ways students can earn credits outside of the regular school day in addition to regular instruction.

Ms. Ulrich asked if there is a limit to credits, and who makes the determination? Ms. Mahone said these are listed in the previous policy. Nothing is new in this policy; this has been the standard. If a student completes high school credits in any of these ways, they can submit those to the high school and as long as those are verified, they will be put on their transcript.

Mr. Teasdale asked about students who wish to get credit for work experience. Ms. Mahone said work experience is an actual class. She isn't certain if there are many VCOE students doing work experience, but in general work experience, a teacher is assigned and there are requirements to fulfill. These are all in education code.

Ms. Ulrich made a motion to waive the second reading and approve Board Policy 6146.11, Alternative Credits Towards Graduation. Dr. Flores seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote (5:0).

M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Teasdale said he was made aware of the firm "Strategos" who we are working with to provide the School Safety Series. He is concerned and has discussed with Dr. Morales, although he understands this firm was brought in by the JPA. He believes this company hosts intolerance and doesn't model the values of public education. Apparently, Strategos has done a good job for the objectives. Mr. Kidd said this may be something we want to propose in future meetings. Dr. Lisagor shares similar concerns that this might be something to put on a future agenda to have a better understanding of the process of hiring this company.

Mr. Kidd commented that as part of the budget, cuts were made to the arts and block grant. CSBA was pushing for flexibility for PERS and STRS. He understands why the governor cut it, but at the same time arts money can't be used for anything but the arts. He suggested bringing this up later in the year with elected county leaders and in budget meetings. We fought hard to get some flexibility and now a third of that flexibility is being proposed to be gone.

N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Discussion on the process to hire the company Strategos.

O. FUTURE MEETINGS

Date: Friday, February 10, 2023
Time: 12:00 p.m.
Location: 5189 Verdugo Way, Simi Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Special Meeting of the Board

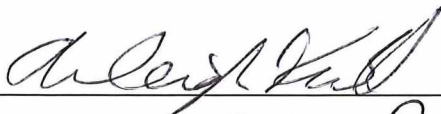
Date: Monday, February 27, 2023
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: Monday, March 13, 2023
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Mr. Kidd adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.


P. ADJOURNMENT

Date: 2/27/23



Arleigh Kidd, Board President

Date: 2/27/23



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