

**VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
March 18, 2019**

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 19-03, was called to order by Dr. Mark Lisagor, Board President, at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 18, 2019, 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 Dr. Lisagor. Mr. Mantooth requested that a moment of reflection be held in honor of the passing of Roger Ruiz, VCOE Facilities Technician.
2. Roll Call
Trustees Present:
Rachel Ulrich, Area 1
Mike Teasdale, Area 2 - *Absent*
Dr. Mark Lisagor, Area 3
Rob Collins, Area 4
Dr. Ramon Flores, Area 5

VCOE Personnel Present:
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
Emily Mostovoy, Assistant Superintendent, SELPA
Lisa Cline, Executive Director, Internal Business
Dr. Julie Judd, Chief Technology Officer
Marlo Hartsuyker, Director, Charter Schools Support
Nancy Akkerman, Senior Executive Assistant
3. Approval of Agenda
Mr. Collins moved the agenda be approved. Dr. Flores seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous vote of those in attendance (4:0).
Mr. Teasdale was absent.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

C. HEARINGS

None.

D. CLOSED SESSION

None.

E. PRELIMINARY

1. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 19, 2019
Mr. Collins moved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 19, 2019 be approved. Dr. Flores seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a 3:0:1 vote; with Dr. Flores, Mr. Collins, and Dr. Lisagor voting aye, and Ms. Ulrich abstaining. Mr. Teasdale was absent.

F. CORRESPONDENCE

1. CSBA Masters in Governance Flyer. Dr. Lisagor noted that CSBA/CCBE will be rolling out a Masters in Governance series more focused on County Offices of Education.
2. Email Invitation to Tour Ventura Charter School and to the Vista Real Charter High School Resource Center Opening, March 15, 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
3. Email Invitation to BRIDGES Charter School Fun Run on March 15, 2019.
4. Email Invitation to TriCounty Education Coalition Meeting, March 15, 2019.

G. PRESIDENT’S AND BOARD MEMBERS’ REPORTS

1. Dr. Lisagor reviewed the Upcoming Events.
2. Dr. Flores reported that he recently attended the VCSBA Dinner on Early Childhood Education. He also attended the Tri-County Education Coalition meeting with Dr. Lisagor and Mr. Teasdale.
3. Mr. Collins reported that he and Mr. Teasdale recently attended a tour of VCOE operated schools with Dr. Rice. He plans to visit the charter schools as well. He also attended the VCSBA Dinner meeting. He found the statistics that 60% of third graders do not read at 3rd grade level; that 30% of children do not attend preschool; and that 16% are in poverty very concerning.
4. Dr. Lisagor reported that he and Mr. Teasdale met with Assemblymember Irwin and discussed Full and Fair Funding for education. He also attended a Providence graduation and a tour of Ventura Charter School. He and Mr. Teasdale attended the CSBA Legislative Action Day in Sacramento where the main issue was the budget. He distributed a position paper supplied by CSBA. He also attended the TriCounty Education Coalition meeting which was also attended by Superintendents, CBOs, Classified, Certified, etc.
5. Dr. Lisagor recognized Ms. Ulrich for her 8 years of service on the County Board of Education.

H. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Mantooth reported on the following activities of the Office:

1. Notification from CDE – First Interim Report accepted.
2. CSBA Legal Alliance Annual Report 2018. This group takes a number of initiatives to the legislature. Dr. Flores noted that CCBE also takes up issues for County Offices. Mr. Collins noted that CSBA has a large lobbying presence in Sacramento.

I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

1. Dr. Lisagor reported that Assemblymember Irwin has authored AB466, regarding the need for one data system instead of the patchwork currently available. AB466 would establish a taskforce to address the issues.

J. CONSENT/ACTION

1. Mileage Reimbursement Claim Form
2. Temporary County Certificates
3. Change Order No. 4 to Viola, Inc. for Camarillo Special Education New Construction: 20 Classroom School Bid 2018-34
4. Change Order No. 5 to Viola, Inc. for Camarillo Special Education New Construction: 20 Classroom School Bid 2018-34

Ms. Ulrich moved the Board approve Consent Items 1-2. Mr. Collins seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous vote of those in attendance (4:0).

Ms. Ulrich noted that Change Orders 4 and 5 are large. Are the full amount of the change orders paid by the State of California? Ms. Key stated that the construction costs including change orders are paid by the State Facilities budget. The total project budget is \$20 million. The construction budget is \$15 million. There is an additional allocation for furniture. A full accounting of all expenses will be provided to the State Architecture upon completion.

Ms. Ulrich moved the Board approve Consent Items 3-4. Mr. Collins seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous vote of those in attendance (4:0).

K. PRESENTATIONS

None.

L. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/ACTION

1. Annual Programmatic Audit Presentation by BRIDGES Charter School –
On February 22, 2010, the Ventura County Board of Education approved the charter petition for BRIDGES. On March 3, 2015, the Board approved the renewal of BRIDGES Charter School. In accordance with the VCOE Charter School Progress Report Timeline, representatives from BRIDGES presented information required in the annual programmatic audit.

Ms. Hartsuyker introduced Dr. Kelly Simon, Director; Cindy McCarthy, Assistant Director; Board members, teachers and parents from Bridges.

Bridges is in their ninth year of operation. Charter Schools were designed to provide alternatives to public school education. Bridges is focused on three areas – Whole Child, Inquiry Across Curriculum and Family Engagement. Activities include: attendance at Inquiry and Implementation Meetings; collaborations with

CDE at Whole Child Learner Symposium; parenting classes; STEM Robotics, and partnerships with local universities and colleges.

Enrollment trends, ADA and Diversity were reviewed. Diversity is a continuing focus, and BRIDGES is not far behind CVUSD. EL population is increasing. Outreach efforts include targeted grassroots campaigns, social media, and presence at free local family events in Thousand Oaks. BRIDGES serves two hot meals a day.

Benny Martinez reviewed the budget for 2018-19. Enrollment went from 395 to 408. BRIDGES offers both a classroom based and a home school program. Bridges has a Finance Committee which helps set LCAP priorities and fiscal policies and procedures. The budget is based on a 3.46% COLA. Step and Column adjustments are budgeted. Their fund balances are consistent.

Student Achievement Results and the Dashboard Report were reviewed. 73.7% of students met or exceeded targets in English language Arts and Literacy. Results consistently higher than those achieved by student s CVUSD.

Students who are not meeting the standard receive an individualized learning program and additional assistance. .

60% of students are meeting or exceeding standards in Mathematics. Instructional changes have been made, including consistency of math instruction in classroom. CAASP Mathematic Results show significant growth in math for all students. Dashboard Data for students at risk show improvement.

School Culture and Climate. Bridges is focused on Whole Child Education. With a total enrollment of 435 students, there were 14 suspensions. New processes have been developed which include a positive behavior plan, on site school counselors, New Positive behavior plans, other alternative to suspension

Ms. Ulrich asked if the Whole Child Learning includes suspension. Mr. Kelly noted that as this was her first year as the Executive Director, she and the Board felt it was important to provide clear limits and parameters. This led to more suspensions.

Results from Parent and Student Climate Surveys were reviewed. 88 surveys were completed with the results being mostly positive.

LCAP Goals 1 – Improve student achievement for all students and subgroups.
Partially Met

Goal 2 – Professional Development for Teachers. – Met

Goal 3 – Provide an Effective Environment for Learning Based on Whole Child Tenets.
Partially Met

Dr. Flores questioned the enrollment process. BRIDGES is trying to publicize themselves as much as possible. Distribution list was in Spanish. They continue to try to publicize themselves to a diverse population of students. Lottery process begins with CVUSD and existing families getting priority; BRIDGES is considering offering priority to diverse population. They are committed to making BRIDGES a strong charter school.

Mr. Collins noted his appreciation for BRIDGES efforts to reach out to a diverse population, but noted that even after nine years, BRIDGES diversity does not closely align with that of Ventura County. Dr. Simon assured the Board that BRIDGES would continue their efforts.

2. Annual Programmatic Audit Presentation by Ventura Charter School of Global Arts and Education (Ventura Charter School)

On April 13, 2006, the Ventura County Board of Education approved the charter petition for Ventura Charter School. In 2011, and on February 22, 2016, the Board approved the renewal of Ventura Charter School. In accordance with the VCOE Charter School Progress Report Timeline, representatives from Ventura Charter School presented information required in the annual programmatic audit.

Marlo introduced Mary Galvin, Director of Operations; Lisa Hildebrand, Director of Education; and Benny Martinez, Business Service Authority; representing Ventura Charter School (VCS). Ms. Galvin presented enrollment data. VCS has 414 classroom based students and 23 homeschool students. There are currently 60 students on the waiting list.

Attendance data was reviewed. ADA dropped in the winter due to illness, and evacuations from the fire and subsequent mudslide concerns. Lottery preference is given to those who live within the EO Green attendance boundaries. The percentage of socio-economically disadvantaged students has grown by 5%. Staffing includes 2 Directors, 19 full time, and 4 part time classroom teachers, 1 full time counselor and various support staff.

Benny Martinez reviewed the VCS budget. The budget is healthy. Enrollment has only changed by 1-2 students, making the budget very consistent. VCS has a Finance Committee that meets four times a year. The budget includes a COLA of 3.46%, no one time dollars. Expenditures include step and column increases, a 5% increase in health benefits, and a 2% increase in non-salary items. \$1.5 million has been set aside for a new facility.

Dr. Flores asked if the \$1.5 million is part of the \$3 million ending fund balance. Mr. Martinez indicated that it is. Dr. Flores asked if there is a reserve policy. Mr. Martinez noted that there is not, but the Finance Committee would make any decisions regarding the reserve. There is a strategic plan in place to look at options to increase enrollment.

Mr. Collins asked what criteria is used to grant admission for students. Ms. Galvin noted that the lottery decides a student's waiting list number. If a position comes open, the next number is offered the position. Once the waiting list is exhausted, students are admitted on a first come, first served basis.

Dashboard results were reviewed. VCS lost 17 instructional days due to the Thomas Fire and following landslide fears. This greatly impacted ADA and chronic absenteeism numbers. In the first year that suspensions were measured, VCS had 3 suspensions. Last year, there were 9 children suspended.

CAASP Scores in English Language Arts and Mathematics were presented, as well as comparisons with the State of California, and Ventura Unified School District. Similar schools are Poinsettia and Loma Vista in grades 3-5. Math scores were down a little probably due to the loss of instructional minutes.

VCS has developed a plan to close the achievement gap which includes addition hours of intervention program, a credentialed teachers now serves their ELD population for 90 minutes a week; a second full-time Learning Center has been opened; and increased professional development opportunities for teachers.

LCAP Goal 1 – Improve student achievement. Met

LCAP Goal 2 – Implement California State Standards through Project Based Learning. – Met

LCAP Goal 3 – Create a safe welcoming inclusive climate for all students and their families – Partially Met.

Parent Involvement is encouraged but it was down by 26% this year. Again, probably due to the fire.

Sharing Best Practices is done through Impact II program competition; collaboration with VUSD, work with EL provides opportunities for VCS teachers to observe model schools and to learn best practices.

Dr. Flores commented that this charter school changed their lottery at this Board's request. He appreciated their efforts to do this.

Mr. Collins asked if VCS students generally have attended preschool. Ms. Galvin said that she was not aware of the percentage of students that have attended preschool.

3. Budget Revision #2

Ms. Key presented Budget Revision #2. Ms. Key thanked the fiscal staff for their work on the budget. Any changes made to the budget since First Interim, including grant awards received, changes in staffing, and details, are noted. There were minor changes.

Page 2, Summary of Programs by Branch. The change in Career Education is the result of spending down the grant funds. VCOE has still not received notification on the actual grant awards for 2019-20 and that is causing some concern related to the programs the Office will be able to operate next year.

Ms. Ulrich asked about staffing. Mr. Mantooth noted that career education teachers don't achieve tenure. All teachers are notified annually that they may not have a job the following year. The Office notifies them as quickly as possible of assignments for the following year as the budget is built back. This year, administrators of the program were also notified of potential for no position.

Page 3, Educational Services Branch, Classified School Employee Program and Induction/Teacher Support.

Both programs budgets are being spent down deliberately.

Page 3, P-20 Council. Ms. Ulrich asked if there has always been a line item for the P-20 Council. Mr. Mantooth noted that the fiscal agent for the P-20 Council is CSUCI. When VCOE accesses funds that P-20 spends, it has to be recorded. The P-20 Council is beginning to see more activities.

Ms. Ulrich moved the Board approve Budget Revision #2 as presented. Dr. Flores seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous vote of those in attendance (4:0).

4. Second Interim Report

Ms. Key presented the Second Interim Report that is in the State required format. The Second Interim Report does have a positive certification noting that VCOE can pay its obligations this year and the subsequent two years.

Page 7, Attendance (ADA). ADA is declining. Total decline countywide was approximately 2,000.

Page 25, General Fund. "Board Approved Operating Budget" are the First Interim numbers. "Projected Year Totals" are Second Interim numbers. A MAA reimbursement check and mandate block grant was received, increasing unrestricted revenue by about \$850,000. Restricted revenue adjustments were: \$1.4 million received from federal grant awards, the special education program received COLA, interagency contracts of \$445,000; Career Education, final grant spending of \$300,000; \$250,000 HAAS Automation Grant; and an increase in foster youth transportation revenue.

Expenditures increase by \$2.2 million in response to the changes in revenue. The amount of overall deficit spending decreased by \$600,000. Salaries and benefits were adjusted based on any vacancies. Cost of supplies are now up to date; Gateway School purchased a van to help students get to school; equipment was purchased for the hearing program; and other items were purchased with one time dollars. What is not included yet is a settlement with our unions – a 2% salary increase.

Page 57, State School Construction Fund. The total construction budget for the Samples Educational Services Center of \$14,997,500 is noted. This is in line with the projected income and expenses for construction.

Page 64, Cashflow. Projections show the Office is fiscally solvent.

Ms. Ulrich asked about Gateway's van purchase. What is the insurance when we transport students or when teachers transport students? There is an extensive Superintendent's Policy that directs the safety precautions. The office also maintains adequate insurance coverage.

Dr. Lisagor noted that the Office is experiencing a 1.5% loss of enrollment. What will happen if that were to continue? Gateway and Providence are the only programs that are funded by LCFF. VCOE is in hold harmless with LCFF. Classes have been consolidated to address the decline and to align expenses with enrollment.

Ms. Ulrich moved the Board acknowledge review of the Second Interim Report with the Superintendent's positive certification. Mr. Collins seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous vote of those in attendance (4:0).

5. Approval of Revisions to Board Policy 1312.3, Uniform Complaint Procedures
Mr. Mantooth noted that VCOE was on cycle for a Federal Program Monitoring (FPM) review. To insure program compliance, revisions to Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 1312.3, Uniform Complaint Procedure, were required.

Ms. Ulrich moved the Board waive the second reading and approve revisions to Board Policy 1312.3, Uniform Complaint Procedure, as presented. Dr. Flores seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous vote of those in attendance (4:0). Administrative Regulation attached for the Board's information.

M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

1. Dr. Flores wished Mr. Mantooth a Happy Birthday. He requested that we adjourn in honor of Roger Ruiz, Facilities Technician.
2. Mr. Collins asked for Mr. Mantooth's perception of the Governor's proposed budget. Will the initiatives regarding funding for Early Childhood education materialize? Mr. Mantooth noted that the initiatives will likely change before the budget is adopted, but he hopes education will see some of this funding come through. A lot of these proposals are multi-year efforts.
3. Mr. Collins commented on the college admissions scandal which further highlights the differences between upper and lower income parents and the advantages that the upper class students already have.
4. Ms. Ulrich noted that she and Mr. Teasdale will be meeting with Mr. Mantooth on March 27th.

N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Charter School Annual Programmatic Audits:
River Oaks Academy – April 22, 2019
2. Options for Increasing Funding for Education – *Rob Collins*
3. Report from Subcommittee on Ventura County Board of Education Goals and Objectives Review Process.

O. FUTURE MEETINGS

Date: Friday, April 12, 2019 (*Budget Study Session*)
Time: 8:00 a.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: Monday, April 22, 2019
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

P. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Lisagor adjourned the meeting in memory of Roger Ruiz, Facilities Technician, at 7:52 p.m.

Approved by Board Action on 4/12/19.

*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.*