

**VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF
JANUARY 5, 2022**

A. CALL TO ORDER / SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

1. Call To Order, Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and Moment of Reflection
The Special Board Meeting of the Ventura County Board of Education, Agenda No. 22-01, was called to order by Rachel Ulrich, Board President, at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 5, 2022, via ZOOM teleconference. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Ms. Ulrich, followed by a moment of reflection.
2. Roll Call and Acknowledgement of Guests
Trustees Present:
Rachel Ulrich, Area 1
Mike Teasdale, Area 2
Dr. Mark Lisagor, Area 3
Arleigh Kidd, 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
Lisa Salas Brown, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services
Dr. Julie Judd, Chief Technology Officer
Dave Schermer, Communications Director
Lisa Bork, Senior Executive Assistant
Cathy Samuel, Executive Assistant
3. Approval of Resolution 22-01– Holding Virtual Board Meetings
Dr. Lisagor made a motion for Resolution 22-01 to be approved. Dr. Teasdale seconded the motion and the resolution passed upon a unanimous roll call vote (4:0). (Mr. Kidd was in the process of connecting to the meeting).
4. Approval of Agenda
Mr. Teasdale made a motion for the agenda to be approved. Mr. Kidd seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous roll call vote (5:0).

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

C. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/ACTION

1. Redistricting of Trustee Areas
In conjunction with the recently released 2020 census data, and per the provisions of Education Code Section 1002, the County Board of Education which elects trustees by trustee area has until March 1, 2022, to consider adjusting the boundaries of the trustee

areas to reflect population changes and minimize the population variance between trustee areas. Demographers will present maps that consider school district boundaries and the demographics of the county.

Mr. Chris Chaffee from Redistricting Partners presented information on possible boundaries for trustee areas. There are five criteria that have been used nationally and upheld by courts.

1. Areas are relatively equal in size - people, not citizens.
2. Contiguous – districts should not hop/jump
3. Keep districts compact – appearance/function
4. Maintain “communities of interest”
5. Follow city/county/local government lines

Mr. Chaffee presented two maps.

- Draft Map A reflects changes made to comply with the Federal Voting Rights Act.
- Draft Map B reflects changes made to comply with the Federal Voting Rights Act and align with school districts.

With the new census numbers, although the deviation is still balanced at 6.7%, the Federal Voting Rights Act needs to be followed. The Ventura County Board of Supervisors found that a second minority majority district can be created which ensures minority voting rights are followed.

Mr. Chaffee noted that in both Map A and B, due to VRA needs, Camarillo is split. Somis is incorporated in proposed Area 3.

Mr. Teasdale confirmed that proposed Area 2 includes Conejo Valley and Oak Park Unified School Districts. He asked Mr. Chaffee if it would be correct to say that the two criteria we need to satisfy is to have two minority majority districts in alignment with school district boundaries as much as possible. Mr. Chaffee agreed.

Dr. Flores noted that the Rio School District will be split between Area 3 and Area 5.

Ms. Ulrich said we previously had one minority district, which was Area 5. Mr. Chaffee noted that Area 3 would now also be a minority district at about 50% CVAP (Citizen Voting Age Population).

Dr. Lisagor stated it would be impossible not to split the Oxnard Union HSD.

Dr. Flores inquired how these maps align relative to the college district. Dr. Morales said the community college district is going to consider both the VCOE map and the Board of Supervisors map.

Mr. Kidd appreciates the effort to balance districts. It would be nice if areas weren't split, but he believes we are getting as close as we can to satisfy requirements.

Dr. Flores inquired about Las Virgenes Unified School District since the boundaries are split between Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Ms. Key said there was a territory transfer on the southern end of our county including a portion of the Las Virgenes Unified School District. Las Virgenes collects tax dollars for the portion that is on our county line.

In both of the proposed maps, all VCOE trustees are currently living within the boundaries of their current trustee areas.

Ms. Key noted that once the Board approves a new trustee area map at the Special Board meeting on January 19, the next action is taken at the County Committee meeting and then sent to the Ventura County Elections office.

Ms. Ulrich thanked Redistricting Partners for their work.

D. BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Teasdale thanked the staff for arranging today's meeting. Great work by the demographer to clarify criteria.

Dr. Lisagor said the three Providence graduations recently planned at Providence were changed to be held virtually. However, the students requested to wait until they can be held in person. It is a reminder of the significance of this event for them.

Dr. Flores echoed Mr. Teasdale's comments and reminded Board members he is working with Ms. Ulrich on the CCBE Board training to take place on March 11 and 12th.

Mr. Kidd commented that given the diverse needs and constraints, he liked what he saw today. He is also concerned about the current Covid spike and impact on schools in our county. He is looking forward to updates. He is hoping we don't get to a place where we have to shut down schools.

Ms. Ulrich thanked Dr. Flores for his work on the CCBE Conference on March 11 and 12. Please let Lisa Bork know if you are interested in attending.

Dr. Morales reported the districts which have opened after the holiday break are doing an exceptional job. The recent surge has created staff shortages and lower student attendance. Unlike the college district, we don't have the option to pivot to distance or remote learning. The state and the government have made it clear schools are to remain open. The Covid testing kits were supposed to be delivered prior to students returning to school. We are expecting delivery tomorrow (Thursday 1/6/22) and have a plan in place to distribute to districts on Friday. Kudos to David Fateh for his work and Misty Key for interacting with CBOs for a fast turnaround. Preschools were not accounted for. In conversations with VCPH, Dr. Morales did receive confirmation and commitment that once we do get our distribution, we will pool resources together to ensure the preschool community also has access to kits. This allotment of kits didn't include private schools. Dr. Morales talked with Ventura County Public Health and they are going to work with us to get kits for the private schools as well. Dr. Morales also mentioned districts are struggling with getting substitutes. He is going to meet with superintendents this Friday to compare notes and resources as we try to support districts in welcoming back students.

Mr. Kidd thanked Dr. Morales. There is a lot of talk on ways to change funding in terms of attendance - districts are worried about a fiscal drop off. He is looking forward to hearing from Ms. Key and staff on potential impacts on our county in the future.

Ms. Ulrich asked if charter schools are included in the testing kit allotment. Dr. Morales said yes.

Dr. Lisagor and Mr. Teasdale reminded the group of the CSBA's Legislative Action Day on March 15th in Sacramento.

E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Annual Programmatic Audit for Bridges Charter School January 24, 2022
2. CCBE Computer Survey January 24, 2022

F. FUTURE MEETINGS

Date: Monday, January 19, 2022
Time: 3:30 p.m.
Location: Virtual
Purpose: Special Board Meeting

Date: Monday, January 24, 2022
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Board Meeting

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m.

Date

Rachel Ulrich, Board President

Date

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

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