

**VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
October 25, 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 21-14, was called to order by Mike Teasdale, Board President, at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 25, 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:

Rachel Ulrich, Area 1

Michael Teasdale, Area 2

Dr. Mark Lisagor, Area 3

Dr. Ramon Flores, Area 5

Absent: Rob Collins, Area 4

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

Emily Mostovoy Luna, Associate Superintendent SELPA

Lisa Bork, Senior Executive Assistant

Aurelia Roman, Executive Assistant

Manny Ruiz, Conference Facilities Technician

3. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Ulrich moved the agenda be approved. Dr. Flores seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous vote (4:0).

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

C. HEARINGS

None

D. CLOSED SESSION

None.

E. PRELIMINARY

1. Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting of September 27, 2021.
Ms. Ulrich moved the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 27, 2021 be approved. Dr. Flores seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous vote (3:0). Dr. Lisagor abstained.

F. CORRESPONDENCE

None

G. PRESIDENT'S AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

Dr. Flores attended the CCBE Professional Development Committee meeting. This is a statewide committee to educate Board members throughout the state on their roles and responsibilities. Dr. Flores also participated in the VCSBA meeting on October 18th and was impressed with the presentation by Superintendent Dr. Tiffany Morse and Trustee Shelly Griffen from Ojai Unified on innovative ways to deal with declining enrollment. Dr. Flores hosted members of the VCOE Leadership Team at the Naval Base on October 12th. He also had the pleasure of being a "Principal for a Day" at Dwire School on October 19th. The highlight of his visit was when a non-verbal student typed in his device "Welcome, I am glad you are here."

Dr. Lisagor attended the VCSBA meeting as well and was surprised at the data received from FCMAT, ranking Ventura County as number two in the state in declining enrollment only second to Los Angeles County.

Ms. Ulrich has accepted the Chair position of the CCBE Development Committee. Dr. Charles Weis will also bring his expertise to the committee. A professional development workshop is planned for March 11 and 12, 2022.

Ms. Ulrich said Dr. Morse did an outstanding job at the VCSBA meeting. Ms. Ulrich was disappointed to see the vandalism at the Ojai Unified School District office. She said regardless of views or beliefs, destruction of property is never okay. She is looking forward to the Civic Alliance State of the Region Report on November 17th.

Mr. Teasdale is running for CSBA Director at Large.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Morales participated in his first in-person CCSESA meeting last week in San Francisco. The CCSESA priorities were established for the year with a focus on support for mental health, discussions on the four billion dollars in state funds to build infrastructure, Special Education funding, Governance conversations and advocacy efforts.

Today Dr. Morales received verbal and written communication from Mr. Rob Collins that he will be resigning his position as Trustee effective today, October 25, 2021. This will require the Board to consider how to fill this vacancy. Dr. Morales reminded the Board that the December Board meeting is the Annual Organizational meeting and whatever process the Board chooses, he would recommend the goal be the December meeting to maintain continuity.

Dr. Morales indicated there are many unfilled certificated and classified positions in Ventura County, and throughout the state. There are specific needs in the credentials area, and overall work to meet the needs of districts. Los Angeles County has started to send people to VCOE to

information required in the annual programmatic audit detailed in the Memorandum of Understanding which includes provisions for the LCAP.

Dr. Hernandez Williams welcomed Marlo Hartsuyker, VCOE Charter School Director. Ms. Hartsuyker said charter schools have adapted to the pandemic challenges and have excelled. She welcomed the River Oaks team including Claudia Weintraub, Director and the newest Board member, Mr. Benny Martinez.

Maria Montagne, Instructional Coordinator led the presentation. River Oaks budgets growth projections at about 3% each year. However, last year due to the hold harmless clause, enrollment was capped at the 2019-20 numbers. This year with no restrictions, enrollment is growing again. Word of mouth is the best advertisement. This is the first year River Oaks had a waitlist and in March a lottery was held. Thirty-six percent of River Oaks students are enrolled at the Oxnard site, which is an increase of 5%. The average attendance rate is 98.5%. River Oaks accepts all students as long as there is room. A new science teacher has been hired to implement NGSS standards. The social/emotional health of students is high priority; the best academic outcomes can only be achieved if the whole child's needs are met and addressed.

River Oaks follows COVID 19 guidelines. Students meet in small cohorts; no staff or student has caught the virus from being on campus.

Ninety-five percent of students participated in the 2020-21 State tests. CAASPP results show that 67% of ELA students met or exceeded standards and in Math, 49% met or exceeded the standards. River Oaks students are testing above the state average.

The River Oaks SEL program has been extremely successful for students, parents and staff. The Oxnard facility has a wellness center. There is a parent speaker series with such topics as stress management and compassionate communication.

Rudy Calasin, Director, VCSBSA, said River Oaks is on solid financial footing due to great financial oversight by Claudia Weintraub and Benny Martinez. Whether budgeting for the current year or a multi-year projection, River Oaks is always very conservative when it comes to enrollment, revenues and expenditures. There is tremendous growth potential at the Oxnard facility.

When looking at the projected surplus or deficit for the current year, there is a deficit of \$112,000. Last year River Oaks received ELO grant funds. River Oaks understood the funds were supposed to be recognized last year and spent this year. It turns out the state divided it up and River Oaks received about 60-70% of the funds last year and 30-40% of it this year. Just on this factor alone, the deficit is wiped out. River Oaks already had a plan to run a summer school program which will generate an additional \$177,000 projected revenue.

Non-classroom-based charter schools receive much less COVID relief funding. River Oaks only received the federal and state portions of the CARES act. The school didn't receive ESSER funding or the In-Person Instruction Grant. River Oaks did receive the Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant which will be used to fund the summer school program.

Ms. Ulrich asked how inflation is accounted for? Mr. Calasin said they tend to budget for an inflation factor of 2%.

As they reflected on their program last year, Ms. Montagne said they grew significantly in the following three areas:

1. Social/emotional learning connections
2. Academic perseverance
3. High school program – College and Career won a silver medal from Academic Innovations and was featured in the local newspaper.

Dr. Flores thanked the team for their presentation. He acknowledged Benny Martinez as a great addition to the Board. He appreciated the deep dive on student performance data and asked if students have devices and hotspots. Ms. Montagne said hotspots were purchased and all students have laptops.

Dr. Lisagor appreciates the impact River Oaks is having on a group of students who are challenged. The result is that these kids are in school; the learning loss may not be as significant as with traditional programs.

Ms. Ulrich thanked the River Oaks Charter team for being such an excellent charter school and a leader. She complimented the SEL connections and wellness center and asked how many people took advantage of this. Ms. Montagne said the center is a welcoming place and well attended by students and staff. The plans are to open a wellness center at the Westlake site. The summer academy is open to any high school student. Ms. Ulrich also asked how many students are multi-year River Oaks students. Ms. Weintraub will research and send data to the Board. Ms. Montagne commented that they will have their first graduate student who has been with River Oaks since Kindergarten.

Mr. Teasdale is always impressed with the leadership and teachers at River Oaks. He too, would like to see the data of students who stay at River Oaks. Mr. Teasdale inquired about the low 1.7% English learners. Ms. Weintraub mentioned there needs to be someone who can supervise the students. Sometimes with both parents working, this can be difficult.

2. Adoption of 2021-2022 Course of Study for Court and Community Schools and Special Education

The 2021-2022 Court and Community Schools and Special Education Program Course of Study was presented for the Board's review and requested adoption at the VCBE Board meeting on September 27, 2021. These courses have been available for review since September 27, 2021 in the Ventura County Office of Education, Administrative Services Center, 5189 Verdugo Way, Camarillo.

Ms. Ulrich said the curriculum looks amazing and asked if a lot of students take the A-G classes. Ms. Harding said not a lot of students do, but now that it is being offered, it is hopeful more students will take advantage of these classes.

Ms. Ulrich made a motion to adopt the 2021-2022 Course of Study for Court and Community Schools and Special Education. Dr. Lisagor seconded the motion and it passed upon a unanimous roll call vote (4:0).

3. Adoption of New Courses for the Career Education Center Program

The Career Education Center Program new courses were presented for the Board's review and requested adoption at the VCBE Board meeting on September 27, 2021. Copies of the Introduction to Patient Care, Automotive Structural Repair and Refinishing, Automotive Maintenance, and Automotive Electrical Systems Diagnostics courses have been available for review since September 27, 2021 in the Ventura County Office of Education, Administrative Services Center, 5189 Verdugo Way, Camarillo.

Dr. Lisagor appreciates responding to the needs in the community. He foresees jobs at the end of these programs.

Dr. Flores is impressed with the type of rigor these classes offer. It challenges students and raises the bar. He asked if there are new teachers filling in these spots.

Ms. McGrady said the difficulties of getting teachers have been primarily in manufacturing STEM courses. It is difficult to find qualified individuals who are willing to leave high paying jobs to work in education; however, once they do start working with students, they do find a different kind of reward and teachers have stayed. More teachers are needed, they are using advisory councils to help find qualified instructors.

Mr. Teasdale asked if CEC is looking for full time instructors. Ms. McGrady said they are always looking for full time and part time. Some instructors like to keep one foot in industry and work part time teaching.

Ms. Ulrich complimented how robust our CEC courses have been over the last decade and asked if enrollment has been steady. Ms. McGrady answered yes and no - some programs continue to be popular and competitive such as certified nurse assistant, medical assistant and autobody restoration. The struggle is with manufacturing and engineering STEM programs – mostly because people don't know what there are. Community colleges are in the same predicament.

Ms. Arnold said over the last few years, there has been a significant shift with Career Technical Education, much of the funding now goes to districts which is part of the LCFF and LCAP. In addition, the pandemic has made a big impact. The College and Career Readiness Indicator has more clearly defined standards and there was a shift in the number of hours to ensure classes met the requirements. Students are still very interested in CECs programs, and we are trying to work more closely with the community colleges. Moorpark College developed an electronics engineering technology program; however there wasn't enough students to fill the class. CEC is tracking and exploring how to have a high-quality program that meets the industry needs.

Ms. Ulrich commented that with high schools being on community college campuses, it could be a nice bridge for students to understand there are a lot of career pathways. Not all require a 4-year degree.

Mr. Teasdale is very supportive of career education and believes students need to be aware of the program at the middle school level. Ms. Arnold said the VC Innovates Grant introduced this concept to middle school students that aligned with high school programs. CEC is working with districts to assist them with programs that feed into high schools. VCOE has a new Strong Workforce Pathway Coordinator, Anthony Marengo.

Mr. Teasdale knows people in the factory industry for biotech if students are interested in touring.

Ms. Ulrich made a motion to adopt New Courses for the Career Education Center Program. Dr. Flores seconded the motion and it passed upon a unanimous roll call vote (4:0).

4. Adoption of Textbooks for Career Education Center Program.

A committee comprised of VCOE Career Education Center (CEC) educators and industry partners have selected a comprehensive standards-based curriculum and textbook for the Certified Nursing Assistant Program offered through the VCOE CEC. These materials are aligned to the California Department of Public Health Nurse Assistant Certification Training Program. The following textbook is recommended for adoption:

- **CNA: Nursing Assistant Certification, California Edition**, August Learning Solutions 2020

Copies of the textbook have been available for review since September 27, 2021 in the Ventura County Office of Education, Administrative Services Center, 5189 Verdugo Way, Camarillo.

Dr. Lisagor made a motion to adopt **CNA: Nursing Assistant Certification, California Edition**, August Learning Solutions 2020. Ms. Ulrich seconded the motion and it passed upon a unanimous roll call vote (4:0).

5. Review of 2021-2022 Course of Study for Ventura County Career Education Center

The Ventura County Office of Education Career Education Center 2021-2022 Course of Study is being presented for the Board's review and requested adoption. Per Board Policy No. 6143, these courses of study conform to the county graduation requirements, provide students the opportunity to attain skills appropriate for entry-level employment in business and industry upon graduation from high school, and prepare students for college and career access.

Copies of the Ventura County Office of Education Career Education Center Course of Study will be available for review at the Ventura County Office of Education, Administrative Services Center, 5189 Verdugo Way, Camarillo, beginning October 25, 2021, and continuing through an anticipated adoption on November 29, 2021. The Board and general public are encouraged to view these items.

Ms. Ulrich inquired why the term "ROP" is still used. Ms. Arnold replied that the Career Education Center is a physical site; however, CEC is still designated as a Regional

Occupation Program with a CDS Code. That is the umbrella under which we serve students in the county.

Mr. Teasdale asked if local school districts have reached out to work with CEC. Ms. Arnold said that is done mostly through the Strong Workforce Program where districts feel it would be better served to be part of a consortium group. There are different events where we partner together such as an event with the Community College counselors from the county.

Ms. McGrady said there are some areas where it makes more sense to be at the districts, such as sports medicine, arts, and media entertainment. CEC keeps highly specialized programming, but other areas are better served at the district level.

Ms. Ulrich is looking forward to seeing data at the upcoming Civic Alliance meeting on November 17th. With her teaching at Oxnard college, Ms. Ulrich is always trying to work with students and help them navigate their career pathways.

6. Approval of Revisions to VCOE English Learner Master Plan

On September 28, 2020, the Board adopted the VCOE English Learner Master Plan. The Plan was recently reviewed to ensure compliance per the 2021-22 CDE Federal Program Monitoring Instrument.

Dr. Hernandez Williams said there are no content revisions, just a few minor updates to the template.

Dr. Flores made a motion to approve the revisions to the VCOE English Learner Plan. Dr. Lisagor seconded the motion and it passed upon a unanimous roll call vote (4:0).

7. Adoption of Ventura County Office of Education ESSER III Expenditure Plan –

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III funds were provided to school districts as part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP Act), signed into law on March 11, 2021. The ESSER III Expenditure Plan is a requirement for LEAs receiving funding. LEAs must explain how they will use ESSER III funds to address students' academic, social, emotional and mental health needs, as well as any opportunity gaps that existed before, and were worsened by, the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds are available for use through September 30, 2024 and can be used for costs dating back to March 13, 2020. ESSER III Expenditure Plans must be adopted by the local governing board or body of the LEA at a public meeting on or before October 29, 2021.

Christina Mahone said the process for creating the ESSER plan starts with community engagement which includes students, classified and certificated staff, families, parents, guardians and administrators. It now includes community agencies and advocates, as well as tribes as these groups pertain to VCOE schools and programs.

Community engagement was sought with a survey and meetings. There were 319 responses to the survey initiated last September. Compared with previous data, the priorities were very similar. Topics that rose to the top were students social-emotional

wellbeing and support of students with disabilities. We took these priorities to form the creation of the ESSER III Expenditure Plan. This is a living document, meant to be monitored to be effective in meeting the needs of our students.

Ms. Ulrich asked if there are specific ways to address learning loss? Ms. Mahone responded that offering tutoring outside of class time, the extended school year, and credit recovery are planned.

Ms. Ulrich asked if there is a concern about staffing the expanded learning efforts. Dr. Hernandez Williams said she has been impressed with the way staff (both certificated and classified) went above and beyond during the pandemic to fill in gaps. She believes this will help support these efforts. Ms. Ulrich asked if there would be enhanced compensation and Dr. Hernandez Williams confirmed yes.

Mr. Teasdale asked how many students and parents responded out of the 319 responses to the survey. Ms. Mahone said there were about 20-30 student responses and 50 parent responses. Mr. Teasdale asked if there were different priorities from parents/students vs. staff and teachers. Ms. Mahone said they were all similar.

Mr. Teasdale noticed there is about \$270,000 in funding for social/emotional support. What does this involve? Ms. Mahone said it is a mixture of social/emotional curriculum and a specialist. Mr. Teasdale asked what the \$930,000 for extended learning opportunities means. Ms. Mahone said the majority of this expenditure is the summer school. Ms. Mahone also stated the majority of the technology expenses would be to help students with disabilities.

Ms. Ulrich made a motion to adopt the Ventura County Office of Education ESSER III Expenditure Plan. Dr. Flores seconded the motion and it passed upon a unanimous roll call vote (4:0).

8. Determine Date for Governance Retreat

Dr. Lisagor suggested postponing this item until the Board is at full capacity with five members.

Ms. Ulrich make a motion to table this item until December 13 to have a discussion. Dr. Lisagor seconded the motion and it carried by a unanimous vote. (4:0)

M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Ulrich mentioned Mr. Collins will be missed and she hopes he is doing well.

Dr. Lisagor got to know Mr. Collins very well when traveling to Sacramento together. He appreciates Mr. Collins' 50 plus years of experience in education, his was an educator at heart. Dr. Lisagor wishes him well.

Mr. Teasdale said Mr. Collins was a true educator.

N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. CCBE computer survey
2. District boundaries
3. New Board Member

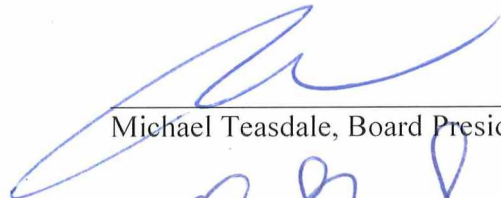
O. FUTURE MEETINGS

Date: Monday, December 13, 2021
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Annual Organizational Meeting

P. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Teasdale adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Date: 11/29/21



Michael Teasdale, Board President

Date: 12-6-21



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

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