

VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
April 26, 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 21-07, was called to order by Mike Teasdale, Board President, at 6:00 p.m., on April 26, 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 - *Absent*
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 Williams, Associate Superintendent, Student Services
Emily Mostovoy-Luna, Associate Superintendent, SELPA, CHPP and Hearing
Dr. Nancy Carroll, Interim Associate Superintendent, Educational Services
Marlo Hartsuyker, Director, Charter Schools
Nancy Akkerman, Senior Executive Assistant
Lisa Bork, Senior Executive Assistant
Brian Meza, Conference Facilities Technician
3. Approval of Agenda
Ms. Ulrich moved that agenda be approved. Dr. Flores seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous vote (4:0). Mr. Collins was absent.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

C. HEARINGS

None.

D. CLOSED SESSION

None.

E. PRELIMINARY

1. Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting of April 16, 2021.
Dr. Lisagor moved the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 16, 2021 be approved. Dr. Flores seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a 3:0:1 vote with Dr. Lisagor, Dr. Flores and Mr. Teasdale voting aye and Ms. Ulrich abstaining.

F. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

G. PRESIDENT'S AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

1. Dr. Morales noted the upcoming events and explained that VCOE operated schools are looking into end of year events to determine if it is permissible under current COVID-19 regulations for Board members and staff to attend.
2. Ms. Ulrich reported that she will be attending the CSBA Delegate Assembly meeting on May 15-16, 2021.
3. Mr. Teasdale reported that he finished the Masters in Governance for County Board members. He found it very useful. It addressed some of the vague areas of responsibility that are incumbent upon this position.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Morales reported on the following activities of the office:

1. Dr. Morales thanked everyone for their support at the Swearing In ceremony. His family was very impressed, and he thanked the office and facilities staff for their work on the event. Dr. Morales indicated that he looks forward to the opportunities that lie ahead.

I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

None.

J. CONSENT/ACTION ITEMS

1. Temporary County Certificates
2. Disposal of Property
3. Williams Quarterly Report to County Board of Education
4. 2021-22 School Year Calendar for Gateway, Providence, Career Education, and VCOE Operated Special Education Programs
5. Certification of Signatures

Dr. Lisagor moved Consent Items 1-5 be approved. Dr. Flores seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous vote (4:0).

Individual Board members signed the Certification of Signatures.

Rudy Calasin presented information on the budget. The 2020-21 Estimated Budget was based on second interim but a lot has changed. MATES has returned to in-person instruction with the grant funds. Free lunches will be provided again next year. STRS and PERS rates have changed, and there is additional revenue from State and Federal grants anticipated. Enrollment in the Personalized Learning Program is projected to increase next year. Federal CARES Act funding is included, but MATES is not expecting much more federal funding as MATES is not a Title I school. MATES has received \$365,000 in extra State revenue this year which will be spent this year since MATES has been open since November. The Learning Opportunity Grant will be spent next year. Federal and State reimbursement for free meals will increase next year.

Expenditures include an increase in Certificated salaries due to the hiring of two new teachers to reduce class sizes in grades 4 and 5. MATES anticipates continuing to employ these two teachers next year. In 2022-23 the teachers will likely be released. Currently the 21-22 budget shows a \$40,000 deficit which will become a \$200,000 surplus upon receipt of the Learning Opportunity Grant. The unrestricted balance will increase to \$100,000. One-time revenues are affecting the budget for this year and next. MATES is in excellent financial shape with a healthy ending balance.

Mr. Teasdale commended MATES on their healthy reserve and asked how MATES plans to use the one-time funding. Mr. Calasin reported that funds will be used to pay for the two new teachers, three first grade aids, and increasing hours for RtI teachers.

Ms. Olshever stated that the MATES Board worked throughout the summer. There was exceptional participation by parents in the ZOOM meetings. Committees were formed to work to prepare for the reopening. Tasks were broken up by committee – Facilities and Safety committee dealt with outdoor classroom, painted traffic flow areas, arranged lunch area, installed handwashing stations, sanitizing plan. The Technology committee worked non-stop; a Curriculum committee drafted a schedule for return, determined the staggered start and end schedules, and proposed class sizes be reduced.

Desks were purchased for each student – and there will be no more sharing of supplies. Policies were updated as needed. Directors, teachers, classified, specialists and office personnel actively participated. 65% of students returned in October and as of March 1st, 89% of students are on campus on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. All students are virtual on Wednesdays. Meet with teachers for one hour and work on projects for the remainder of the day. Students also can remain at home and access the classes via Zoom at the same time.

Students are in cohorts seated 6' apart. Most classes are 20 students. It has not been a problem for students to wear their masks all day long. Frequent hand washing and sanitizers. Campus has been closed to volunteers. Health screening for all students daily. Cleaning schedule has been developed and ventilation has been addressed.

Dr. Walker presented on professional development opportunities for staff. Every staff member has \$300 that can be utilized toward professional development of their choice in addition to in house training which focused on Social-Emotional Learning including a Restorative Justice plan. Partnership with CLU trained staff on Social, Emotional, cultural anchor competencies. Other professional development focused on technology which helped with the upcoming pandemic. Last March all professional development shifted to COVID Response planning. Social Emotional Learning (Heart of an Eagle). Students are recognized with a Heart sticker and in the newsletter. Hosted several Parent Empowerment Nights on helping parents to manage anxiety and assist children during the pandemic.

Student Engagement and Attendance looked different this year. Daily participation was documented. Absences and work completion was monitored. Staff made sure students were attending and engaged. Lots of parent communication. Home visits were provided and staff dropped off learning packets. Attendance actually increased over the past year.

Ms. Olshever addressed learning loss. From March-June 2020, teachers used google classroom, taking students on virtual field trips, having access to IXL, Brain Pop and My Math helped.

Preparation for 2020-21 included lots of teacher-to-teacher grade level communication on what the students learned and where they may be behind. Teachers have made multiple accommodations this year. Small group instruction has helped. Partnership with CLU students who come in to work one on one with students. Teachers can provide 1:1 instruction during student drop off time. There has been an increase in students who require additional services. RtI teachers were brought back in March.

Unexpected results of the pandemic include: loss of fine motor coordination, work organization and work completion skills have been reduced in the primary grades. Parent involvement has increased and students have learned perseverance. The students are very glad to be back in school.

MATES Personalized Learning Program. Nine students were enrolled last year and 21 students this year; the goal for next year is 30. Students are learning from home with access to MATES curriculum and specialists.

Best Practices

CLU Community Collaboration School provides undergraduate students who come to MATES and do their fieldwork. Also several teacher candidates do their student teaching at MATES. CLU professors train MATES our staff.

MATES is part of the California reading and literature project advisory council and also takes part in the VCOE Inquiry and Implementation Network. They have presented on how charter schools have adjusted to the pandemic. As a California Exemplary Arts Education Program and a National Blue Ribbon School, MATES has shared information on music education; provided music credentialed student teacher observations, shared touch screen technology and has presented at the best practices symposium. MATES Directors meet regularly with the other Charter School Directors to share ideas and impacts of COVID. MATES representatives have met with local private schools to discuss reentry plans. Local parents were invited to join with MATES' parents at the parent empowerment nights on how to help students cope with the stress of the pandemic.

The Board had the opportunity to ask questions.

Dr. Flores noted that this is the 13th year of operation for MATES. Is MATES experiencing enrollment from CVUSD rather than the neighborhood? Also, does MATES track how the students are doing in high school and college? Is there longitudinal data? Finally, are MATES teachers encouraged to apply for the Impact II awards?

Ms. Olshever responded that there has been slight increase in CVUSD students enrolled. Multiple past MATES students are on the valedictorian list at Westlake High School this year.

Dr. Lisagor noted that he appreciates MATES efforts to share best practices. It is sad that the percentage of at-risk students cannot increase although he understands the reasons why.

Dr. Lisagor asked if there have been specific challenges at MATES due to the Charter School legislation? Ms. Olshever noted that all of the classroom teachers were already fully credentialed so that was not an issue. The legislation made it harder for new charters to open and to be renewed.

Ms. Ulrich stated her appreciation for the work of MATES. She appreciated the quantification of learning losses for students. As a teacher, she has noticed losses in the ability to think the problem through and follow-through with participation. She appreciates that their teachers are keeping an eye on this.

Mr. Teasdale noted that MATES is a reservoir of best practices and he hopes the local school districts are also looking into the programs that MATES is offering.

Mr. Teasdale noted he was impressed by to the professional development and asked if it is a challenge to find the time for teachers to participate?

Ms. Olshever explained that MATES teachers bank time each day so they can have collaboration time on Wednesdays. Grade level planning and collaboration; and kid talk meetings to check in on students that may need additional support.

Mr. Teasdale asked how this differs from public schools. Most districts have contracted professional development or minimum days. Teachers share what they have learned if they attend off campus training.

Mr. Teasdale asked how teachers help students deal with disagreements in a way that doesn't confuse individuality?

Dr. Walker noted that there is a lot of instruction that goes into using the heart highway tool – students are taught to identify their own feelings and emotions and express them using “I” words. The other student has to have developed their listening tools. The students then have to work collaboratively to develop a solution; shake hands and go in peace. The process does take quite a bit of training.

Mr. Teasdale asked how teachers help students develop the ability to think critically? Dr. Walker noted that project based learning is used. Students aren't given the answers but are given a project and must work through the project to determine their own response. Students are given a voice to express their own opinion. Also, in Technology, students need to be taught how to determine facts in what they are reading.

Mr. Teasdale also requested longitudinal data on past students. If there is any way to gather this information, it would be very useful.

M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

1. The Board honored Nancy Akkerman for her upcoming retirement from the position of Senior Executive Assistant to the County Superintendent.

N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Charter School Annual Programmatic Audits:
Vista Real Charter High School – *May 24, 2021*
2. Discussion of Goals and Objectives in conjunction with Development of Yearly Plan for Agenda items – *June / July*
3. Board Retreat to Discuss Governance
Mr. Teasdale hopes this retreat will lead to a link between the goals of the County Superintendent and the goals of the Board. Dr. Lisagor noted that the Masters in Governance provided examples of this work. Mr. Teasdale suggested a Board Subcommittee to have discussions with Dr. Morales to develop an approach for the retreat. Mr. Teasdale would like to have this Retreat before the Budget is adopted on June 28th.

Dr. Morales noted that he and Senior staff are meeting with district job-a-likes during the month of May. The framing of future VCOE mission and goals will likely take place in August but receiving direction from the Board would be fruitful and could be part of a retreat possibly in the end of June or July.

The determination as to the date and format of the Retreat will be agendaized for discussion at the May 7th meeting. Mr. Teasdale and Dr. Flores will work with Dr. Morales to determine a yearly plan for agenda items.

Dr. Lisagor reported that he will be unable to attend the May 7th meeting.

4. Mr. Teasdale requested the Board consider a Resolution on Gun Safety at its May meeting. Some of the local districts have communicated on how to store guns safely which can help prevent the number of student suicides.
5. Mr. Teasdale noted that the Board will have to consider revisions to Board Policy 9320 in order to allow for virtual meetings. Board Policy 9320 will be emailed to the Board. Dr. Flores suggested Dr. Judd attend the meeting in case there are technology questions.

O. FUTURE MEETINGS

Date: Friday, May 7, 2021 (*Budget Study Session*)
Time: 8:00 a.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: Monday, May 24, 2021
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: Monday, June 21, 2021 (*Public Hearing on Budget & LCAP*)
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: Monday, June 28, 2021 (*Adoption of Budget & LCAP*)
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 7:26 p.m.

Date

5/24/21

Date

5-24-21

Michael Teasdale, Board President

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

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