

VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
April 22, 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 19-05, was called to order by Dr. Ramon Flores, Board Vice-President, at 6:03 p.m. on Monday, April 22, 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. Flores.
2. Roll Call
Trustees Present:
Rachel Ulrich, Area 1
Mike Teasdale, Area 2
Dr. Mark Lisagor, Area 3 - *Absent*
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
Mary Samples, Interim Associate Superintendent, Student Services
Emily Mostovoy, Assistant Superintendent, SELPA
Dr. Julie Judd, Chief Technology Officer
Teri Gern, Chief Human Resources Officer
Consuelo Williams, County Programs Support & Accountability
Pamela Heron, Risk Manager
Marlo Hartsuyker, Director, Charter Schools Support
Nancy Akkerman, Senior Executive Assistant
Manny Ruiz, Facilities
3. Approval of Agenda
Ms. Ulrich moved the agenda be approved. Mr. Teasdale seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous vote of those in attendance (4:0).
Dr. Lisagor was absent.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

C. HEARINGS

None.

D. CLOSED SESSION

None.

E. PRELIMINARY

None.

F. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

G. PRESIDENT'S AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

1. Dr. Flores reviewed the Upcoming Events including End of Year Activities.
2. Mr. Collins thanked Ms. Key and staff for the informative Budget Study Session.
3. Mr. Teasdale reported that he recently attended a Providence graduation and visited both Bridges and Ventura Charter Schools.
4. Ms. Ulrich reported that next month she will begin her work on the CCBE Executive Board.
5. Dr. Flores attended a Providence graduation and was again struck by the students and how appreciative they are for the education they were able to receive.
6. Mr. Mantooth distributed additional Charter School End of Year events.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

None.

I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

None.

J. CONSENT/ACTION

1. Mileage Reimbursement Claim Form
2. Temporary County Certificates
3. Disposal of Property
4. Williams Quarterly Report to County Board of Education
5. School Accountability Report Cards
6. 2019-20 School Year Calendars for VCOE operated Court & Community Schools and Special Education Program
7. Change Order No. 6 to Viola, Inc. for Camarillo Special Education New Construction: 20 Classroom School Bid 2018-34

Ms. Ulrich moved the Board approve Consent Items 1-7. Mr. Collins seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous vote of those in attendance (4:0).

K. PRESENTATIONS

1. Preview of Ventura County Office of Education LCAP

Ms. Sample and staff provided an initial review of their progress on developing the VCOE LCAP for the 2019-20 school year. This is the third year in a three year plan process. The LCAP goes hand in hand with LCFF. Essential Elements include meaningful stakeholder engagement, increase and improve services, demonstrate progress towards local goals over time and annual review. There are 10 required State Priority areas for County Offices of Education.

The LCAP template has been aligned with the ESSA and AB1808. The plan is now required to include a budget summary and an overview for parents. The timeline for preparing the LCAP is year-round. In May the Board will receive information on the goals, actions and services. The LCAP will be presented for a public hearing and adoption in June.

Stakeholder Engagement continues to be a very important component. Opportunities for presentation include discussions at Students Services branch meetings, at teachers and paraeducators consultations meetings, faculty meetings, at Open House events it is discussed with parents, Workforce Investment Board Youth Council, as well as the survey being on the website and a twitter feed.

Anticipated Areas of Strong Progress include:

- Decreased Chronic Absenteeism – This area is especially difficult as many of our students are medically fragile and therefore miss school
- Decreased Referrals and Suspensions
- One Year Graduation Rate
- Increased Student Support Services
- Foster Youth MOU for Transportation
- Facilities and Technology upgrades
- Professional Development is offered continuously

Areas for Future Growth include:

- Academic Achievement
- Increased Attendance
- Continuation of project-based learning to increase student engagement
- Increased enrollment and course completion in Career Education courses

VCOE is in Differentiated Assistance based on our Graduation Rate (likely due to a coding issue in CalPads) and Suspension/Expulsion Rates (we are confident this rate will decrease due to increased CHAMPS work). Santa Barbara County Office of Education is acting as the provider of Differentiated Assistance.

Ms. Ulrich asked if the Differentiated Assistance for County Offices was a result of the alternative dashboard. Ms. Samples responded that it is. More than 50% of County Offices are in Differentiated Assistance. The process is collaborative and helpful. Mr. Mantooth noted that the meeting was framed as a way to use the process as a launching pad to do better.

Mr. Teasdale noted that the Suspension/Expulsion rate goes up and down and he finds it difficult to judge. How do we measure the quality of what we are doing? Ms. Samples explained that during the monthly Student Services meetings staff review those data points and each principal shares their absenteeism rate, suspension rate, etc., and best practices are also shared. This consistent monitoring, school by school, does identify trends. Mr. Teasdale expressed appreciation of this timely monitoring.

Ms. Samples noted that this type of monthly monitoring helps with the districts in Differentiated Assistance as well. Mr. Mantooth noted that we now have access to real time data, rather than waiting for a year's worth of data from the State.

Ms. Ulrich noted that each district is working diligently with each student. She can only assume that each county office of education is doing the same. The services that County Offices provide can differ from place to place so that can affect the results.

Mr. Collins expressed his appreciation for the goal of decreasing chronic absenteeism and asked what strategies are being used with parents. Principals report that they stress the importance of attendance to parents during IEP meetings, Open Houses, Back to School Nights, and newsletters. Chronic absenteeism is defined by the State as 10% of the school days.

Mr. Teasdale questioned what efforts are made to secure parental input. Ms. Samples noted that the process is going on right now. The survey is online and on twitter, surveys are presented at Open Houses, Back to School nights, parent meetings, and workshops on parent engagement have been offered. Media coverage is utilized. It is historically hard to reach the parents of the student population we work with. We reach homeless parents by doing personal outreach. We try to support these populations as much as possible.

Mr. Teasdale asked about enrollment in Career Education courses. Is there a budgetary issue with this? Mr. Mantooth noted that we are concerned about the continuation of the Career Education program in total due to the completion of the grant funding. Districts also have a metrix requires that students attend college/career coursework. Mr. Mantooth noted that when we began implementing the grants, there were 8,000 students attending. Now there are 42,000 students. Our goal for Career Education continues to be attendance and maintaining the quality of the program.

Dr. Flores noted that Board members have the opportunity to educate decision makers and explain that funding is needed in this area and why. Legislators don't always understand the needs of these high risk students or the programs that we offer to assist them.

L. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/ACTION

1. Annual Programmatic Audit Presentation by River Oaks Academy

On June 28, 2010, the Ventura County Board of Education approved the charter petition for River Oaks Academy. On February 22, 2015, the Board approved the renewal of River Oaks Academy. In accordance with the VCOE Charter School Progress Report Timeline, representatives from River Oaks Academy presented information required in the annual programmatic audit.

Ms. Hartsuyker introduced the Director, Board members and teachers and staff from River Oaks. River Oaks Academy (ROA) offers a personalized learning program. Parents and students come to ROA because the students were struggling academically or had socialization issues at their previous school. ROA is WASC and NCAA accredited.

Enrollment figures were reviewed. 308 students attend the Westlake Village campus and 107 students attend in Oxnard. 108 students exited ROA at the end of 2017-18. The primary reasons were to return to their neighborhood schools or enrollment in a private school. The Hispanic population in Westlake is 13.3% and 62% at Oxnard. 27.6% of students are socio-economically disadvantaged and 11.8% of students are classified as Special Education.

Oxnard Resource Center now has over 107 students K-12 students. Enrichment classes are offered 4 days a week. Outreach efforts continue with promotional materials in English and Spanish, contact with local military bases, materials in Spanish, website is translated, and bilingual staff. One hindrance issue to enrollment seems to be that one parent does need to provide instruction.

The ROA Dashboard results were reviewed by Resource Centers. Chronic Absenteeism, Suspension Rate, and English Language Arts are all in the green or blue. Mathematics continue to be an issue. The ROA Graduation Rate has increased from 83.3% to 91.7%. Students are tested 3-8, and 11th grade – Oxnard Resource Center tested 49 students; Westlake tested 98. 38% met or exceeded Math Standards, with 33% more in nearly met category. 61% met or exceeded English & Language Arts standards with another 22% at nearly met. Two testing times are offered. Comparison with Golden Valley and Century Academy in CVUSD as like schools and Oxnard Elementary and OUHSD were provided.

SAT Scores and PSAT results were also reviewed. The average SAT score is 1094; the average PSAT and SAT10 score is 1020. Many students attend Community Colleges as well. Students took a total of 65 concurrent enrollment courses.

Methods of Assessment include administration of all state mandated assessments, as well as subject matter math assessments, PSAT, SAT and portfolio assessments. Additional Math interventions opportunities have been implemented.

ROA currently has over 100 student in high school and over 150 a-g courses are offered. A high school guidance counselor meets with all students twice a year one on one. He assists them with FAFSA, SAT prep courses. Students are tracked when they graduate. Of the 24 graduates in 2018, 50% went on to community college, 25% to 4 year college, and 13% to trade school.

ROA took part in the Career Pathway Grant - \$600,000. Six career pathways are offered – 3 at ROA and 3 at ACE. ROA offers CCS, Hospitality, Legal and Networking career paths. College and career seminar is now a graduation requirement. Students can also take CEC courses.

ROA collaborates with local and statewide charter schools, the County Office, Career Education Center, SELPA, local community colleges, and other school districts. .

Benny Martinez reviewed the budget summary. ROA enrollment has increased from 253 students, to 285, and now is as high as 305. This has been an 18% increase in enrollment since last year. ROA had a clean audit with no findings. A cafeteria program will be started in 2019-20. There is a seven member Budget Committee which meets 3 times a year. The budget presented is based on 308 students. Next year the budget is based on 320 students and 280 in 20-21. A 2% inflation factor; STRS/PERS increases; step and column increases; are included in the budget. The STRS proposal is not included; however, if adopted it would save ROA \$10,000 per year. Ending balances are healthy going into the future.

AB 39 would affect LCFF base grants. All that is guaranteed is COLA. This bill would address base funding which could provide some relief for County Offices and Charter Schools.

Dr. Flores questioned the percentage of reserves. The average is 20.2% and ROA has a 15.6% reserve. Mr. Martinez noted that ROA feels this is a sufficient reserve given ROA is also budgeting decreased enrollment. Ms. Ulrich questioned the increases in benefits. Mr. Martinez agreed that they are large.

ROA LCAP Goals were reviewed. All teachers are appropriately assigned; school facilities are maintained in good repair; students have access to standard aligned materials; students showed a 2.2% increase in ELA and a 3.4% increase in Math, and college and career readiness opportunities continue to expand. Instruction is personalized for each student. Many student have serious social/emotional needs and we serve all students. The opening of Oxnard three years ago has been amazing. Parents work alongside their students. Math remains a challenge area, and ROA continues to address this area to increase academic results.

Mr. Collins asked about the impressive 91.7% graduation rate and how it is accomplished? Ms Weintraub noted that ROA teachers genuinely care about their students; they are dedicated to their students' success; and every instructor helps. Students have multiple opportunities for different types of classes.

Ms. Ulrich asked if the students tend to attend community college in their geographic areas. Yes they do. Is the ROA LCAP on the third year of its LCAP cycle this year? It is. LCAP Goals will likely stay the same, but ROA anticipates adding a goal to address students' socio-emotional needs.

Mr. Teasdale thanked ROA for their presentation. He feels the challenge is the 40% attrition rate. Why do parents choose ROA over other charters and why do they leave? Ms. Weintraub noted that students come to ROA via word of mouth, because of athletics (NCAA), and many attend for socio-emotional reasons. Students attend ROA and then choose to return to the traditional system with the tools they need to succeed. It's a challenge when it comes to academics, but at least the students feel better about themselves. An average student continues to attend. Out of 100 students at Oxnard, 20 students have attended for the 3 years it has been in existence. Some parents feel that assisting their child in an independent study program is too difficult.

Dr. Flores clarified that Oxnard site has always served high school students. He asked for a side by side comparison; aggregated data for Oxnard site and Oxnard school districts.

2. School Safety Plans

Mr. Mantooth noted that all Ventura County Office of Education operated schools have established Comprehensive School Safety Plans which are reviewed annually. Ms. Heron, Risk Manager, noted that VCOE provides continuous training on all types of threats. All schools have emergency equipment and supplies.

This year, the main changes to School Safety Plans were the members of the Safety Committee, the organizational chart, possibly the school map, the response phone tree, and any changes to Board policies. A comprehensive review of Gateway and the Airport facility was concluded separately.

Mr. Teasdale asked if there have been any conversations about the socio-emotional health of students. Mr. Heron noted that this is a part of the Safety plan and further information will be provided in 2020. As legislation is passed, changes are made. Ventura County has been working on addressing socio-emotional behavior for the last 5-7 years. There is a large suicide prevention program in the County and schools maintain a close connection with local fire and police departments. Mr. Mantooth noted that these school safety plans are imbedded into what our teachers do, largely due to the training provided to staff.

Complete School Safety Plans will be available for review in the Superintendent's Conference Room for the next 30 days.

3. Revisions to Administrative Regulation 0420.4, Charter Schools and Corresponding Exhibits

Ms. Hartsuyker presented revisions to Administrative Regulation 0420.4, Charter Schools. Changes are related to charter school renewals and implementation of new legislation (AB 126 and AB 1871). AB126 requires that charter school comply with various transparency laws – California Public Records Act, Brown Act, Conflict of Interest, etc. These were already required by the established MOUs with Ventura County Charter Schools. AB1871 required that charter schools provide one adequately prepared meal per day. This can be a significant financial burden. In addition, clarifying renewal language was added. Charter School renewal language was also changed.

Ms. Ulrich asked if there was previously language on charter school renewal. There was not. This is new language.

For Profit Charter School applications are no longer allowed. This change was included in the Charter School application. The Board asked if any of our current charters are for-profit? There are none. The issue comes in for Charters that have a for-profit management entity. Those will have to change to non-profit. There are 12 Charter Schools in this situation in the State.

This information was provided for information only.

4. Report from Subcommittee on Ventura County Board of Education Goals and Objectives

Mr. Mantooth noted that the Subcommittee on Board Goals and Objectives met on March 27th. The minutes of that meeting are included in the explanatory materials. The conversation quickly focused on advocacy and the focus areas identified align closely with the work of our local school districts.

Mr. Teasdale noted that the work of the subcommittee moved from proposed goals to coordinated efforts on advocacy.

Ms. Ulrich reported that the premise was to narrow the work down to two-three focus areas and then develop an action plan including providing information at local school district board meetings, to local legislators, etc. Ms. Ulrich added that another area of focus could be SAT, ACT prep.

The proposed next step would be a study session to define the areas of focus and involve staff. What is our passion, what areas does the Board want to see action on? Proposed areas include: LCFF base funding (AB39), quality preschool, SAT/ACT options, Special Education funding, and Career Education funding. Do other Board members have other areas they would want to focus on?

Dr. Flores noted that one of the Board's biggest roles is advocacy. Being a County Board member does open doors. He would like to focus on funding issues; whether it is Special Education, Career Education, Full and Fair funding. He likes the idea of presenting to local school districts.

Mr. Collins noted that if the Board were to write a goal, it should include who it addresses. Parents would want advocacy on school safety; districts would want advocacy on funding. Who is the goal focused on? Ms. Ulrich noted that the Board would be advocating to state legislators for increased funding on behalf of the County. Mr. Collins likes the idea of advocacy but noted that if a parent looked at that goal, they would likely feel disgruntled.

Dr. Flores noted that a legislator would want to know what the priorities are.

Mr. Teasdale noted that this is a good time to advocate because there is money available. He concurred with Ms. Ulrich's suggestion to focus on three areas.

Ms. Ulrich noted that the effort tonight should be on determining the areas of focus. The proposed areas include: AB428 Special Education, AB1303 Career Education funding, and AB39 LCFF Base funding. Mr. Teasdale noted that CSBA and CCBE support these areas, and therefore would likely provide specific information on what districts would do with the increased funds. There needs to be a story to support the numbers. Mr. Mantooth noted that staff could develop talking points.

Mr. Teasdale suggested agreeing upon three focus areas and an action plan. Talking points could come later.

Dr. Flores noted that Special Education is our focus area, career education has been our area of strong efforts, and LCFF Base Funding would affect many of our districts.

Ms. Ulrich noted that the timeline should be governed by the Budget cycle. Mr. Mantooth noted that advocacy efforts will heat up after the Governor's May Revise on May 10, 2019. Ms. Ulrich proposed a Board trip to Sacramento.

Mr. Collins supported a focus on career education funding. He would have a harder time selling Special Education due to the encroachment. Mr. Mantooth noted that the purpose of the funding would be to offset the encroachment.

Ms. Ulrich moved the Board adopt a goal of increased funding for education through advocacy efforts in three areas of focus: Special Education Funding, Career Technical Education funding, and Increased LCFF Base Revenue funding. Mr. Teasdale seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous vote of those in attendance (4:0).

Mr. Teasdale asked if staff could develop talking points on what could VCOE do with more money and what is VCOE not doing now due to lack of funds. It was agreed that these talking points will be reviewed at the May 10th Board meeting.

Mr. Mantooth noted that the district superintendents will be meeting with local legislators on May 17th and our local advisors this Friday.

M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

1. Mr. Teasdale stated his appreciation for the presentation by River Oaks Academy.
2. Mr. Collins read an article on teachers that can't afford to live in the community where they work. This is especially true for the coastal areas. Mr. Mantooth noted that the issue of building affordable housing for teachers has been discussed.

N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Options for Increasing Funding for Education – *Rob Collins*
2. Continued Work on Ventura County Board of Education Advocacy – May 10, 2019

O. FUTURE MEETINGS

Date: Friday, May 10, 2019 (*Budget Study Session*)
Time: 8:00 a.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: ***Tuesday, May 28, 2019***
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

P. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Flores adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Minutes Approved by Board Action 05/10/19.

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