

**VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
April 27, 2020**

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 20-05, was called to order by Dr. Ramon Flores, Board President, at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, April 27, 2020, in the Salons of the VCOE Conference & Educational Services Center, 5100 Adolfo Road, Camarillo. The meeting was also held via teleconference with four (4) Board Trustees and members of the public participating in the meeting via teleconference/video conference. Mr. Mantooth gave instructions for the teleconference and requested that all participants keep their speaker muted unless speaking. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Dr. Flores and followed by a moment of reflection.
2. Roll Call
Trustees Present:
Dr. Ramon Flores, Area 5
Rachel Ulrich, Area 1 – *Participated via teleconference*
Mike Teasdale, Area 2 – *Participated via teleconference*
Dr. Mark Lisagor, Area 3 – *Participated via teleconference*
Rob Collins, Area 4 – *Participated via teleconference*

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
Dr. Cesar Morales, Associate Superintendent, Student Services
Dr. Julie Judd, Chief Technology Officer
Marlo Hartsuyker, Director, Charter School Support
Nancy Akkerman, Senior Executive Assistant
Bryan Meza, Conference Facilities Technician

VCOE Personnel Participating via Teleconference
Dave Schermer, Director, Communications
David Fateh, Director, Facilities
3. Approval of Agenda
Mr. Teasdale moved that agenda be approved. Mr. Collins seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous roll call vote (5:0).

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

C. HEARINGS

None.

D. CLOSED SESSION

None.

E. PRELIMINARY

1. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 23, 2020.

Ms. Ulrich moved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 23, 2020 be approved. Mr. Teasdale seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous roll call vote (5:0).

F. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Email from Kasi Corbett, dated April 22, 2020, titled, "12th grade, senior grading during Covid-19." Mr. Collins asked if California has developed a statewide policy on grading or will it be left up to the individual districts? Mr. Mantooth responded that guidance for grading policies would come from CDE; but none has been received. We do anticipate there will be a no-harm policy for grading. The local districts have philosophical agreement on this, although each district Board will make their own decision.

G. PRESIDENT'S AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

1. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all student events have been cancelled at this time.
2. Mr. Teasdale thanked Mr. Mantooth for his presentation to the Newbury Park community on education and its' financing.
3. Dr. Flores noted that he heard Dr. Castro's radio interview on distance learning.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Mantooth presented on the Activities of the Office:

1. Mr. Mantooth invited staff members to present COVID-19 updates.

Dave Schermer, Communications Director, addressed the Board. Timely communications has been a goal since the start of the pandemic. Templates for communications with parents and staff have been provided to districts as needed. The VCOE website has an entire section dedicated to being a countywide hub for information on the virus and its effect on public schools. The website includes information on graduations, child care, distance learning, food services, other agency assistance, etc. There has been good traffic on this website.

The Distance Learning portion of the website includes downloadable resources and activities for different grade levels, with links to all district distance learning webpages. Curriculum and Instruction has created a series of helpful videos for parents, students, and administrators. Updates on COVID-19 are continually shared through social media and there has been eight times the usual views.

A Social Justice Task Force for English Learners has been established. Their goal is to reach out to non-English speaking students and families and provide information on community resources, not just for education but also on emotional health, unemployment benefits, health, etc.

News Media. Weekly live interviews and Spanish language interviews are given on KVTA radio every Wednesday morning. Mr. Mantooth published an OpEd piece in the Ventura County STAR. Mr. Mantooth and Dr. Castro have participated in Town Halls, and Mr. Mantooth recently presented at a press conference at the Ventura County Government Center.

A weekly report is given to the Office of Emergency Services and Mr. Schermer has weekly contact with school district PIOs. VCOE employees receive automated calls on school closures, working from home, and any other updates on services. Parent communication from the sites is continuous.

Graduation Activities. VCOE is doing our part to acknowledge seniors. The graduation issue of Focus on Education will once again focus on seniors with a particular look at how the virus has affected their plans. Spectrum News One is putting together a special on graduating seniors and we are helping to connect them with deserving seniors in Ventura County.

Dr. Antonio Castro reported on Distance Learning. We have learned through this pandemic that communication and being connected to the community are critical. Society needs to be able to rely on and connect with each other. This has been a time of extreme innovation. Teachers, counselors and administrators are displaying incredible flexibility. Collaboration and partnerships in the educational community have been paramount. IHEs, LEAs and Industry partners are working together to meet all the needs of students and their families. All decision makers are working to provide access to all students.

Misty Key reported that our custodial staff is doing an excellent job disinfecting all surfaces. Human Resources has stopped providing fingerprinting services and we are working with the Department of Justice on how these services will be resumed. This is an important service. Technology is supporting distance learning for all of the school districts, as well as working on enrollment preparations for next year. Internal Business is preparing the budget. The State is warning LEAs to prepare for the worse in the budget, and to maintain flexibility and options in their budgets. The budget will likely change but the outcomes won't be known until August or September, at which time, reductions in revenue are expected. Those LEAs that maintain minimum reserves will struggle.

Dr. Cesar Morales noted that all of our branches have been working closely together to serve students throughout the County. Verbal connections have been made with all students. There is a hybrid of students working on computers, video, small group instruction, handouts, etc.

Staff are answering questions on a daily basis from parents, teachers and students. Parents are working to learn how to support their students at home. Mental health services are being promoted. Representatives from Behavioral Health are assisting. WiFi hot spots have been provided but we must continue to check for need as the economic downturn continues. Families that did not need support, may have a change in their situation. Our Special Populations branch continues to provide services to homeless, foster and migrant students. LCAP will be adapted to the new regulations and timelines.

Emily Mostovoy-Luna, Assistant Superintendent, SELPA, has been working to support special education students and families throughout the county. SELPAs are supporting each other in developing distance learning. Many districts and service providers are working on IEPs by providing speech and occupational therapy. We continue to expand upon these efforts. The SELPA website (VCselpa@vc.org) has been updated to include resources on the VCOE website.

Assistance and support are provided to districts based on the guidance from CDE and legal briefings. Many of the SELPA students receive services from birth to 22 years old so one of the responsibilities of SELPA is to ensure that our partners – non public schools – are continuing to provide educational services. An IEP platform has been developed on how to offer virtual IEPs. Virtual meetings for annual and transition IEPs are being considered. The SELPA team has been trained on how to utilize ZOOM. The SELPA Community Advisory Committee continues to meet.

Mr. Mantooth discussed LCFF accountability plans. On Friday, the Governor released the new LCAP timelines. The LCAP deadline is now extended to December 15th. By July 1, districts must provide a report to the community on how program changes are addressing distance learning.

VCOE enjoys a wonderful relationship with the Ventura County Behavioral Health department and because of this, VCOE is 1 of 10 entities in California to share in a \$75 million grant (over the next 5 years) to develop student safe mental health facilities at eight of our local high schools.

I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

None.

J. CONSENT/ACTION

1. Mileage Reimbursement Claim
2. Temporary County Certificates
3. Disposal of Property
4. Williams Quarterly Report to County Board of Education
5. Change Order No. 16 to Viola, Inc. for Camarillo Special Education New Construction: 20 Classroom School Bid 2018-34

Ms. Ulrich moved the Board approve Consent Items 1-5. Mr. Teasdale seconded the motion, and the motion passed upon a unanimous roll call vote (5:0).

K. PRESENTATIONS

None.

L. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/ACTION

1. Programmatic Audit presented by Vista Real Charter High School (VRCHS)

Ms. Hartsuyker noted that VRCHS meets the requirements to be a DASS School and therefore meets the requirements for renewal, but as part of the renewal process, we have requested VRCHS provide additional information as well.

Ms. Corrine Manley, Executive Director, VRCHS, presented the Renewal petition and programmatic audit. Enrollment and Staffing numbers were reviewed. There are currently 6 counselors for a 300:1 ratio.

Students are on average 17 or older, one year behind on credits, have been out of school for 1-2 months, and are at the 9th or 10th grade level academically. 64.5% continued with VRCHS, and 19.1% matriculate back to their home school.

The majority of programming is one on one. Students see a teacher once a week. Small group instruction is also an option. Work is reviewed with students. Social and emotional supports are provided. Field trips and school events are offered. Academic assessments are offered. Trauma informed programming is provided. Staff are trained on restorative practices. Pathways field trips to local IHEs. Students can bring their children to school; baby-safe areas are provided. Community resources are provided. Clubs/student involvement and college and career counseling are provided for all students. Civic engagement – stress importance of voting; community partnerships with behavioral health, boys and girls club, and summer programming are offered.

Student enrollment numbers by site, including special populations, enrollment by ethnicity, EL reclassification numbers, as compared to other districts and other DASS schools in Ventura County were reviewed. Dashboard indicators were presented – suspension rate has dropped due to restorative practices and graduation rate has increased. 39% of graduates go on to two year colleges.

LCAP Goals were reviewed. Student retention is addressed by trying to ensure that students feel part of the school culture; that students basic needs are met; and student support teams are provided.

Credit Completion. There has been a gradual increase. All teachers are highly qualified. Personalized Learning Plans are very helpful in assisting with credit completion. PLPs address what supports students need, it is updated monthly, goals are reviewed and free tutoring is provided whenever wanted.

Computer Literacy. This goal is being rolled into a different goal for next LCAP. Chromebooks are available for all students. Going to 1:1 technology due to COVID-19. The innovation that is coming out now has helped VRCHS realize that this is an excellent tool for students. Computer literacy is now a graduation requirement.

College and Career. This goal was met. Many students attend the CEC, career and community resource fairs, workforce partners, dual enrollment opportunities are provided.

Stakeholder Involvement has been an area of large growth. More parents are coming to events. Luncheons with surrounding district counselors are held annually. Students that may be headed towards drop out and how VCRHS can assist are discussed. Parent Education Nights on subjects of interest are held and parent teacher conferences are held twice a year.

Budget. The VRCHS budget is based on a projected budget revenue of \$37.3 million. Expenditures include salaries and operating expenses of \$36 million. The ending balance for 2021-22 is expected to be \$8.4 million and will increase to \$10.4 million in 2022-23. The balance maintained for Economic Uncertainties may be used for COVID-19 and the potential reduction in COLA.

Ms. Ulrich questioned the considerations for use of the reserves. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, VRCHS was considering the purchase of a facility in Santa Paula, the creation of an in-house CTE program, and possibly hiring additional support staff. Now, with the economic uncertainty, the large reserve is appreciated and VRCHS will be taking COVID-19 into consideration before additional purchases are made.

VRCHS is very ingrained in the community and has community support. A map showing the various VRCHS locations was shown.

Mr. Collins noted that he has received many complementary comments about VRCHS and commended them for their success with many subgroups.

Mr. Teasdale asked how students come to VRCHS. Are they referrals from district counselors? The majority of the students come to VRCHS via word of mouth. Some counselors refer students to VRCHS.

Mr. Teasdale noted that VRCHS offers a lot of a-g courses online. Could VRCHS share those courses with local districts who are currently struggling with providing this service? Ms. Manley responded that VRCHS provides online options and they have a pool of online coursework that are utilized for elective courses; most are more of a supplement. Most of the students are better at one-on-one instruction and support. More than happy to collaborate.

Dr. Lisagor noted that he visited two VRCHS campuses and was highly impressed. The students VRCHS is serving are part of the digital divide. What is VRCHS experiencing or doing to address this? Ms. Manley responded that VRCHS had chromebooks and laptops on hand and has been able to distribute chromebooks to 400 of 1,600 students. They are waiting on a second order of chromebooks that should arrive in 2 weeks. VRCHS is also waiting on hot spots. It has been a challenge.

VRCHS indicated that the very least they can do is make phone calls to students. Packets are distributed and contact information is kept up to date. The first two weeks were spent making a connection with students. Many of the students are not in a safe place when they are at home. Staff and students are receiving behavioral and emotional support. 40% of students did turn in credits in the last two weeks. Have successfully engaged 80-90% of the students. The academic portion will follow.

2. PUBLIC HEARING on the Vista Real Charter High School Renewal Petition

a. PUBLIC HEARING on the Vista Real Charter High School Renewal Petition

Dr. Flores opened the PUBLIC HEARING on the Vista Real Charter High School Renewal Petition at 7:55 p.m. The following members of the public expressed their support for VRCHS:

Kirk England, parent,
Lorena Uresa, read a letter from student
Corey Green, parent and partnership member Empowerment Workshop
Raquel Tacone, VRCHS graduate
Corrina Bautista, VRCHS Senior
Natalia Rodrigues, student at VRCHS Santa Paula

Mr. Mantooth noted that we are unable to receive phone comments at this time. He invited anyone to provide public comments in writing.

Hearing no further comments, Dr. Flores closed the PUBLIC HEARING at 8:18 p.m.

3. Staff Analysis of Vista Real Charter High School Renewal Petition
Pursuant to Education Code Section 47605, staff performed its review of the Vista Real Charter High School Renewal Petition and presented their findings to the Board. A review committee including staff from SBAS, SELPA, Human Resources, Internal Business, Curriculum & Instruction and Charter School Support, took part in the review process.

Staff findings pertaining to the Renewal Petition were reviewed. Pages 7-13 of the Staff Findings document list suggested language changes requested by Curriculum and Instruction due to the need for additional detail. Items 13-18 (pages 12-15 of the Staff Findings) address identification and reclassification/redesignation of English Learners; requirements of their education program; and assessment. Other changes include Item 19, Governance Structure and duties of the Board. SBAS requested additional detail on the budget and a proposed budget which included 0% budget growth. Both were provided and reviewed. VRCHS accepted all of the requested changes and incorporated them into the Renewal Petition.

VRCHS does meet the petition renewal requirements because they are a registered DASS school; however, comparison data to local schools is required and was provided. Academic growth was demonstrated for some subgroups but others remained stable. New interventions have been implemented that staff believe will manifest into future growth in achievement.

Dr. Lisagor moved the meeting be extended to 9:30 p.m. Ms. Ulrich seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous roll call vote (5:0).

4. Action to Approve or Deny Vista Real Charter High School Renewal Petition
Dr. Lisagor moved the Board approve the Vista Real Charter High School Renewal Petition with the term of the renewal being from July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2025. Ms. Ulrich seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous roll call vote (5:0).
5. Revised Memorandum of Understanding for Vista Real Charter High School Renewal Petition
Based on the approval of the Vista Real Charter High School Renewal Petition, revisions are required to update the Memorandum of Understanding. The majority of the changes were made two years ago. Minor changes were made this time. Ms. Ulrich moved the Board approve the Revised Memorandum of Understanding between Vista Real Charter High School, the Ventura County Office of Education and the Ventura County Board of Education. Mr. Teasdale seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous roll call vote (5:0).

6. Resolution No. 20-01, Ordering a Regular Governing Board Member Election, Ordering Consolidation with Other Elections, and Constituting "Specification of the Election Order" to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020
Mr. Mantooth noted that this is a procedural item ordering a consolidated election on November 3, 2020 for School Board Members and County Office of Education Trustees whose terms expire on the second Friday in December. The purpose is to elect two regular term vacancies to the Ventura County Board of Education – Trustee Area #3 and Trustee Area #5. Mr. Teasdale moved the Board adopt Resolution No. 20-01 as presented. Ms. Ulrich seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous roll call vote (5:0).

M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

1. Mr. Teasdale complimented staff on the exemplary review of the charter schools.
2. Ms. Ulrich commended staff for coordinating the ZOOM meetings. She noted that ACSA is projecting that students will lose up to a year of Math skills and a 30% reduction in English skills. She hopes this is not the case.
3. Dr. Flores noted that the rigorous charter school matrix is an excellent tool.

N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Presentation on Charter School Legislative Changes – May 2020

O. FUTURE MEETINGS

Date: Friday, May 8 2020
Time: 8:00 a.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: Monday, May 26 2020
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 8:37 p.m.

Minutes Approved by Board Action on 05/26/20

May 26, 2020
Date


Dr. Ramon Flores, Board President

May 26, 2020
Date


Stan Mantooth, Ex-Officio Secretary and
Executive Officer of the Board

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