

**VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
October 23, 2023**

A. CALL TO ORDER

1. Call To Order, Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and Moment of Reflection
The Regular Board Meeting of the Ventura County Board of Education, Agenda No. 23-14, was called to order by Mr. Arleigh Kidd, Board President, at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 23, 2023, in the Board Room of the VCOE Conference and Educational Services Center at 5100 Adolfo Road, Camarillo. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Mr. Kidd, followed by a moment of reflection.
2. Roll Call
Trustees Present
Rachel Ulrich, Area 1
Michael Teasdale, Area 2
Dr. Mark Lisagor, Area 3
Arleigh Kidd, Area 4
Dr. Ramon Flores, Area 5

VCOE Personnel Present:
Dr. César Morales, County Superintendent of Schools
Misty Key, Deputy Superintendent, Fiscal & Administrative Services
Dr. Consuelo Hernandez Williams, Associate Superintendent, Student Services
Lisa Salas Brown, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services
Dr. Juan Santos, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Lisa Bork, Sr. Executive Assistant
Cathy Samuel, Executive Assistant
Brian Meza, Facilities
John Meza, Facilities
3. Approval of Agenda
Dr. Flores made a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Lisagor seconded the motion, and the motion passed 5:0.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

C. HEARINGS

None

D. CLOSED SESSION

None

E. PRELIMINARY

1. Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting of September 25, 2023

Mr. Teasdale made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of September 25, 2023. Ms. Ulrich seconded the motion and it passed (5:0).

F. CORRESPONDENCE

None

G. PRESIDENT'S AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS.

1. Upcoming Events

CSBA Annual Conference, San Francisco Nov. 30-Dec 2, 2023
Academic Decathlon Awards Jan. 30, 2024
High School Mock Trial Awards Feb. 26, 2024
Middle School Mock Trial Championship Rounds & Awards Feb. 27, 2024
VCOE Equity Conference Mar. 12, 2024
Science Fair Awards Mar. 25, 2024
Coast2Coast, Washington DC Apr. 8-10, 2024
Battle of the Books Apr. 24, 2024
Impact II Awards May 22, 2024

2. Board Members' Reports

Dr. Flores, who is chairing the Professional Development Committee for the CCBE workshop in March of next year said the planning is going well. The location will be Sacramento. There will be seven breakout sessions and two keynote speakers.

Dr. Lisagor participated in "Principal for a Day" and worked with Cindy Campero, the principal at Phoenix.

Mr. Teasdale gave an update on the CSBA/CCBE relationship. CSBA is looking at the role and structure of CCBE within CSBA. The CSBA Board created a small ad hoc group to do some research and come back to the Board with a proposal of a revamped structure of CCBE.

Dr. Flores inquired about the changes in the CSBA Leadership. Mr. Teasdale said there are some staff changes, the new people coming in seem well qualified. There are still some open positions. He said good CCBE leadership can make a difference in working through this quandary.

Mr. Teasdale thanked Dr. Morales for assisting in a presentation at the CSBA Annual Conference regarding the work of our county in court and community schools.

Ms. Ulrich stated she has been actively involved in the Academic Senate at Oxnard College and has given Dr. Morales' name to several faculty members who are very interested in partnering with Gateway and Providence and forming more partnerships for educational opportunities for those students to attend community college, whether it is career education or general education.

Mr. Kidd went to Royal High School in Simi Valley to attend a grand opening of the quad and multi-purpose room improvements that have been completed from a 2016 bond. Similar improvements have been done at Simi Valley High School.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Morales reported on the California County Superintendents' (CCS) federal advocacy trip to Washington D.C. this month. This was the week before the threat of the government shut down and tensions were high. His trip was successful in that they were able to talk to several congressional members and their staff.

VCOE administrators and the SELPA team were able to meet with the Tehama County Office SELPA team here at VCOE. VCOE is partnering with the Tehama COE on an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) grant for some statewide work over the next five years. VCOE is partnering with a small county office to work together to model this partnership configuration throughout the state. The VCOE team will be going to Tehama to meet with their team in the spring. ADR work is extremely important. VCOE gained attention at the state level when the due process filings in our county went down. We have been able to meet with parents, students and districts and resolve issues without litigation.

Dr. Morales also visited the Ojai Unified School District this month. He visited three schools and met with leadership staff in maintenance and operations, as well as the business office. Ojai's budget has been reviewed and they are trending in a positive direction. There is a positive culture at Ojai, and they are appreciative of the partnership with VCOE over the last year.

October 16-18, Dr. Morales attended the quarterly California County Superintendents (CCS) meeting in Lake Tahoe and the FCMAT meeting in Yolo County. On October 19 he presented at a Self-Insured Schools of California (SISC) conference in Pismo Beach on issues district and county superintendents are focused on or concerned with in this litigious environment. That evening he was part of a panel for "Undocumented Students Action Week" at Ventura College's east campus in Santa Paula. Undocumented students and their families discussed access issues as well as services they are receiving in our county. He is proud of the work the V.C. Community College District is doing for this population and how they have developed avenues for student leadership to present ideas to be better responsive to the student population.

I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Mr. Kidd asked Ms. Key about the state budget update. Ms. Key said the state budget is projected to be on target and she doesn't expect any impact this school year.

Dr. Santos addressed SB 765 – "Teachers: Retired Teachers: Compensation Limitation." Beginning July 1, 2024, educators don't have to wait the 180 days after retirement to work again. A form can be submitted by the local county superintendent or the chief executive officer of a college that indicates a need and an effort to hire someone. Once the form is submitted, the retiree can begin working.

J. CONSENT/ACTION ITEMS

1. Temporary County Certificates
2. Quarterly Disposal of Property
3. Williams Quarterly Report to County Board of Education
4. 2024-25 County School Services Fund Budget Calendar
5. Resolution 23-14, Gann Limit Calculation for 2022—23 and Estimated for 2023-24.

Dr. Lisagor moved to approve Consent Items J1 – J5. Dr. Flores seconded the motion and the motion passed (5:0).

K. PRESENTATIONS

None

L. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/ACTION

1. Approval of Revisions to the VCOE English Learner Master Plan - INFORMATION /DISCUSSION /ACTION (5 minutes)

The English Learner Master Plan is intended for sites to use in ensuring the appropriate identification, initial assessment, placement, and services for English Learners (ELs). The Plan was recently updated for the 2023-24 school year, reviewed and approved by the District English Learner Advisory Committee. Administration recommends the Board approve revisions to the VCOE English Learner Master Plan as presented.

Dr. Williams noted the team in Student Services looks at the English Master Plan on an annual basis. This plan is the same as the previous year; no legislative action was taken this year, so only the date has changed.

Mr. Teasdale asked if this is a master plan as dictated by state regulations which needs to be completed every year. Dr. Williams indicated that this is so. Mr. Teasdale asked to what extent does VCOE operationalize this plan? Dr. Williams said everything is operationalized especially when it comes to DELAC and advisory meetings. The declassification process is adhered to and not compromised. This does mirror what happens in comprehensive school districts. She said one of the critical components of this plan is the needs assessments. There is value to ensure access and equity for our English Learners to keep processes like this at the forefront.

Ms. Ulrich made a motion to approve the VCOE English Learner Master Plan. Dr. Lisagor seconded the motion and it passed (5:0).

2. Second Reading of Approval of Revisions and Additions to Board Policies – INFORMATION /DISCUSSION /ACTION (10 minutes)

To ensure compliance of all programs and policies within VCOE Schools and Programs, the following board policies have been revised. This is the second reading before the Board. Administration recommends the Board approve the following policies:

- a. Revisions – BP 0450 Comprehensive Safety Plan
New – AR 0450 Comprehensive Safety Plan
- b. Revisions – BP 9000 Role of the Board
- c. Revisions – BP 9005 Governance Standards
- d. Revisions – BP 9010 Public Statements
- e. Revisions – BP 9100 Organization
- f. Revisions – BP 9121 President
- g. Delete – BP 9121.5 Duties Vice President (No CSBA Policy)
- h. Revisions – BP 9130 Board Committees
- i. Revisions – BP 9200 Limits of Board Member Authority
- j. Revisions – BP 9250 Compensation

Ms. Key opened the discussion, saying she appreciated the input and details discussed at the September 25th Board meeting. She feels confident these policies follow our own language plus integrating the CSBA policies.

Ms. Ulrich asked a question regarding BP 9000 “Role of the Board.” The sentence *“Working with the County Superintendent of Schools to establish the direction and priorities for the county office through its budgetary responsibilities and providing community leadership on behalf of the county office and public education”* was removed; she is wondering what the thought process was in removing this sentence.

Ms. Key referred to the CSBA sample 9000 policy and said the reason to remove those edits was simply to follow the example and align with the CSBA sample.

Ms. Ulrich stated that one of the Board’s goals has always been advocacy. She referred to objectives #2 and #13 of VCOE’s 9000 board policy and asked if the Board should have goals that are aligned with our policies.

#2. Collaborate with the County Superintendent to ensure implementation of the shared vision, goals and policies of VCOE.

#13. Provide community leadership on educational issues and advocate on behalf of students and public education at the local, state and federal levels.

Dr. Flores expressed the thought that he wouldn’t go down the path of aligning goals with policy because the goals are going to change which means we have to revisit policy changes.

Mr. Teasdale said #13 captures the idea of advocacy - implicitly leadership. He feels comfortable as long as #13 remains. He noticed one thing that is in the CSBA sample that is not in our policy is #9 - *“Adopt rules and regulations governing the administration of the office of the County Superintendent.”*

VCOE’s Board Policy 9000 - #9 states *“Collaborate with the County Superintendent to ensure the provision of a safe and appropriate educational environment for all VCOE students.”* Mr. Teasdale noted this statement is #6 in the CSBA sample. He said this is a controversial part of education code. He learned while working on the CSBA handbook that the Board’s authority is restricted to the programs and the statutory role of the Board such as the budget.

Dr. Morales suggested adding something like *“within statutory limitations”* to the end of #9 in the 9000 VCOE board policy.

Mr. Teasdale noted because #9 is in the CSBA model, he believes it should be in VCOE board policies. Ms. Ulrich agreed.

Dr. Lisagor suggested making the edit to #9 as Dr. Morales suggested.

The new #9 in the VCOE board policy 9000 would state: *“Collaborate with the County Superintendent to ensure the provision of a safe and appropriate educational environment for all VCOE students within statute.”*

Mr. Teasdale made a motion to add “*within statute*” to #9 in Board Policy 9000 and approve all other policies. Ms. Ulrich seconded the motion and it carried 5:0.

M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Ulrich confirmed with Lisa Bork that her registration and hotel accommodations for the 2023 CSBA Annual Educational Conference have been made.

Mr. Teasdale mentioned there has been some concern about safety at the CSBA conference in San Francisco. There has been a plan implemented to provide a corridor where people can walk to the Moscone Center in safety. Dr. Lisagor was in San Francisco this year and he found it was a wonderful place for tourists. There are of course, areas to be avoided.

Dr. Lisagor said that Sal Kohn is the speaker at AEC on Friday. His work is amazing.

N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Teasdale suggested scheduling some type of retreat in February on shared vision and goals. He would also like to go more in-depth on scheduling the Board agenda at the organization meeting to consider what types of presentations the Board would like to see.

O. FUTURE MEETINGS

Date: Monday, November 27, 2023
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: Monday, December 11, 2023
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board


O. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kidd adjourned the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

Date: 11/27/23


Arleigh Kidd, Board President

Date: 11/27/23


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