

VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
August 22, 2022

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. 22-15, was called to order by Rachel Ulrich, Board President, at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, August 22, 2022, 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 Ms. Ulrich, followed by a moment of reflection.

2. Roll Call
Trustees Present:
Rachel Ulrich, Area 1
Michael Teasdale, Area 2
Arleigh Kidd, Area 4
Dr. Ramon Flores, Area 5

Absent: Dr. Mark Lisagor, Area 3

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
Lisa Salas Brown, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services
Dr. Consuelo Hernandez Williams, Associate Superintendent, Student Services
Emily Mostovoy-Luna, Associate Superintendent, SELPA
Lisa Bork, Sr. Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Wanda Runcie, Executive Assistant

3. Approval of Agenda
Mr. Teasdale made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Kidd seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous roll call vote (4:0).

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

C. HEARINGS

1. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Case No. 22-13
Dr. Flores moved the Board uphold Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Case No. 22-13. Mr. Kidd seconded the motion and the motion carried upon a unanimous roll call vote (4:0). The decision of the Board is final in this matter.

2. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Case No. 22-14

Ms. Ulrich moved the Board uphold Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Case No. 22-14.

Dr. Flores seconded the motion and the motion carried upon a unanimous roll call vote (4:0). The decision of the Board is final in this matter.

D. CLOSED SESSION

None.

E. PRELIMINARY

Mr. Teasdale moved the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of July 25, 2022, be approved.

Mr. Kidd seconded the motion, and the motion carried upon a unanimous roll call vote (4:0).

F. CORRESPONDENCE

None

G. PRESIDENT'S AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

(Reports by Board members regarding their individual activities affecting the Office pursuant to Govt. Code Sec. 54954.2(a)).

1. Upcoming Events

ACCESS Back to School Night..... Sept. 6, 2022, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Boswell Back to School Night..... Sept. 7, 2022, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

CCBE Annual Conference..... Sept. 9-11, Hyatt Monterey

CEC Back to School/Open House Sept. 26, 2022, 6-8:00 p.m.

CSBA Annual Conference..... Dec. 1-3, San Diego Convention Center

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Kidd attended the VCOE Leadership Retreat and thanked staff for a great event. He said it has been an honor to serve the last year of Rob Collins' term as a Board member. With no one running against him, his new term will officially start in December.

Mr. Teasdale will be involved in a couple of workshops at the CCBE and CSBA conferences regarding the new handbook and better defining the roll of a county trustee. He appreciates Mr. Mostovoy-Luna helping with the CSBA workshop on social emotional learning.

Ms. Ulrich was not able to attend the Leadership Retreat as it was her first day of classes at Oxnard College. She is very proud of her fellow board members, Mr. Teasdale and Dr. Flores for their work at the state level.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Morales attended a vigil for the late Ventura County Supervisor Carmen Ramirez. She dedicated countless years to Ventura County and Oxnard as a city council member, attorney and advocate, a supervisor and Board Chair. Ms. Ramirez mentored him and embraced him as a leader when he served as the superintendent of Oxnard School District.

Public education in our county is going through a wave of energy; there is excitement for the coming school year. Today VCOE hosted Pleasant Valley and Briggs School Districts for their new school year kick-off events. Overall staffing throughout county has been strong. Kudos to human resource departments and charter schools throughout the county for

preparing their schools and districts in an exemplary way. Dr. Morales met with the district Superintendents last Friday and they are all surprised to be in the position they are in right now with staffing. Our own human resources department has been working feverishly.

Dr. Morales was asked to be the keynote speaker at Rio Elementary School District's kick off meeting. This summer Rio Rosales and Rio Lindo Schools had wonderful enrichment activities which were science and inquiry based. It was beautiful to see the summer bilingual program experiences in support of their students in their dual immersion programs.

He wanted to give kudos to the Leadership Retreat planning committee. We did a great job of integrating all of our departments and promoting inter-connectedness in the current and future work of compassionate systems with Peter Senge and Mette Boell from the Center for Systems Awareness. He is looking forward to what involves.

VCOE had a surprise visit from the Sub-Secretary of Education from Michoacan, Mexico - Teresa Lopez Hernandez. There was a pilot program in Somis School District for newcomer students that was done virtually. Superintendent, Dr. Vaca reached out to the Mexican Consulate letting them know that they received 17 new students and didn't have a program for them, and a partnership began. As a result of that there is a proposal with the Sub-Secretary of Education to provide four virtual teachers to deliver enrichment lessons for districts that have new Spanish speaking students or Dual Language Immersion programs. A classroom can have a group of 5 students all on a Chromebook and receive an enrichment lesson in Spanish.

There will be an Early Childhood Virtual Town Hall on Friday, August 26th. VCOE will be co-moderating, and our expert panel member will be Alicia McFarland, Director of Early Childhood Programs.

I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Mr. Teasdale said CSBA is going to initiate an Issue committee, that would involve our county offices. This is an opportunity to get CSBA more aligned with county needs in terms of advocacy. It might be good to get involved and let them know what we want to advocate for.

Ms. Ulrich had the opportunity to have some one-on-one time with Assemblymembers Bennett and Irwin. While we appreciate the budget this year, it is important to get serious about learning gaps by looking at student to teacher ratios. Ms. Ulrich is advocating for more teachers and lower numbers, which helps every student.

J. CONSENT/ACTION ITEMS

(All matters specified as Consent Agenda are considered by the Board to be routine and will be acted upon in one motion. There will be no discussion of these items prior to the time the Board votes on the motion unless members of the Board request specific items be discussed and/or removed from the Consent Agenda)

1. Mileage Reimbursement Claim
2. Temporary County Certificates

Ms. Ulrich made a motion to approve Consent Items J1 and J2. Mr. Teasdale seconded the motion and it passed unanimously (4:0).

3. Consolidated Application for Funding

Mr. Teasdale wished for more information on this item. Dr. Hernandez Williams said this is an annual item. Typically, VCOE doesn't receive immigrant funds, however we do receive Title 1, 2, 3 and 4 funds. Because our students are at Gateway and Providence, the EL and immigrant funds are connected to the student and the dollars stay with the district.

Mr. Teasdale moved to approve Consent Item J3. Mr. Kidd seconded the motion and it passed unanimously (4:0).

4. Annual Parent Notification for Students Served by the Ventura County Office of Education

Mr. Teasdale understands there is a lot of statutory information in these documents, but they are very lengthy.

Mr. Teasdale moved to approve Consent Item J4. Ms. Ulrich seconded the motion and it carried unanimously (4:0).

K. PRESENTATIONS

None.

L. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/ACTION

1. California State Preschool Programs, Prekindergarten Family Literacy Program Agency Annual Report

Ms. Alicia McFarland, Director, Early Childhood Programs addressed the Board. VCOE has a contract with CDE to serve 168 preschoolers annually in five classrooms in the Rio, Hueneme, and Ocean View School Districts. This contract also includes funding for a part-time VCOE literacy coach to support sites in working towards literacy goals.

These programs are required to use three assessment tools to identify key findings and action steps necessary to improve curriculum and, ultimately, child and family outcomes. These assessment tools include Desired Results Developmental Profiles to determine individual children's developmental levels, Desired Results Parent Surveys to assess how participating parents feel about the program services for their children and families, and the Environmental Rating Scales to assess indoor and outdoor environment of each classroom. Data from these tools informs goals not only for individual children but also for classrooms (the PSE).

VCOE assists sites in developing Quality Improvement Plans and provide training and coaching throughout the year. These classrooms have been rated at tiers 4 & 5 (the highest ratings) in the Quality Counts Ventura County Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS).

In accordance with the contract requirements, the annual report was submitted to the California Department of Education on June 1st.

Mr. Teasdale asked about the results of the evaluations. Ms. McFarland said they did see progress. Each time assessments are done families describe where they see areas of growth. A pre-survey determines what family's needs are and the end of year survey shows what they met. Goals are then set for the following year.

Ms. Ulrich asked if we subcontract? Ms. McFarland said the contract was obtained in 2007 when Dr. Weis was the county superintendent. It was a joint agreement to submit for the funds as a countywide effort and was targeted to a specific population. Sub-contracts still exist within certain zip codes and have funding terms and conditions that are applicable. With Transitional Kindergarten, they might have their own contracts with the state. We hope to learn more in September.

Mr. Teasdale asked if there is any tracking of these kids? Ms. McFarland said a micro-pilot was done specifically tied to this funding stream although there weren't hard student identifiers in the beginning. Students did demonstrate trends. Kids who are in high quality programs demonstrate stronger outcomes around third grade.

Dr. Flores inquired about Oxnard School District. Ms. McFarland said they had a relationship in the past, but Oxnard has their own direct contracts.

2. Approval of Revisions and Additions to VCOE Board Policies

To ensure compliance of all programs and policies within VOCE, policies have been added and revised and brought to the Board for approval. Ms. Hernandez Williams said her team has been working hard to incorporate new legislation and updated language.

Mr. Teasdale commented on BP 6154 that credit is given to homework that is received late and wondered if this is teaching kids good values and habits. Ms. Hernandez Williams pointed out there are many special circumstances such as medical and mental health which calls for us to look at student work based on the mastery of the content. She indicated a lot of the changes were based on research.

Dr. Morales said it is important to remember this refers to students in VCOE schools. It is most advantageous for us to have that option.

Dr. Flores made a motion to approve new and revised Board Policies 5112.5, 5125, 5141.31, 5141.4, 5145.12, 6146.4, 6154, 6158 and 6164.4. Mr. Kidd seconded the motion and it passed unanimously (4:0).

3. Superintendent Compensation

In accordance with Board Policy 2126, the County Superintendent shall have an annual compensation review.

Ms. Ulrich stated a better use of county employee time would be to move towards a monthly automobile stipend for the superintendent - perhaps \$200-250 a month. She asked Ms. Key to provide a bigger picture of comparisons.

Mr. Kidd asked if there is a salary comparison for other county superintendents. Ms. Ulrich said counties are very different in size and comparison.

Dr. Morales stated the mileage submitted also doesn't reflect all of the transportation experienced in the scope of his role.

Ms. Key asked the Board to refer to the comparison of auto allowance which includes county offices. This list contains only the counties that have the car allowance included.

Mr. Teasdale made a motion to approve a monthly allowance and then discuss the parameters. Dr. Flores seconded the motion and it passed with a 4:0 vote.

Mr. Teasdale noted it seemed the last four months of mileage reimbursements were higher and he wasn't sure if the average over the year makes sense.

Ms. Key also mentioned that due to COVID, many events have been virtual. Going forward, in person events are more likely.

Ms. Ulrich said Dr. Morales has a high salary which she defends because it is worth having someone of his caliber. She would be cautious in adding other benefits.

Dr. Flores said it is not adding benefits, it is reimbursing him for expenses and \$250 seems to be a good number.

Mr. Kidd would like to see what mileage reimbursements looked like pre-COVID. The current IRS mileage reimbursement rates are high.

Mr. Teasdale said this superintendent's travel patterns are much different than the previous superintendent. Maybe start at \$250 and re-evaluate in 6 months. As a counter-balance, giving something like a \$600/month mileage rate would be like giving a raise without paying taxes. Ms. Key said in actuality, when paying actual mileage, it is not taxed. The mileage stipend would be taxed.

Ms. Key said the savings part is the administrative work. Ms. Key said an auto allowance would be within the county only. If he were to travel out of the county, he could be reimbursed.

Mr. Teasdale made a motion to adopt a \$250 stipend to the superintendent for intra-county automotive expenses. Travel out of county is still reimbursed separately. Mr. Kidd seconded the motion and it passed unanimously (4:0).

This will be reviewed in a year when the annual compensation is brought to the Board.

M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Dr. Flores mentioned his daughter is a new trustee for Oxnard Union High School District.

N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

O. FUTURE MEETINGS

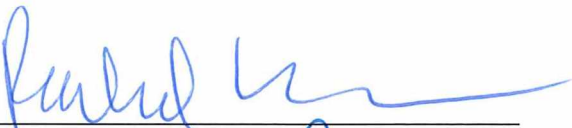
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: Monday, October 24, 2022
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Ms. Ulrich adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.


P. ADJOURNMENT

Date: 9/26/22



Rachel Ulrich, Board President

Date: 9-27-22



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