VCSBA Dinner Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2019

1. The VCSBA dinner meeting was convened at 6:05 p.m. at 5100 Adolfo Road, Camarillo, CA 93012. Ms. Urias led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. The group was excused for dinner.

2. From 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. attendees registered and socialized.

3. At 6:30 p.m., VCSBA President Christina Urias opened the meeting.

4. Dr. Weis informed the group about former VCOE Superintendent Jim Cowan’s passing. The group remembered and honored Dr. Cowan with a moment of silence.

5. From 6:35 to 7:00 p.m., attendees enjoyed self-service dinner.

6. At 7:00 p.m. President Urias reconvened the business of the meeting. Each table made introductions of those in attendance.

7. President Urias announced that the last VCSBA dinner meeting/presentation for the year which will be “Social Emotional Learning” on April 28, 2019.

8. President Urias asked those who might be interested in serving on the VCSBA Executive Board to contact a member of the nominating committee. Ms. Urias discussed CSBA open positions and urged attendees to volunteer for open positions.

9. Elenora Torres presented the Treasurer’s Report, which included beginning balance of $8,854.16, deposits of $5,660, and withdrawals of $1,704.51, for a total remaining balance of $12,809.65.

10. President Urias awarded meritorious service awards to the following people:
    a. Allen Rosen, OPUSD, 8 yrs
    b. Bernardo Perez, VCCCD, 8 yrs
    c. Bob Rust, PVSD, 8 yrs
    d. Debra Kuske, PVSD, 8 yrs
    e. Dianne McKay, VCCCD, 8 yrs
    f. Elenor Torres, Rio SD, 8 yrs
    g. Ernie Morrison, Oxnard SD, 8 yrs
    h. Lucy Rangel, Filmore SD, 8 yrs
    i. Michelle Quintero, Somis Union SD, 8 yrs
    j. Nathan Sweet, Moorpark USD, 8 yrs
    k. Rachel Ulrich, Ventura County Board of Ed, 8 yrs
l. Scott Mier, Somis Union SD, 8 yrs  
m. Veronica Robles-Solis, Oxnard SD, 8 yrs  
n. Wayne Edmonds, Oxnard Union High School D, 8 yrs  
o. Lesli Stein, LVUSD, 9 yrs  
p. Steve Blum, VCCCD, 12 yrs  
q. Christina Urias, Santa Paula USD, 16 yrs  
r. Karen Schilbrackm Briggs ESD, 16 yrs  
s. Susan Luckey, Ocean View SD, 16 yrs.  
t. Michelle Kolbeck, Santa Paula USD, 20 yrs  
u. Mindee Stekinger, Briggs ESD, 20 yrs  
v. Patricia Phelps. CVUSD, 20 yrs  
w. Ron Speakman, PVSD, 20 yrs  
x. Marty Bates, Ventura County Bd of Ed, 24 yrs  
y. Lynne Peterson, Santa Clara Elementary SD, 24 yrs  
z. Ellen Fitts, Ocean View SD, 32 yrs  

11. President Urias introduced the program for the evening, “Investment in Early Education.” The panelists for the evening were: Mabel Munoz, Director, Early Childhood Programs, VCOE; Petra Puls, Executive Director, First Five Ventura County, Dr. Carola Olivia-Olson, Assoc. Professor Early Childhood Studies, CSUCI; Dennis Meyers, Ast. Exec Dir, Government Relations, CSBA. Power points from the meeting can be downloaded at www.vcoe.org/vcsba.

12. Mabel Munoz discussed why first five years of child development provides foundation for all future learning, behavior and health. She also explained that quality early childhood development produced most successful long-term benefits. Learn more at Heckmanequation.org.

13. Ms. Munoz discussed what VCOE is doing per QRIS (also knows as locally Rising Stars) to address the quality of learning experiences. 61,000+ 0-5 yr. old children in Ventura County. Only 5% in quality programs. The other 90% in small “friends and family” type environment and little is known about the quality of this care. This stat is similar across other counties. Stats also show that kids from affluent homes are exposed to much more words and have higher vocabularies than children from low in come homes. The reality is that kids who start behind, often stay behind. This means that we have to work smarter and more efficiently to reach children 0-5 yrs old.

14. Petra Pulls spoke next and discussed First 5 program and Prop 10 investments in Ventura County. She explained what the Neighborhoods for Learning (NfLs) centers do across the county. She described characteristics of those who use NfLs in V county: 16% live in poverty, 75% need licensed child care but cannot find it, 9% of kids k-12 have report abuse or neglect, 37% of kids ages 3-5 are not enrolled in pre-k or K and 60% of 3rd graders do not read at grade level. We need
to build capacities and help address shortages. What is happening with Nfls? We are continuing to address NFL structure but there will be fewer spaces/sites. Working with Interface Children & Family Services as partner to provide. While this is bleak, Governor Newsome’s proposed budget “cradle to career” strategy will invest in early childhood and implement universal preschool for low income children, among other things. How can school district’s help → provide facilities; identify early child education in LCAP; advocacy, Take 5 and read.

15. Dr. Carola Olivia-Olson, discussed early childhood and bilingualism: 60% early childhood dual language learners in CA and even higher in Ventura County. These students look very different amongst each other and have different amounts of home language exposure and learning of concepts. Cannot treat all these children the same. English language development is essential. Cal State Channel Islands has grant to provide on line professional development in dual language immersion programs.

16. Dennis Meyers spoke about Governor Newsome and potential funding for early education. Gov. Newsome is hiring more senior policy advisor for cradle to career advisor, staffing up and budgeting up on this early childhood issue. Gov. Newsome is also inheriting large budget reserves. He is making investments but typically only “one time” money which often seeds the programs but then LES’s will be on their own. There have been cracks in state’s general fund and since first budget announcement is been reduced. www.fullandfairfunding.com. Sign the petition.

17. Questions were taken from the audience.

18. Ms. Urias thanked the presenters and attendees for coming. She also thanked Cathy Samuel for her assistance with VCSBA activities. She adjourned the meeting was at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Denise Helfstein, VCSBA Executive Board Secretary