

VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
April 22, 2024

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. 24-05, was called to order by Dr. Ramon Flores, Board President at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, April 22, 2024, 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 Dr. Flores, 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, County Superintendent of Schools
Misty Key, Deputy Superintendent, Fiscal and Administrative Services
Lisa Salas Brown, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services
Dr. Consuelo Hernandez Williams, Associate Superintendent, Student Services
Dr. Juan Santos, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Lisa Bork, Sr. Executive Assistant
Aurelia Roman, Executive Assistant
John Meza, Facilities

3. Approval of Agenda
Ms. Ulrich made a motion to approve the agenda with item C2. removed. Mr. Kidd seconded the motion, and the motion passed 4:0.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

C. HEARINGS

1. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal # 24-05
Simi Valley Unified School District
Ms. Ulrich made a motion to deny Interdistrict Attendance Appeal #24-05. 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 #24-06
 Simi Valley Unified School District
 Interdistrict Attendance Appeal #24-06 was withdrawn by the parents.

D. CLOSED SESSION

None

E. PRELIMINARY

1. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 11, 2024.
 Mr. Kidd moved the Board to approve the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of March 11, 2024. Ms. Ulrich seconded the motion and the motion passed (4:0).

F. CORRESPONDENCE

None

G. PRESIDENT’S AND BOARD MEMBERS’ REPORTS.

1. Upcoming Events

ACCESS Open House	Apr. 24, 2024
Gateway Open House	Apr. 25, 2024
Battle of the Books	Apr. 24 & 29, 2024
Alternative Ed Student Summit (AM) & Counselor Summit (PM)	Apr. 30, 2024
Boswell Art Walk and Open House	May 2, 2024
All Staff Gathering	May 15, 2024
CEC Open House/Orientation	May 22, 2024
Impact II Awards	May 22, 2024
2 nd Annual DELAC/RPAC Community Education Forum	May 29, 2024
Las Colinas Open House	May 30, 2024
2024 Graduations/Promotions	June 4-14, 2024

2. Board Members’ Reports

Ms. Ulrich spoke with Senator Steve Bennett who is on the Legislative Committee; he assured her his constituents are doing what they can to protect schools and community college funding.

Mr. Teasdale spoke with Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin and learned about one of the bills she is supporting on a longitudinal database, which has more funding allocated to it. He believes long-term accountability and the impact of a curriculum change or a program approach is key for our educational system.

Mr. Teasdale said CSBA must maintain effective communication especially when handling sensitive matters such as finances and the use of reserve funds. Addressing concerns raised by COEs promptly and transparently can help alleviate tensions and build trust among stakeholders.

Mr. Kidd is attending a graduation at Providence tomorrow.

Dr. Flores is on the CSBA communication working group. There is more to come in a webinar on May 8, 2024. A hard copy will be sent out on May 15, 2024.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Morales spoke at a luncheon for the California Retired Teachers Association on March 20, 2024, in Oxnard. This is a very active chapter that is interested in the state of education. They are very supportive of those who work in the trenches.

As part of a two-part series on school violence and fighting, Univision interviewed Dr. Morales on March 25, 2024. They asked him to highlight the positive aspects of our districts, specifically the Wellness Centers which minimize stress on campus.

There was an Affordable Workforce Housing meeting on April 11, 2024 at VCOE's conference center. Nine school districts are exploring housing options, these are 3-10-year potential projects. VCOE is working with the Housing Trust Fund, Ventura County Housing Authority, and the P-20 Council on doing appropriate homework to facilitate and pull together those who need to be in the room to explore and dialog as they venture forward. Ventura Unified, Ojai Unified and OUHSD have been looking at this for the last few years, and they appreciate the convening to share where each district is at and request our assistance with viable solutions.

The VCSBA dinner meeting was held on April 15, 2024. The topic was Communication Strategies. Kudos to Dave Schermer and the Public Information Officers from school districts who discussed communication strategies with school board members.

Dr. Morales attended the California County Superintendents general meeting in Santa Barbara from April 15-17, 2024. As the Chair of the FCMAT Board, he led a discussion on the governor's state draft proposal. The emphasis on conservative budgeting and planning underscores the importance of prudence in uncertain financial times. It's reassuring to know efforts are underway with VCOE collaborating with school districts to navigate these challenges and weather the storm effectively.

Dr. Morales was a panel member at the Latino GDP event on April 17, 2024 at Oxnard College. Dr. David Hayes-Bautista from the Center for Economic Research spoke at the event, he has done research on Latino economics for decades. He highlighted the importance of Latinos being economic drivers and contributors. The U.S. Latino economy ranked as the fifth largest in the world. There are links to the Latino GD report in our newsletter.

Providence teacher Ms. Chris Geist was named VCOE Teacher of the Year on April 22, 2024. Her family, Probation and Providence staff joined her to enjoy the honor. She is eligible to be considered for Ventura County Teacher of the Year.

I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

None

J. CONSENT/ACTION ITEMS

1. Temporary County Certificates

Ms. Ulrich moved the Board to approve Consent Items J1 – J3. Mr. Teasdale seconded the motion and the motion passed (4:0).

K. PRESENTATIONS

None.

L. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/ACTION

1. MATES Programmatic Audit DISCUSSION / INFORMATION / (30 minutes)
In accordance with the VCOE Charter School Progress Report Timeline, representatives from MATES presented information required in the annual programmatic audit detailed in the Memorandum of Understanding which includes provisions for the LCAP.

Dr. Consuelo Williams introduced Marlo Hartsuyker, Director of Charter School Support, who introduced Brenda Olshever, MATES Executive Director, Kristen Walker, Assistant Director, and Rudy Calasin, Chief Business Official.

Ms. Hartsuyker recognized Ms. Olshever for her 37 years in education and 28 years at Meadows Elementary, and MATES as a founding teacher. She will be retiring in June.

MATES attendance numbers are steady with 391 enrollment and 11 students in Personalized Learning (home school). There is a healthy wait list and ADA is 96%. The administration has decided to sunset the Personalized Learning program due to low enrollment numbers.

2022-23 CAASPP scores in math and ELA indicated that 80% of students met or exceeded standards which was well above the state scores. See below:

	<u>MATES</u>		<u>STATE</u>	
	ELA	80.61%	ELA	46.66%
	Math	80.71%	Math	34.62%
English Learners	ELA	76.92%	ELA	35.66%
	Math	78.58%	Math	24.20%
Students wi Disabilities	ELA	51.72%	ELA	15.75%
	Math	48.27%	Math	12.26%
Hispanic Students	ELA	82.85%	ELA	36.08%
	Math	80.00%	Math	22.69%
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	ELA	46.16%	ELA	35.27%
	Math	46.16%	Math	22.91%

Ms. Ulrich inquired what the actual number is for students classified as economically disadvantaged. The response from MATES is that is is a small number, as only the third and fifth graders take the test. A ballpark figure would be around nine.

Academic interventions include Universal Design for Learning, staff workshop with Shelley Moore and Katie Novak, full-time school psychologist and speech therapist, added hours for paraprofessionals and social-emotional services specialist, RtI, Individualized Learning Plans for all English Learners and GATE Students, and a robust SST and SPED assessment referral proses.

Individualized learning plans are done for all English Learners. Families and teachers meet together to support student progress.

Ms. Olshever reviewed the conditions for learning in providing a safe school environment and social-emotional well-being. MATES has a robust safety committee and conducts drill simulations. Everyone who enters the school office is screened and teachers are trained every other year in CPR and first aid. Privacy screenings have been put up on the fences.

MATES continues to utilize Heart of an Eagle Core Values program for social-emotional well-being.

Rudy Calasin, Director, School Business Services addressed MATES budget for the current year and two years out. This year is the 8.22% COLA, the projected COLA for next year is now .76% which is a significant decrease from the COLA which was projected at the beginning of the year which was almost 4%. It remains to be seen what the COLA will actually be. There was a dip in revenues in January, then a recovery, however things have flatlined due to inflation.

In terms of salaries, they always have step and column increases budgeted for the future years. With the sunseting of Personalized Learning, there will be some teachers salaries fall off the books in 2025-26. Non-salary expenditures factor in inflation at about 3%. They factor in everything they can however, there are always some unknowns. There will be some transition in leadership and maybe retirements. Next year's budget has not been fully built out, but it is looking better. The reserves are very healthy. The most liquid piece is almost 2.5 million which is a very healthy reserve for a school the size of MATES.

Dr. Flores inquired where Personalized Learning teachers are going after the program closes. Ms. Olshever said a teacher is part-time and will be more part-time next year. Ms. Walker would love to have TK on campus, but space is limited. MATES is in negotiations with the district and has requested a portable to house two TK classrooms.

Ms. Ulrich asked if there is a reason for the healthy fund balance. Ms. Olshever commented she would like to put those funds toward TK, authorization from Conejo Valley Unified is needed.

Ms. Olshever noted that the School Business Services Authority does a great job for MATES.

Some of the highlights and successes of MATES – they received the 2023 California Distinguished School Award for the third time and the California Exemplary Arts Education Program Award. This is the fifteenth year of excellence at MATES. She invited Board members to visit the campus. They have a new multi-media theater tech booth that allows students to monitor shows, lights, sounds, and visuals. This is for students who may not want to be out front but behind the scenes.

MATES continues to partner with California Lutheran University and California State University at Northridge. Student teachers are in the classroom which benefits them and the students.

Mr. Teasdale stated the financial aspect seems to be doing very well. He asked what the percentage of the Hispanic population is.

Ms. Olshever said it has grown and is about 16%.

Mr. Teasdale commented on the excellent math scores. MATES has worked with McGraw Hill for eight years, which starts in Kindergarten, this program has been very consistent with some additional items added.

Mr. Teasdale inquired about social-emotional learning and asked if it has an impact on academic scores. Ms. Olshever said she has been in education for a long time and she has seen a big change in parenting style and accountability. If there are difficult situations going on at home, the kids are focused on home, not the classroom.

Mr. Flores noted he was part of the Ventura County Board of Education when the petition for MATES was being presented in 2008. It is exciting to see what was an idea become a reality.

Ms. Olshever thanks the Board for their support over the years.

2. Second Reading and Approval of Revisions and Additions to Board Policies – INFORMATION / DISCUSSION / ACTION (15 minutes)

This Board agenda item was tabled from the March 11, 2024 Board meeting. To ensure compliance with all programs and policies within VCOE Schools and Programs, the following board bylaws have been revised or added to our VCOE Board Policies. All policies have been updated to reflect current CSBA suggested language and existing laws. This is the second reading.

Ms. Ulrich would like to look at each Board Policy individually.

Ms. Key began with item L2.a., BP 9220, this board policy was updated to include information recalling Board members, election date, term of office, campaign conduct, statement of qualifications and Board member qualifications. There is also an option to have a special election or choose a winner by lot in the case of a tie vote in an election.

- a. New – BP 9220 Governing Board Elections
Delete – BP 9210 Membership Comprehensive Safety Plan

Ms. Ulrich made a motion to approve L2.a., BP 9220 (Governing Board Elections) with Option 1 “Tie Decided by Lot.” Mr. Teasdale seconded the motion and the motion passed 4:0.

- b. New – BP 9222 Resignation
- c. New – BP 9223 Filling Vacancies
- d. New – BP 9224 Oath or Affirmation
- e. Revisions – BP 9230 Orientation

Ms. Ulrich made a motion to approve L2.b, c, d, and e. (BPs 9222, 9223, 9224 and 9230). Mr. Teasdale seconded the motion and the motion passed 4:0.

- f. New – BP 9240 Board Training

Mr. Ulrich made a motion to deny L2.f. BP 9240 (Board Training). Mr. Kidd seconded the motion and the motion passed 4:0. (BP 9240 was not accepted).

- g. New – BP 9310 Board Policies (New and Renumbered)
Delete – BP 9300 Development of Policies and Procedures
Delete – AR 9300 Development of Policies and Procedures
Delete – BP 9314 Suspension of Policies

Ms. Ulrich made a motion to approve L2.g. which is to approve the new BP 9310 (Board Policies) and delete BP/AR 9300 and BP 9314. Mr. Teasdale seconded the motion and the motion passed 4:0.

- h. New – BP 9400 Board Self-Evaluation
Delete – current BP 9400, Accountability, Review and Evaluation

Mr. Teasdale made a motion to deny L2.h. (BP 9400 Board Self-Evaluation). Ms. Ulrich seconded the motion and the motion passed 4:0. The current BP 9400 was reviewed with no revisions.

- i. Renumber BP 2126 to BP 9500 County Superintendent’s Remuneration.
The policy number is being updated, no change in the language.

Mr. Teasdale made a motion to approve L2.i. (BP 9500, County Superintendent’s Remuneration). Mr. Kidd seconded the motion and the motion passed 4:0. Mr. Teasdale noted he recommends this board policy be followed annually.

3. Second Reading of Revisions to Board Policy 9220, and adoption of Resolution # 24-08, Procedure for Determining Tie Votes in a Governing Board Election – INFORMATION / DISCUSSION / ACTION (15 minutes)

On March 11, 2024, Board Policy 9220, Governing Board Elections, was presented for a first reading. As part of the review of this policy, the Board was asked to determine the procedure to be used in determining tie votes in a governing board election. The current procedure to follow in the event of a tie vote is to call a run-off election. Should the Board choose to determine the winner by lot, Resolution 24-08 will need to be adopted and forwarded to the Ventura County Elections.

Mr. Kidd made a motion to approve Resolution 24-08, *Ordering a Regular Governing Board Trustee Election, Ordering Consolidation with other Elections, and Constituting “Specification of the Election Order” to be Held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024.* Mr. Teasdale seconded the motion and the motion passed 4:0.

M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Kidd follows the “Daily Tax Revenue Tracker” on the California Controller’s website to follow budget updates.

Mr. Teasdale attended a panel discussion CSUCI on equity education. Dr. Weis was the moderator. Mr. Teasdale was shocked by the atmosphere of distrust and inability to deal with differences of opinion. His hope is that students will have an open attitude of diversity of opinion and perspectives.

N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. BRIDGES Charter School Programmatic Audit – May 20, 2024

O. FUTURE MEETINGS

Date: Friday, May 3, 2024
Time: 8:00 a.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Budget Study Session

Date: Monday, May 20, 2024
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board


Date: Friday, June 21, 2024
Time: 8:00 a.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Budget Study Session

Date: Monday, June 24, 2024
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

P. ADJOURNMENT

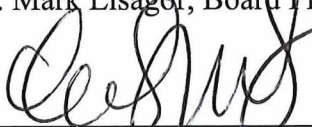
Dr. Flores adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Date: 5/20/24



Dr. Mark Lisagor, Board President

Date: 5/21/24



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