

VCSBA Dinner Meeting Minutes  
October 14, 2019

1. The VCSBA dinner meeting was convened at 6:09 p.m. at 5100 Adolfo Road, Camarillo, CA 93012.
2. From 6:09 to 6:30 p.m. attendees registered and socialized.
3. At 6:30 p.m., VCSBA President Veronica Solis opened the meeting, led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance, and then excused the group for dinner.
4. From 6:30 to 7:00 p.m., attendees enjoyed self-service dinner.
5. At 7:00 p.m. President Solis reconvened the business of the meeting. Each table made introductions of those in attendance.
6. President Solis announced the next VCSBA presentations.
  - a. 3/9/20: Vaping Epidemic, How Do We Solve It?
  - b. 4/20/20: TBD
7. Treasurer Efrain Cazares presented the VCSBA budget for the 19-20 school year. He thanked Paula Driscoll and Danni Brooks for helping prepare the budget. The budget was unanimously approved.
8. Eleanor Torres introduced the program for the evening: "School Budgets and Finance." Michael Fine, CEO, FCMAT and Kevin Gordon, President, Capital Advisors Group, LLC were the panelists.
9. Mr. Fine discussed Prop 98 and district budgets. All indicators from state of CA other than unemployment indicate stagnant economy in our state. We may be headed to a short recession. These types of things can turn around very quickly. There will always be a lag with respect to revenue; because of the lag it is difficult to predict mandate.
10. Mr. Gordon discussed Prop 98 minimum guarantee for schools. COLA is one of many choices for Prop 98 money. When Governor puts his budget together, there might not be enough money to fund even COLA. Governing Boards should be aware of this theoretical possibility. However, COLA may still be full because (1) the state put money away into a Prop 98 rainy day fund for COLA, and (2) it is an even number election year and the issue of the adequate education funding in the State is prominent and well-known.
11. State has \$400 million in its own reserve earmarked for Prop 98. Debate going on in Sacramento about how state reserve should be used. Practical issues for board members – look at your multi-year projections - Forms MYFP, MYP, the CASH report, and the standards and criteria. Those show what is in alignment. These are critical places to evaluate during budget process.
12. Across the state there are approx. 30 school districts in distress and 10 in critical distress. Some districts aren't listening to their county offices or their communities. Shouldn't be. District administrators and boards can use the law, standards, and FICMT as a guardrail to keep out of financial danger.

13. PERS/STRS & Special Ed: Governor used some of the reserves to relieve schools of some of the increase. Need to keep the pressure on the Governor to pay this down. Governor will continue this money only if meaningful reforms.
14. Base grant is inadequate and unequitable. The campaigns going on to do something about school funding have been effective to some extent. There may be one or two initiatives to invest into education on next ballot. All of this ends up being tax policy and that is a "tough sell." However, the electorate coming to polls in next election should be a good shot.
15. Revenue funded by attendance. Expenses are funded by enrollment. There are not any meaningful discussions about giving kids "sick days."
16. Welcomed questions from the audience.
17. Ms. Solis thanked the presenters and attendees for coming. She also thanked Cathy Samuel for her assistance with VCSBA activities. She adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Denise Helfstein, VCSBA Executive Board Secretary