

**VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF**  
**May 20, 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. 24-07, was called to order by Dr. Mark Lisagor, Board President at 6:01 p.m. on Monday, May 20, 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. Lisagor, followed by a moment of reflection.
  
2. Roll Call  
Trustees Present  
Rachel Ulrich, Area 1  
Dr. Mark Lisagor, Area 3  
Arleigh Kidd, Area 4  
  
Absent:  
Michael Teasdale, Area 2  
Dr. Ramon Flores, Area 5  
  
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  
Wanda Runcie, Executive Assistant  
John Meza, Facilities
  
3. Approval of Agenda  
Mr. Kidd made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Ulrich seconded the motion, and the motion passed 3:0.

**B. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**C. HEARINGS**

1. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Case No. 24-07  
Ventura Unified School District

Ms. Ulrich made a motion to uphold Interdistrict Attendance Appeal #24-07. Mr. Kidd seconded the motion and the motion carried upon a unanimous roll call vote (3:0). The decision of the Board is final in this matter.

**D. CLOSED SESSION**

None

**E. PRELIMINARY**

- 1. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meetings of April 22, 2024 and May 3, 2024.

Mr. Kidd moved the Board to approve the minutes of the Regular Board meetings of April 22, 2024, and May 3, 2024. Ms. Ulrich seconded the motion and the motion passed (3:0).

**F. CORRESPONDENCE**

- 1. CSBA letter dated April 5, 2024, to California Board of Education Trustees regarding the Transitional Working Group, Transparency, Influence, Finances, and SB 1380.

**G. PRESIDENT’S AND BOARD MEMBERS’ REPORTS.**

- 1. Upcoming Events

CEC Open House/Orientation .....	May 22, 2024
Impact II Awards .....	May 22, 2024
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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

Mr. Kidd attended the All Staff Gathering on May 15<sup>th</sup>. He said the event was fantastic with very moving tributes from parents on what staff has done for students; he thanked staff for their behind-the-scenes work.

Ms. Ulrich recently attended a graduation at Providence. It was very touching to see the student's emotions; Ms. Ulrich wishes her well.

Dr. Lisagor also attended the All Staff Gathering and was amazed at the camaraderie and the number of staff who have been with VCOE for many years.

Dr. Lisagor mentioned the May Revise. He asked the Board to be advocates for Prop 98 to not be the solution to solve the budget, this represents short-term gain and long-term loss.

**H. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Dr. Morales said on May 3, 2024, administrators went to Anaheim to support Ventura County schools and districts at the 2024 California School Recognition Program Awards Ceremony. Oxnard Middle College High School in the Oxnard Union High School District was recognized as a 2024 Exemplary Dual Enrollment School. Fillmore High School received the California Distinguished School Award for the first time in the history of the school district. Rio School District was recognized as a California Green Ribbon School District.

On May 10, 2024, Oxnard School District’s superintendent Dr. Ana DeGenna came to VCOE with the district's 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Superintendent Fellows. They asked questions on policy and education issues in preparation for a trip to Sacramento. These were strong, civic-minded youth

and Dr. Morales thoroughly enjoyed engaging with them.

On May 13, 2024, the Ronald Regan Education Foundation invited district superintendents and assistant superintendents to experience a live Situation Room activity that represented a pressure-packed timed crisis event. It was a great experience for all.

Dr. Morales said the All Staff Gathering featured family members of VCOE's students who talked about what our services do for their children. Students also spoke. It was amazing and a reminder of who we serve.

#### **I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Mr. Kidd attended the CSBA Delegate Assembly on May 17 and 18, 2024. He spoke about Senate Bill 1315 and noted districts spend 20% of their time completing reports to a state agency. Some reports have duplicative information. The long-term goal is to consolidate and reduce the number of reports local educational agencies are required to complete annually.

Also at the CSBA Delegate Assembly meeting, Patrick O'Donnell, who has been in legislation for a long time led a group activity on the Prop 98 maneuver to send out to area legislators on why it would be detrimental for education long term.

Ms. Ulrich commented on the potential change in the funding formula for Community Colleges promoting the advancement of students, not based on attendance.

#### **J. CONSENT/ACTION ITEMS**

1. Temporary County Certificates
2. 2024-25 School Year Calendars for Gateway, Providence, Career Education, and VCOE Operated Special Education Programs.

Ms. Ulrich moved the Board to approve Consent Items J1 and J2. Mr. Kidd seconded the motion and the motion passed (3:0).

#### **K. PRESENTATIONS**

None

#### **L. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/ACTION**

1. Annual Programmatic Audit Presentation by Bridges Charter School  
On February 16, 2010, the Ventura County Board of Education approved the charter school petition for Bridges Charter School. On March 23, 2020, the Board approved the renewal of Bridges Charter School, with the term of the charter expiring on June 30, 2025, and extended until June 30, 2028, pursuant to AB 130 and SB 114. In accordance with the VCOE Charter School Progress Report Timeline, representatives from Bridges Charter School will present information required in the annual programmatic audit detailed in the Memorandum of Understanding.

Lisa Salas Brown, Associate Superintendent of Educational Services introduced Marlo Hartsuyker, Director, Charter School Support. Ms. Hartsuyker said this is the last charter school presentation of 2023-24 and acknowledged the whole child resource

map. She introduced Bridges staff, Dr. Kelly Simon, Director, Cindy McCarthy, Assistant Director, and Rudy Calasin, Director, School Business Services.

Dr. Simon said this is the fourteenth year of Bridges being in operation; she has been the director for seven years. Enrollment has been rebounding following the Pandemic. This year enrollment grew from 351 to 380. Next year the hope is to reach capacity at 420 students. Homeschool has reached capacity with a waiting list.

Mr. Kidd inquired about the 57 students on the waitlist. Dr. Simon said the waiting list is mainly students in upper grades.

Bridges has grown increasingly diverse, the Hispanic enrollment has increased to 27%. Socioeconomically Disadvantaged enrollment is at a high of 21% as a result of a partnership with VCOE. Bridges is serving five immigrant families. Bridges has a reputation for meeting individualized needs.

CAASPP Data shows Bridges students performing well above the state in all subgroups.

Conditions of Learning – charters are flexible and adaptable. Since the Pandemic, the state test scores show a need to reteach concepts. Bridges has a multi-tiered system of support. Bridges invests in students' social-emotional and psychological needs through many data-informed interventions.

School safety is important, staff has participated in many trainings including the VCOE safety seminars with Strategos. A new doorbell entry system has been installed as well as a new protocol for entering campus. There are panic alarms in the classrooms and new phone systems in portable classrooms. Student drop-off and pick-ups are closely monitored.

Bridges has been using Project CoVitality for three years doing two annual social-emotional health surveys to third through eighth graders which assesses key psychological mindsets that are associated with students' positive and thriving development.

Ms. Ulrich asked if this survey is self-reported. Dr. Simon said it is and it is not anonymous, so action can be taken if necessary. Many students are well above the thriving threshold. Bridges will develop social-emotional learning lessons based on the survey results.

Mr. Calasin addressed Bridges' budget. The changes in revenue are driven by enrollment projections. Any drop seen is one-time revenue recorded this year. Budget step and column increases are included. Non-salaried items apply a 3% inflation rate. Any drop is tied to one-time expenses that aren't recognized in future years.

The drop in enrollment last year was unexpected. This year's large COLA was a little too generous. For Bridges – it is about getting back to where the school used to be before COVID with over 400 students and a 95% attendance rate as it was for ten years. Transitional Kindergarten students currently don't qualify for funding, but TK will be funded next year.

Overall Bridges is in a good position to continue to grow. It has a one-million-dollar liquid reserve. Mr. Calasin said they have to use wisdom in projecting future expenditures and be conservative while allowing for growth.

Mr. Kidd asked about the COLA for next school year. Mr. Calasin said they are projecting around 1.07.

Some of Bridges highlights are its Expanded Learning Opportunity Program (ELOP) where 100% of families in need were offered after-school care, free of charge.

Ms. Ulrich asked about the 30 additional non-school days. Dr. Simon said some of these days are extended school days, summer school days, staff development days and holiday breaks.

Bridges has a new Transitional Kindergarten program aligned with Kindergarten standards. This year there were 11 students enrolled, next year there will be 25 students.

Bridges has a high retention of leadership for 7 years (100%) and a 90% faculty retention rate. Two additional bilingual support staff members were hired in 2023.

Bridges upgraded and redesigned its Outdoor Classroom, offers a thriving performing arts program, launched a Farm to Table program, and held Family Literacy Nights. They have adopted the Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) Amplify Curriculum and Illustrative Math Curriculum. And on a scale of 1-5, 94% of parents rate satisfaction as 4 or higher.

Mr. Kidd inquired about students using the wellness center. Dr. Simon said it is a wonderful resource serving 15-20 students in a day.

Ms. Ulrich asked about the preschool daycare. Dr. Simon said it was run through the Conejo Valley Unified School District and was closed after the funding was no longer provided. That building now houses Transitional Kindergarten.

Dr. Lisagor said Bridges was the first charter he participated in. He remembers having some concerns. Bridges has stepped up, he appreciates the transparency in the supplemental written report.

2. Ventura County Plan for Expelled Students, Triennial Update, May 2024

The Ventura County Plan for Expelled Students is on file in the Administration Department. Education Code Section 48926 provides that each County Superintendent of Schools, in conjunction with district superintendents in the county, shall submit to the Superintendent of Public Instruction a triennial update to the county plan first developed in 1997. The plan delineates the existing school district and county office educational alternatives available to expelled students in Ventura County.

Ms. Stephanie Rodriguez addressed the Board saying preparation in updating this document represents working with local school districts over the past several months

and reviewing what districts are finding to be challenging on school campuses. This work also includes CDE requirements and a review of Gateway and Providence Court School procedures.

Ms. Ulrich made a motion to approve the Ventura County Plan for Expelled Students, Triennial Update. Mr. Kidd seconded the motion and it passed 3:0.

3. Review of 2024-2025 Courses of Study for Court and Community Schools and Special Education

The Court and Community Schools and Special Education Programs 2024-2025 Courses of Study are being presented for the Board's review and requested adoption. Per Board Policy No. 6143, these courses of study conform to the county graduation requirements, provide students the opportunity to attain skills appropriate for entry-level employment in business and industry upon graduation from high school, and prepare students for college and career access.

Copies of the Courses of Study for Court and Community Schools and Special Education will be available for review at the Ventura County Office of Education, Administrative Services Center, 5189 Verdugo Way, Camarillo, beginning May 20, 2024, and continuing through an anticipated adoption on June 24, 2024. The Board and general public are encouraged to view these items.

Ms. Holly Minear, Executive Director, Student Services spoke. She said the changes related to the course of study is the addition of Dual Enrollment classes - Introduction to Art and Visual Structure, Personal Development and Study Strategies, Self-Paced Career Assessment, and Social Media Marketing. Dual Enrollment programs are a work in progress as they want student input as to what courses to offer. These classes provide VCOE students an opportunity to experience college and see their potential.

Ms. Ulrich asked if Dual Enrollment students are going to the college for these classes. Ms. Minear said these classes are primarily online courses in collaboration with the VCCCD. These classes involve students in Odyssey, Gateway and Providence.

4. Review of 2024-25 Course of Study for the Career Education Center

The Ventura County Office of Education Career Education Center 2024-2025 Course of Study is being presented for the Board's review and requested adoption. Per Board Policy No. 6143, these courses of study conform to the county graduation requirements, provide students the opportunity to attain skills appropriate for entry-level employment in business and industry upon graduation from high school, and prepare students for college and career access.

Copies of the Ventura County Office of Education Career Education Center Course of Study will be available for review at the Ventura County Office of Education, Administrative Services Center, 5189 Verdugo Way, Camarillo, beginning May 21, 2024, and continuing through an anticipated adoption on June 24, 2024. The Board and general public are encouraged to view these items.

Anthony Marengo, Director of the Career Education Center said it is a pleasure to highlight the course of study for the 2024-25 school year. The changes made reflect the

collaborative and collective efforts of county school counselors, student interests and industry partners.

Ms. Marty McGrady, CEC Principal said the Course of Study is divided into high school courses and adult education courses. The welding center is on hold until the second semester due to construction delays. The new curriculum is currently being developed by the new Assistant Director of Welding and an American Welding Society (AWS) consultant. Interviews for the welding instructor are at the end of May. This course will offer 300 hours of hands-on instruction; students who complete this course will now receive the certification of proficiency, the NCCER Certification (National Center for Construction Education and Research, and an introductory AWS certification.

In the past, the certificated nurse assistant program consisted of two 220-hour semester-long sections. Taking student feedback into account and spring enrollment numbers, CEC is now offering a semester and a year-long option to help students who want to get into the program, but don't need such an accelerated model. There are three sections instead of four and all sections are full.

Due to the new requirement for insurance for the internship sites, CEC will no longer be able to offer the internship portion of the ROP Veterinary Assistant Program. Dr. Cathy Jonokuchi has worked to offer a semester class that offers all the necessary training required to be hireable.

Last year CEC had two offerings in the Manufacturing Program – a semester and a year-long offering. The 300-hour yearlong offering was the most popular so the semester class was dropped due to lack of enrollment.

Ms. Ulrich said now that Ventura College has a fairly robust manufacturing program, she assumes the CEC is trying to work together. Ms. McGrady said most of the advisory members come from that program and they have been helping each other build this over time. The CEC class helps a student who wants to get into that program.

Ms. Ulrich inquired about partnering with the county animal shelter. Ms. McGrady said it is more difficult than expected as they require their own MOUs and executive director. They have not had an executive director so there is no one to partner with. Ms. Ulrich asked about volunteering at the animal shelter. Ms. McGrady said they can take volunteers, but to do the CEC program, they have to have liability insurance.

Dr. Morales noted the unintended consequences of AB218 have impacted the insurance market by over 200% in a one-year period.

5. Approval of Revisions to Board Policies 5141.21, 6146.1, 6146.4, 6173.3  
To ensure compliance with all programs and policies within VCOE Schools and Programs, the following board policies and administrative regulations have been revised or added to our VCOE Board Policies. The Board may choose to waive the second reading and approve the revisions/additions as presented. Administrative Regulations are attached for the Board's information.

- a. Revisions - BP/AR 5141.21 Administering Medication and Monitoring Health Conditions
- b. Revisions - BP 6146.1 High School Graduation Requirements
- c. Revisions - BP 6146.4 Differential Graduation and Competency Standards for Students with Disabilities
- d. New - AR 6173.3 Education of Juvenile Court Students

Ms. Ulrich made a motion to approve all of the Board Policy revisions and separate and discuss the new policy. Mr. Kidd seconded the motion and it passed 3:0.

In discussing AR 6173.3, Ms. Ulrich indicated these things are already taking place and she was surprised they have been put into a regulation.

Ms. Salas Brown said she believes this policy is intentional about putting these items in a policy such as requirements for enrollment, transfer of credits and coursework, and graduation requirements for juvenile court school students. This helps with the guidelines of the work of Ms. Rodriguez and her team.

Dr. Morales said this is probably a result of the state awarding money last year for the juvenile court education system. CSBA provided that sample language for everyone in the state.

Ms. Ulrich said this may be a standardization for other counties in the state.

Ms. Ulrich made a motion to waive the second reading and approve the above-noted policies as presented. Mr. Kidd seconded the motion and it carried 3:0.

#### **M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Kidd said at the CSBA meeting in Sacramento last weekend, a motion passed to create a Region 14. John McPherson most likely will be appointed as the director for a year.

Mr. Kidd also mentioned a bylaw change where the word “obedience” was inserted language. The CSBA attorney said it was more of a technical change, but members didn’t care for it. There were several motions to change or get rid of the word, but in the end, it was added.

Ms. Ulrich questioned whose idea the word “obedience” was. Mr. Kidd believes it was the attorneys. An example given was if a Board member were to do something outside the scope of their job, they broke the bylaws and it would not be on CSBA.

Ms. Ulrich inquired about the CCBE funds.

Mr. Kidd said he believes there will be a reduction of 25% in the annual County Boards’ dues. Mr. Teasdale will be able to give more details at the next meeting.

Mr. Kidd also commented he was the winner of a drawing for a free hotel night at the Annual Education Conference.



Mr. Kidd also said CSBA took opposition to the anti-tax measure that the California Supreme Court will decide on in the coming weeks. There was also talk of a State Facilities Bond. There is also great concern over the Prop 98 Maneuver which could be potentially harmful. They are asking school boards to educate people on what this really entails.

**N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Public Hearing on LCAP and Budget - June 21, 2024
2. Adoption of LCAP and Budget - June 24, 2024

**O. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Date: Friday, June 21, 2024 (*Public Hearing on LCAP and Budget*)  
Time: 8:00 a.m.  
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo  
Purpose: Board Budget Study Session

Date: Monday, June 24, 2024 (*Adoption of LCAP and Budget*)  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo  
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: Monday, July 22, 2024  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo  
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board


**P. ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Lisagor adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Date: 6/24/24

  
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Dr. Mark Lisagor, Board President

Date: 6/25/24

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