

**VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
February 26, 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. 24-02, was called to order by Dr. Mark Lisagor, Board President at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 26, 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
Dr. Ramon Flores, Area 5

Absent: Michael Teasdale, Area 2

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. Juan Santos, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Lisa Bork, Sr. Executive Assistant
Cathy Samuel, Executive Assistant
John Meza, Facilities

3. Approval of Agenda
Mr. Kidd moved the Board approve the agenda. Ms. Ulrich seconded the motion, and the motion passed 4:0.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

C. HEARINGS

1. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Case No. 24-02
Mr. Kidd moved the Board deny Interdistrict Attendance No. 24-02. Ms. Ulrich 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. 24-01
Dr. Flores moved the Board deny Interdistrict Attendance No. 24-01. 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.

D. CLOSED SESSION

None

E. PRELIMINARY

1. Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting of January 22, 2024.
Ms. Ulrich moved the Board approve the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of January 22, 2024. Mr. Kidd seconded the motion and the motion passed (4:0).

F. CORRESPONDENCE

None

G. PRESIDENT’S AND BOARD MEMBERS’ REPORTS.

1. Upcoming Events
Middle School Mock Trial Championship Rounds & AwardsFeb. 27, 2024
Home for EducationFeb. 29, 2024
805 Industry Day (Ventura College) Mar. 8, 2024
CSBA County Board Governance Workshop, SacramentoMar 8-9, 2024
VCOE Equity Conference Mar. 12, 2024
805 Industry Day (Moorpark College) Mar. 15, 2024
Science Fair Awards Mar. 25, 2024
Coast2Coast, Washington DC Apr. 10, 2024
Battle of the Books Apr. 24 & 29, 2024
Impact II Awards May 22, 2024
2. Board Members’ Reports
Ms. Ulrich will be hosting a Trio Academy for Oxnard High School students at Oxnard College on Saturday, March 16, 2024. The academy will focus on anatomy and physiology.

Mr. Kidd had planned to attend a Providence graduation, but it was cancelled. He is looking forward to attending the new County Board training in Sacramento in March.

Dr. Flores has attended many meetings of the CSBA transition working group. Dr. Naomi Easton, CSBA, is heading up this effort with 15 county representatives from around the state.

Dr. Flores will be participating in the CSBA Professional Development workshop on March 8-9 in Sacramento, introducing a session on charter school renewals. He was also appointed to a subcommittee which is making plans to honor Dr. Bedell with a lifetime achievement award. Dr. Bedell was a long-time trustee for the Orange County Office of Education and a member of the faculty of Cal State Fullerton.

Dr. Lisagor attended a VCCF Donor briefing. Dr. Consuelo-Williams did a great job

educating the group on foster students in the county. He attended the VCSBA dinner meeting on the budget. Misty Key presented and budget experts from around the county were seated at each table. It was an excellent format. He looks forward to attending a Providence graduation this week as well as the Home for Education conference at CSUCI which is sold out. The focus will be on the housing crisis especially as it relates to education. Dr. Morales will be a keynote speaker.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Home for Education conference will be held this Thursday. The conference is a product of P-20 Council, comprised of VCOE, VCCCD, CSUCI, CLU and business and community partners. VC Housing Authority has been pivotal in putting this conference together. The focus will be on informing the school district community about housing options available.

The Migrant Speech Debate will be held on March 23. There will be record student participation. The Migrant department is looking for additional judges.

Dr. Morales was part of a video production with students from Santa Paula High School media and broadcast club interviewing him. He was excited to meet with student leadership team members.

On February 6, he attended an event held at the Ronald Reagan Library – on Ronald Reagan's birthday. The keynote was provided by former President of Poland, and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Lech Walesa. Simi Valley High School students were able to attend. Following that, Dr. Morales was invited to participate with others from throughout the country in a think tank discussion promoting civic discourse, discussing civic minded education, and how to reach consensus. It was a refreshing experience. The Ronald Reagan Library has invited Dr. Morales and district Superintendents to participate in an upcoming situation room leadership activity. He will let Board members know when scheduled, likely in May.

VCOE cosponsored a parent/student event with Community Memorial Hospital. Nationally recognized speaker, Jessica Lahey, provided the keynote on addiction. It was very powerful. Over 250 parents and students from all over the county attended and had the opportunity to discuss addiction together. The VCOE CHPP department did a great job and there are more opportunities for these types of conferences in the future.

This month VCOE also had Sandy Hook teacher, Kaitlin Roig-DeBellis, as a speaker for a recent school safety seminar. She told of her experience during the Sandy Hook school shooting tragedy. This series is evolving and participants are learning from each other, with representatives from school districts and law enforcement discussing best practices.

Dr. Morales participated in school visits at both of the Briggs schools. It was rewarding to have conversations with young students.

On February 22, he was a keynote speaker and panel participant for an East County Superintendents Forum. Over 150 administrators were in attendance .

The next VCSBA dinner meeting will be held on April 15. The topic will be Communication. Public Information Officers from various districts will be attending with the same format as the

last meeting with experts at each table with Board Trustees.

The Superintendent of Los Angeles County Office of Education, Dr. Debra Duardo, and her Assistant Superintendent visited Providence to view the program and talk with leaders from probation about model practices. Ventura County is blessed to be a top program in the State. To have the largest county in the state looking to replicate our programs is an honor. He thanked the Alternative Education staff.

I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Ms. Ulrich reported that during the last weekend in January she met with Assemblymember Steve Bennett who is on the budget committee. He assured her that the Assembly is protecting funding for education. She also spoke with Senator Monique Limon who also supports education and our need for funding.

J. CONSENT/ACTION ITEMS

1. Temporary County Certificates

Ms. Ulrich moved the Board approve Consent Item J1. Dr. Flores seconded the motion and the motion passed (4:0).

K. PRESENTATIONS

None.

L. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/ACTION

1. School Safety Plans

All Ventura County Office of Education operated schools have established Comprehensive School Safety Plans. In accordance with Board Policy No. 0450, Safety Plans are reviewed on an annual basis by the school safety planning committee, modified as needed, and changes are approved by the County Superintendent of Schools. Complete School Safety Plans will be available for review for the next 30 days in the Superintendent's Conference Room at 5189 Verdugo Way, Camarillo.

Lisa Brown recognized the work of Pamela Heron, Risk Manager; Holly Minear, Executive Director, and the VCOE safety team members who revised each school safety plan to ensure compliance with new legislation. In addition, school site administrators worked with the safety teams to ensure each site has a plan to safely evacuate all VCOE students, especially those students who need special assistance.

Holly Minear shared highlights of the work. Representatives from the Teachers federation and the Paraeducator federation have been invited to attend Safety meetings. School site leaders also attend. The topic of safety is included in agendas for staff meetings, branch meetings and school office meetings. All are working to prioritize safety in our schools. The two recent safety seminars, including the presentation by Sandy Hook teacher, and Jessica Lahey's presentation on addiction, were both outstanding.

Dr. Flores expressed his thanks for the work staff does. When you consider some of our students are non-verbal, in wheelchairs or gurneys, ensuring safety is much more difficult.

Ms. Ulrich noted that at Oxnard College recently there was a report of a student on campus with a weapon. The training on knowing what to do in that situation is very helpful.

2. 2023-24 VCOE LCAP Mid-Year Update

Staff presented to the Board the Mid-Year Update on the VCOE Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and Budget Overview for Parents (BOP) as required by Senate Bill 114 (2023) on or before February 28th. The report includes the following:

- All available mid-year outcome data related to metrics identified in the current LCAP; and,
- All available mid-year expenditure and implementation data on all actions identified in the current LCAP.

Christine Mahone, Director of County Programs Support and Accountability, gave an update on progress on the 23-24 LCAP. Since the budget was approved in June, VCOE did receive a slight increase in LCFE funding - approximately \$22,000. This did not affect the LCAP.

Goal 1: Providing educational experiences for all students, increase engagement and prepare students for college and careers.

This is being accomplished through increased A-G course access via the APEX online platform - 34 A-G courses were offered in semester one. APEX is also used for credit recovery allowing students to work online at their own pace. Strong partnerships with community colleges continue – currently three Providence students are dual enrolled in the community college. CTE course offerings at Providence and Gateway have been increased with 40 students participating. New this year is a CTE course in Auto Industry being offered at Providence. A Food Handler Certificate program is also offered. With this certificate, students are employable at restaurants. Nine students completed the program. ELD support has been increased. Currently 33-35% of enrolled students at Providence and Gateway are English Learners. Ongoing professional development and monthly collaboration time built into the schedule is provided for teachers and staff.

With these efforts, improvements have been seen on the 2023 Dashboard State assessments: 2% growth and 7% growth for students meeting or exceeding English Language Arts standards; and 2% meeting Math standards on the State assessment. VCOE administers a local assessment four times a year to current students; 41% of students increased one level in reading and 59% increased one level in math. 2023 Graduation rate at Gateway was 100% and 80% at Providence.

Goal 2 Focuses on School Climate, Culture, Safety to increase engagement. RESET - Resolve, Educate, Support, Empower and Transform - program was implemented to address the suspension rate. This teacher led program addresses behavioral concerns. Teachers or students can refer to the program. Students learn coping strategies, receive counseling, etc.

Incentive programs have been developed to address attendance. Students are rewarded weekly and monthly for positive attendance.

Supporting students' social and emotional health is a high priority in both these programs. Academic counselors assist. There is now a designated wellness center for middle school students. Parents are invited to celebrate student successes at quarterly awards assemblies. Students took fieldtrips to the Reagan library; business partners from Bank of America talked to students about budgeting and finance.

Ways to measure success include the attendance rate. In the first semester, Gateway attendance was up 4% and Providence up 10%. Chronic absenteeism rate for all students is down 14% at Gateway and 38% at Providence. There is still work to be done but we are moving in the right direction. In addition, Gateway had a 2% decrease in their suspension rate.

Goal 3 – Relationships with Parents/Guardians and Community

Some of the events that took place in semester one include the Wellness Wonderland where families were invited to come to campus, meet with school staff, and a variety of community agencies were there presenting services available to them.

ParentSquare is used to communicate with parents, 100% of parents are getting these communications.

Community partnerships are important and we continue to team up with local agencies and community partners to ensure students are receiving the services available

Goal 4 – Focuses on Providing Support to Expelled Youth throughout the County
Transportation is provided with five buses bringing students to and from Gateway. Transition specialist maintains relationships between LEAs and families. During Semester one there was 117 enrolled at Gateway. All students transition to Gateway within 10 days. All students have an expulsion plan - things they need to do to return to their district. Specialists and counselors meet with students regularly to review those plans and track progress and encourage students. During semester one over 1000 sessions were held. 100% of students graduated at Gateway.

Goal 5 – Focuses on Providing Support for Foster Youth

Foster Youth Coordinators do the work in this area. Transportation is huge, they coordinate individualized transportation from home to their school of origin. Seventy percent of foster youth are staying in their school of origin. One to one support with FAFSA and Scholarship applications is provided. Also provided is TIPS – Trauma Informed Practices – training to LEAs, foster families and students in teacher programs in CSUCI.

VCOE has programs and supports in place to meet the needs of our students. Will continue efforts to support these students.

Mr. Kidd asked about the drop in chronic absenteeism. What do you credit that to? Multiple efforts – incentive program, calls home, a combination of overall support.

Dr. Flores loves that the 100% graduation rate at Gateway is for students 100% of whom were expelled. Are there any other programs that give students certification in food industry beyond the Food Handler Certificate? Staff continues to look into other programs. This was the first year of introducing this program.

Dr. Lisagor commended staff on the work being done. What is the current enrollment at Gateway? 70 students.

Ms. Ulrich thanked staff for the report.

M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Kidd commented on the visit from LACOE Superintendent, Dr. Duardo. For the past two months, he has been working with LA County employees who work in the Court Schools. Two of the schools have been notified that they have 60 days to get their staffing up or they will close. The students could go to other counties. He has also heard that there is a 95% attrition rate for new probation employees in LA County. Last spring, he worked with employees at Santa Barbara County and although it is hard to compare Santa Barbara or Ventura with LA County, there is a real difference in what is happening in Ventura County compared to the other two counties. When he talked with VCOE employees in court schools, Providence and Probation, staff seems happier, they are positive, which is much different from his experience with the other two counties. He is happy to see LA County coming to visit our programs. The kinds of things we are doing are commendable. Especially for the students and employees. It is sad that LA is struggling with this issue. It is good to share what is working in Ventura County.

Dr. Morales noted that Dr. Duardo said 100% of the responses of VCOE staff and VC Probation were student centered. She was refreshed to know this type of program exists.

Dr. Flores reported that the first Robotics event will be held at Port of Hueneme this Saturday and next Saturday. It will be amazing. He invited Board members to attend. He was invited to participate in a Read Across America event next week.

N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Vista Real Charter High School Programmatic Audit – March 11, 2024
2. Mr. Kidd requested a quick update on solar and how the manufacturing program is going.

O. FUTURE MEETINGS

Date: Monday, March 11, 2024
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: Friday, April 19, 2024
Time: 8:00 a.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: Monday, April 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 7:22 p.m.

Date: 3-11-24



Dr. Mark Lisagor, Board President

Date: 3-11-24



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