

**VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF  
March 30, 2015**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and Moment of Reflection  
The Regular Meeting of the Ventura County Board of Education, Agenda No. 15-06, was called to order by Dean Kunicki, Board President, at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 30, 2015, in the Board Room of the VCOE Conference & Educational Services Center, 5100 Adolfo Road, Camarillo. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Mary Galvin, Director, Ventura Charter School, followed by a moment of reflection.
  
2. Roll Call  
Trustees Present:  
Rachel Ulrich, Area 1  
Marty Bates, Area 2  
Dr. Mark Lisagor, Area 3  
Dean Kunicki, Area 4  
Dr. Ramon Flores, Area 5  
  
VCOE Personnel Present:  
Stanley C. Mantooth, Ventura County Superintendent of Schools and Ex-Officio Secretary and Executive Officer of the Board  
Dr. Roger Rice, Deputy Superintendent, Student Services  
Dr. Valerie Chrisman, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services  
Richard Urias, Director, Charter School Support and Oversight  
John Tarkany, Coordinator, Student Support and Competitions  
Mary Samples, Assistant Superintendent, SELPA  
  
Mary Galvin, Ventura Charter School  
Lisa Hildebrand, Ventura Charter School  
Brenda Priske, MATES Charter School  
Juliet Herman, Interim Director, Bridges  
Terri Childs, Board President, Bridges  
Benny Martinez, Director, School Business Services  
  
Nancy Akkerman, Executive Assistant
  
3. Approval of Agenda  
Mr. Bates moved the agenda be approved. Dr. Flores seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously (5:0).

**B. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**C. HEARINGS**

None.

**D. CLOSED SESSION**

None.

**E. PRELIMINARY**

1. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 13, 2015.  
Dr. Lisagor moved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 13, 2015 be approved. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously (5:0).

**F. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

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

1. Dr. Flores reported that he was a judge at the Migrant Speech and Debate Tournament.
2. Ms. Ulrich noted that she will be a judge at the Ventura County Science Fair.
3. Mr. Bates noted that attended the Bridges tour and watched a play given by the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grader students.
4. The following Board members will attend the April 20<sup>th</sup> VCSBA Dinner meeting: Mr. Kunicki, Ms. Ulrich, and Dr. Flores.

**H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

*Mr. Mantooth reported on the following activities of the Office:*

1. TUPE Consortium Grant Application.
2. Inspiration to Innovation Awards for VC Innovates will be held on Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m., Spanish Hills Country Club.
3. Advisory from School Services of California on Technology-Based Instructional Materials and the Williams Act.
4. Congratulations letter from Congresswoman Brownley pertaining to Education Partnership Agreement with the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Port Hueneme.
5. Letter from Ventura County District Attorney, Greg Totten, acknowledging receipt of FCMAT report on Bridges Charter School.

6. CALPADS Data Management Recognition. This is the student identifier system.
7. The Ventura County Star will be running an extensive article on Charter Schools, possibly this weekend.
8. Dr. and Mrs. Lisagor were recognized as Community Champions in the CSUCI Annual Report.

**I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

None.

**J. CONSENT/ACTION**

1. Travel Expense Claim
2. Temporary County Certificates
3. Board Legal Counsel Statement for Services
4. 2014-15 Consolidated Application Reporting System, Winter 2014 Data Collection
5. School Accountability Report Cards

Ms. Ulrich moved that Consent Items 1-5 be approved. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously (5:0).

**K. PRESENTATIONS**

1. High School Equivalency Tests  
Mr. Urias reported on High School Equivalency tests. Since 1942, the GED (General Educational Development) has been the only High School Equivalency test available to candidates in California. The GED, if passed, earns the test-taker a **California High School Equivalency Certificate**. In 2013, GED transitioned to a computer based format only which can be hard for students in the corrections facility. GED no longer offers a paper test option. Dr. Rice noted that GED also changed the fee structure, precluding the administrator from recouping the cost of the test.

The CCSESA Student Programs and Services Steering Committee put out an RFP to solicit competitors who would administer a High School Equivalency test. This RFP process led to the approval of two new High School Equivalency tests: the **TASC** offered by McGraw-Hill, and the **HiSet** offered by ETS. Pearson will continue to offer the **GED** which is computer based only. TASC and HiSet both offer paper based testing at a much lower costs.

The format of both tests align with Common Core and College and Career Education. Test preparation materials were reviewed. HiSet offers many free preparation materials. Testing fees are: \$72 for TASC; \$70 for HiSet; and \$140 for GED. HiSet used to administer the GED so they are familiar with the testing process. HiSet is grandfathering in all testing proctors. HiSet will not be charging for any of the preparation materials and two retakes are offered free. GED would have cost \$10,000 for the computer based equipment. A flyer was distributed that shows testing offered by VCOE. VCOE tests approximately 100 students per year.

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

### **1. Submission of Charter Petition Renewal Request and Review of the Annual Programmatic Audit Presentation of Bridges Charter School**

Mr. Urias introduced Bridges representatives, teachers, students and parents. Juliet Herman, Interim Director, presented the Annual Programmatic Audit.

#### Annual Programmatic Audit:

Bridges is a K-8 charter school offering a site-based education for 350 students and a hybrid homeschool program for 50 students. 70% of students come from the Conejo Valley. Bridges strives to offer a whole child education. Teachers, parents and students partner to support student success. Children are enabled to become lifelong learners. Bridges has developed Expected Schoolwide Learning Results (ESLRs) which were reviewed. Bridges enrollment has increased from 170 students in 2010 to its current enrollment of 400 students. The retention rate is stable, and the attendance rate is 97%. Student ethnicity was reviewed with 80% white students and 15% Latino/Hispanic. Their goal is to continue to diversify through ongoing outreach efforts. Special populations numbers are aligned with that of Conejo Valley Unified School District. Their API score has grown from 844 to 850. Academic performance results in English and Math were reviewed.

Student academic growth is monitored through learning assessments including “Let’s Go Learn.” Mid-year reading results are identified utilizing this program. Teachers offer data-driven instruction. Bridges has been asked to present on Let’s Go Learn at an upcoming Charter School conference. Students take part in service learning, doing crafts with the local seniors and raising funds for a sister school in Tanzania.

Benny Martinez provided the financial data for Bridges. During the fiscal crisis, Bridges utilized furlough days which have now been reduced. A \$250,000 charter school startup loan has now been paid off. Bridges utilizes a budget committee which actively addresses budgetary issues. The school is in good financial shape.

Terri Childs addressed Board governance. The Bridges Board is comprised of 7 members, elected by parents and teachers. There are two community members on the Board. The Board is responsible for oversight of the operations and fiscal affairs of Bridges with subcommittees being established. The Board has been consistent in keeping Board Policies up to date. A search for a permanent Director is underway and should be completed by mid-June.

The Bridges Board has addressed some tough issues: addressing recent programmatic issues in the Extensions program; negotiated a new lease with CVUSD; streamlined Board/Director communication; created a culture of shared leadership and increased collaboration with VCOE.

Parents are encouraged to become involved in the school environment. Many volunteer in the classroom, some join committees and some bring their professional expertise to the classroom.

The CORE Academy is offered to Middle School students. It provides a smooth transition to high school, provides leadership opportunities to students, and provides an academic focus on the core subjects of Humanities, Science and Math. The Homeschool program offers students access to campus-wide programs twice a week, an array of enrichment classes to choose from, and personalized learning guided by highly qualified teachers.

Mr. Kunicki questioned the 10 students on the waiting list. Bridges responded that Grades 4 and 5 are currently full. If a student leaves, someone on the waiting list is offered a position.

Bridges will begin to take advantage of VCOE offered programs including efforts of the Career Pathways Grant, Part II which will include efforts reaching to middle school students; and the Underwater Park program. Bridges also takes part in the Curriculum and Instruction study programs at VCOE.

#### Oversight and Monitoring Checklist and Petition Renewal

Mr. Urias noted that Bridges meets the renewal requirements in the area of academic achievement. Bridges is pursuing a new Director. The API for Hispanic students has grown 100 points over the past years, and a 150 point gain amongst students with disabilities. Their enrollment has steadily increased, almost doubling in the past five years.

Dr. Rice addressed modifications that have been made to the MOU. During the past several weeks, Mr. Urias has met with the Bridges Board and staff to ensure that all of the FCMAT recommendations are being implemented. Language has been incorporated in the MOU to codify some of the recommended changes. A revised MOU will be brought to the Board.

In the past, charter schools were approved contingent upon the adoption of an MOU acceptable to the Charter School Board, the County Board of Education and the County Office of Education. The renewal must be for a period of 5 years.

Mr. Kunicki asked about the expulsion appeal process. Mr. Urias noted that the expulsion process is now imbedded within the charter school petition itself. Charter Schools can adopt their own discipline process and expulsions can be appealed based on their policies. A candid conversation has been held with all charter school directors on this issue.

Dr. Flores noted that page 133 has an organizational chart that does not show the Extensions Program. The Director is the immediate supervisor of the Extensions staff. The chart will be amended to reflect this.

Mr. Bates moved the Board approve the renewal of the Bridges Charter School for a five year period contingent upon the adoption of a MOU acceptable to the Bridges Charter School Board, the Ventura County Board of Education, and the Ventura County Office of Education. Ms. Ulrich seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously (5:0). Dr. Lisagor further moved the Board accept the Bridges Charter School Programmatic Audit as presented. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously (5:0).

2. Letter of Support to Establish an Engineering Program at California State University, Channel Islands (CSUCI)

Dr. Flores reported that the CSU system contains 23 schools, with CSUCI being the newest campus. CSUCI is lacking an Engineering program. Assemblymember Irwin has recently requested the Assembly Budget Committee approve funding of \$500,000 per year for 3 years to support an engineering program at California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI). A good portion of the program is already in place at CSUCI. The money would be used to hire professors.

Our Board has entered into an educational partnership with the Naval Base and the Naval Base desperately needs engineers. Ms. Ulrich noted that Ventura County has two universities neither of which has an engineering program. It is currently the highest paying major with just a Bachelor's degree.

Dr. Flores moved the Ventura County Board of Education approve the letter supporting Assemblymember Irwin's request for funding for an Engineering Program at California State University, Channel Islands. Ms. Ulrich seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously (5:0). Mr. Mantooth noted that the Ventura County Office of Education has also provided a letter of support.

**M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

None.

**N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Staff Presentations on Departmental work (during Budget Study Sessions).
2. Consideration of Electronic Board Agendas and Explanatory Materials (April).
3. One to Two-day VCBE Tour of VCOE Facilities.
4. LCAP Information (April) / LCAP and Budget Public Hearing (May) / LCAP and Budget Approval (June).

**O. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Date: Friday, April 17, 2015 (*Budget Study Session*)  
Time: 8:00 a.m.  
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo  
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: Monday, April 27, 2015  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo  
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: Friday, May 8, 2015 (*Budget Study Session*)  
Time: 8:00 a.m.  
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo  
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: ***Tuesday, May 26, 2015***  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo  
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

**P. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

***Approved by Board Action on 04/17/15.***

*Board meetings are recorded by audio tape pursuant to Government Code Section 54953.5(b).  
Copies of these audio tapes are available by request to this office at (805) 383-1900.*