

**VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGUALR MEETING OF
JANUARY 25, 2016**

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. 16-01, was called to order by Dr. Mark Lisagor, Board President at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 25, 2016, 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 Dr. Lisagor, 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:
Dr. Roger Rice, Deputy Superintendent, Student Services
Dr. Valerie Chrisman, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services
Mary Samples, Assistant Superintendent, SELPA
Richard Urias, Director, Charter School Support and Oversight

Nancy Akkerman, Executive Assistant

3. Approval of Agenda.
Mr. Kunicki moved the agenda be approved. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously (5:0).

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following members of the Public addressed the Board in support of Ventura Charter School:

1. Jessica Murphy, Laura and Stefan Faer, Allana Schurr, Olivia Long.

C. HEARINGS

None.

D. CLOSED SESSION

None.

E. PRELIMINARY

1. Approval of Minutes of Annual Organizational Board Meeting of December 7, 2015.
2. Approval of Minutes of Special Board Meeting with VCCCD of December 8, 2015.

Mr. Kunicki moved the Minutes of the Annual Organizational Meeting of December 7, 2015 and the Special Board Meeting with VCCCD of December 8, 2015 be approved. Dr. Flores seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously (5:0).

F. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Email dated December 8, 2015, titled Items from 12/7/2015 Board Meeting (regarding Retire Benefits Fund and Charter School borrowing).
2. Email dated January 13, 2016, titled Change in Board Meeting Date (Trustee responses included).
3. Email dated January 13, 2016, titled Invitation to VCOE All Staff Gathering.
4. Email dated January 19, 2016, titled Invitation to MATES Winter Gallery.

G. PRESIDENT'S AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

1. Ms. Ulrich reported that she will be attending the 2016 CCBE Fall Conference Planning Committee meeting in Sacramento in February.
2. Dr. Flores reported that he attended the Opening of the Manufacturing Classroom at the CEC. Haas Automation donated much of the equipment. He also attended a Providence graduation. He attended the Grand Re-opening of the Harrington School in the Oxnard School District.
3. Dr. Lisagor reported that he attended a Providence graduation and the Tri-County Education Coalition seminar where Dr. Chrisman presented on the status of the new accountability, the Governor's budget and LCAP. Tri Counties will hold their Legislative Action Days on May 16 and 17.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Rice reported on the following activities of the Office:

1. The Joint Resolution between Ventura County Board of Education and Ventura County Community College District has been revised per the requests of the two Boards. Originals were distributed for Board Trustee signatures.

I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

None.

J. CONSENT/ACTION

1. Travel Expense Claim
2. Temporary County Certificates
3. Williams and Valenzuela CAHSEE Quarterly Report to County Board of Education
4. Disposal of Property

Mr. Bates moved that Consent Items 1-4 be approved. Ms. Ulrich seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously (5:0).

K. PRESENTATIONS

None.

L. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/ACTION

1. Submission of Charter Petition Renewal for Ventura Charter School of Global Arts and Education (Ventura Charter School) and Review of the Annual Programmatic Audit Presentation by Ventura Charter School

PROGRAMMATIC AUDIT. Mary Galvin, Director of Operations; Lisa Hildebrand, Director of Education; and Sara O’Conlon, Board President; presented the annual programmatic audit. Other Board members, teachers and students were acknowledged.

Enrollment. Ventura Charter School has been in existence for 10 years. Enrollment has continually grown over the past 10 years. The current enrollment in classroom is 372 and 50 in homeschool. Enrollment is limited by facility space. Approximately 25 students left the homeschool program last year.

Ethnicity. VCS still struggles to match the ethnicity of the local school district. Efforts to increase diversity include translating the website into Spanish and 59 other languages; tours are conducted in Spanish; families are encouraged to spread the word about the school; presentations at the local HeadStart program; and a booth at the opening of a local park near the Avenue. 26% of students qualify for free and reduced lunch. 9% of students are special education.

VCS Board of Directors. The full Board recently attended a Brown Act training. The Board is focused on ensuring that revenues and expenditures are monitored and stay in balance, in order to address student, parent and teacher priorities. VCS continues to have clean audits. Business Services has been helpful in addressing the budget with the VCS Board.

Board member job description guidelines are reviewed annually. Each year the Board attends a retreat. Topics have included self-evaluation, and LCAP. Four new members joined the Board this year.

Budget. Benny Martinez addressed the VCS budget. Two of the VCS Board Members are CPAs. The VCS Budget Committee is easy to work with and consistently updates the Board. VCS was diligent in addressing needs during the economic crisis. Increases in Health benefit and STRS are budgeted for. VCS is in excellent financial condition with stable reserves.

Student Achievement. Scores on 2015 ELA and Math CAASPP were reviewed. VCS is outperforming their local school district in both areas. The new California standards are a challenge to Home school students and this is being addressed. VCS has two significantly subgroups – Economically Disadvantaged and Hispanic. Economically Disadvantaged and Hispanic students are scoring 12% and 23% below White students in ELA and Economically Disadvantaged students are scoring 18% lower in Math (Hispanic is equal in Math). Efforts are being made to address the achievement gaps in these subgroups.

LCAP Goals.

Improve academic achievement of English Learners and low Socio-economic students.

Efforts to meet this goal include the “Kickstart” summer program, paraeducator support for ELL students, after school program to assist with homework, teacher led after school intervention; maintain lower class size.

Implement Common Core Standards.

Engage NY for Mathematics; professional development for teachers to understand new State Standards and project based learning; students have access to I pads.

Maintain and Improve Parental Involvement

Increase Homeschool student achievement.

Restructure homeschool with the new state standards in mind, provide parents the support needed to address these standards.

Parent Involvement. Parent involvement is encouraged but not required. Three of eight Board members are VCS parents. Parent advisory committee meets monthly. Parent involvement is encouraged in Board meetings, performances, etc.

Parent Survey. Survey results indicate that parents are appreciative of the school atmosphere and communication. Parents feel that the school meet their child’s needs in Language Arts, Science, with a slightly less agreeing that the students’ needs are being met in Math and Social Studies/History. Parents wanted additional attention to Math, requested feedback sooner when student is struggling. Requested more Science; and wanted the Kindergarten Yard addressed (a new play structure has been added and the playground has been resurfaced).

Student Surveys. Students feel safe and that their teachers care about them. Future surveys will ask about peer to peer relations.

Accomplishments: Since 2011, full WASC accreditation has been achieved; full day kindergarten has been implemented; after school program and tutoring; technology has been added; homeschool has been restructured. VCS is interested in continually improving. VCS hopes to continue to become more diverse; close the achievement gap, and attain a permanent home.

CHARTER SCHOOL MONITORING AND OVERSIGHT REPORT. Mr. Urias presented the Charter School Monitoring and Oversight Report and the Charter Petition Renewal Summary Matrix for Ventura Charter School.

Many VCS teachers have been awarded VCOE Impact II awards; VCS has been awarded the Green School Award by the City of Ventura; the 2013 API score was 814 and the growth target for all significant subgroups was met; technology is integrated into instruction; student enrollment has increased; a counselor has been hired; and Kickstart and RtI afterschool programs are offered.

Concerns.

LCAP Goals. VCS LCAP Goals do not clearly articulate measurable student outcomes and therefore evidence of progress cannot be given to VCBE.

Parent Volunteer Policy. Parent volunteer hours cannot be required, but the VCS charter still contains words such as track and monitor which lead to the perception that the volunteer hours are required. This type of volunteer requesting, tracking and monitoring has resulted in lawsuits and diminishes the enrollment of Low Income and ethnically diverse students.

Admissions Process and Priorities. Current admission policies may hinder efforts to increase diversity. Admission Priority 3 is given to siblings of alumni of Open Classroom and VCS. Priority 4 is given to parents who attend an orientation and school tour. Tours are held from 8:45 – 10:00 a.m. which may exclude some parents. VCS receives facilities from VUSD through Prop 39 and therefore students from VUSD are given preference.

Expulsion/Suspension. Page 63 of the VCS Charter does not include language allowing student expulsions to be appealed to VCBE. Only the VCS Board Policy was changed. VCS Board Policies are not binding.

Mr. Urias noted that Education Code 47605(b), states that the Board cannot deny a charter school petition unless it finds that one or more of the following circumstances exist: 1) The charter school presents an unsound educational program; 2) the charter is demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program; and 3) the petition does not contain reasonable comprehensive descriptions of 16 required elements, including measurable outcomes for students.

The LCAP goals for VCS do not clearly address measurable outcomes. VCS has indicated that they are willing to change the language in the Charter petition. . Ethnic Balance is also addressed. One of the major purposes of the Charter School Act of 1992 is to provide traditionally underperforming students with the opportunity to attend an alternative program through a charter school. VCS continues to have continually less diversity than VUSD. This has been consistent since the school was chartered. Item H addresses Admission requirements.

VCS meets 13 of the 16 requirements and is doing a great job. 3 of the requirements are a concern – the admission preferences which require parents to attend a school tour and orientation in order to achieve higher priority; the volunteer request (parents needs to know that it is a request not a requirement); measureable outcomes and racial diversity.

Dr. Rice clarified that Measurable Student Outcomes for LCAP Goals 1 - 4 are not clearly articulated or measurable and therefore do not provide the Board with clear and compelling evidence that the measurable outcomes are being met.

Representatives for VCS responded to the concerns raised. Ms. Galvin noted that the volunteer requirement has changed over the years. Students have never been dismissed due to the parents' inability to volunteer. VCS Board Policy has been changed to note that volunteer hours are not required.

Suspension/Expulsion appeal language can be added to the charter school petition.

The language on admissions could be changed. The preference from Open School has rarely been used. The requirement that parents attend an orientation is needed in that charter schools are very different and VCS believes that parents need to know those differences. Their goal is to become more diverse and if it would be helpful to add nighttime tours and orientations, they would be happy to look at that. VCS is a Prop 39 facility and VUSD is not required to give space for non-VUSD students. VCS currently has 45 students from outside the district and with space being so impacted, offering space to students from outside VUSD is problematic. For this reason, preference must still be given to VUSD students. This would change is VCS found its own location.

Measureable outcomes do need to be addressed but VCS was waiting for further information on CAASP. The CAASP has been embraced with all homeschool students being tested as well. Teachers are now on-track to administer one ICA. The report card is being rewritten to align with the CAASP. VCS does want to align measurable outcomes to the CAASP.

Dr. Flores stated that for 8 years the charter school has reported on their efforts to increase diversity but those efforts are not working. It is time to make some structural changes, i.e. changes in volunteer language requirement and enrollment requirements.

Ms. Ulrich noted that many of the charters share this issue.

Mr. Kunicki indicated that there must be a certain criteria that a charter school must meet. He indicated his concern that these issues were not worked with VCOE staff prior to this Board meeting. There are indications that there are gaps in communication.

Dr. Lisagor noted that there is a perception that this is almost a private school. The admission priorities must be changed. He too is surprised that many of these issues were not addressed prior to this Board meeting.

Ms. Ulrich noted that the petition needs to be tightened to address the issues. Multitudes of charters struggle with diversity but improvements need to be made and the admissions and volunteer policies need to be changed.

Dr. Rice noted that there are concrete revisions that can be incorporated into the petition – expulsion appeal language, clearer language about volunteer expectations, revisions to admissions language, etc. Staff will work with VCS representatives to put in place concrete language and measures that will assist the Charter school in being successful in the petition renewal.

Mr. Kunicki noted that his concern is that a renewal is for 5 years. It is very important that these issues be addressed now.

Dr. Flores noted that changes need to be made to the petition, not Board Policy.

No action was taken on this item.

2. Board Compensation Review

At the request of Trustee Bates, the Board received information on local Ventura County School District Board and Class III County Board of Education Trustee compensation. Mr. Bates stated that in 1992, Board compensation was \$50 per month. It is now \$150 per meeting. He requested the Board consider a monthly amount, rather than a per meeting amount. Ms. Ulrich noted that a monthly increase would cover the many outside events Board members attend.

Mr. Bates moved the Board revise Board Policy 9250 to indicate that compensation for Board members is \$300 per month, effective February 1, 2016. Ms. Ulrich seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4:0:1 with Ms. Ulrich, Mr. Bates, Dr. Flores and Dr. Lisagor voting aye and Mr. Kunicki abstaining.

3. Revision to Board Meeting Calendar; Adoption of Special Meeting Date
Dr. Rice noted that due to the lack of Board Trustees available for the Regular Board meeting of May 13, 2016, 8:00 a.m. (Board Budget Study Session), Trustees were contacted and all are available on Wednesday, May 18, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. Ms. Ulrich moved the Board cancel the May 13th Board meeting and that a Special Meeting be held on Wednesday, May 18, 2016, at 8:00 a.m. Mr. Kunicki seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously (5:0).

M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

1. Mr. Kunicki expressed his pleasure on how the Board provided a cohesive stance on Ventura Charter School.

N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Training on BoardDocs – February 22, 2016. Those Board members who requested items will receive their devices within the week.

O. FUTURE MEETINGS

Date: Monday, February 22, 2016
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: Monday, March 28, 2016
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

P. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Minutes Approved by Board Action on 02/22/16.

*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.*