

**VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES OF REGUALR MEETING OF  
NOVEMBER 23, 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. 15-17, was called to order by Mr. Dean Kunicki, Board President at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 23, 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 Samples 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  
Misty Key, Associate Superintendent, Fiscal and Administrative Services  
Mary Samples, Assistant Superintendent, SELPA  
Richard Urias, Director, Charter School Support and Oversight  
Tom Etchart, Director, Internal Business Services  
Lisa Bork, Administrative Assistant
  
3. Approval of Agenda.  
Mr. Bates moved the agenda be approved.  
Dr. Lisagor seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously (5:0).

**B. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments

**C. HEARINGS**

None.

**D. CLOSED SESSION**

None.

**E. PRELIMINARY**

1. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of October 26, 2015.  
Dr. Ramon Flores moved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 26, 2015 be approved. Rachel Ulrich seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously (5:0).

**F. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

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

All Board members are looking forward to attending the CSBA Annual Education Conference in December.

Dr. Flores and Dr. Lisagor both attended the Gateway Open House on October 28, 2015. They were impressed with the continued growth and the support services.

Mr. Kunicki attended the Robotics Competition held at the VCOE Conference Center on November 14, 2015, as well as a graduation at Providence School.

**H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

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

1. Travel packets for the Annual CSBA Conference are at the Board members' desks.
2. Board members received an email regarding the pending graduation for a special education student attending the Providence Post-secondary Program.
3. James Koenig has a new position at Oxnard Union High School District. Dr. Rice said it will be hard to replace him. Mr. Koenig will begin his new assignment on January 5, 2016.

**I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

None.

**J. CONSENT/ACTION**

1. Travel Expense Claim
2. Temporary County Certificates

Mr. Bates moved that Consent Items 1-2 be approved.

Dr. Flores seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously (5:0).

**K. PRESENTATIONS**

None.

**L. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/ACTION**

1. 2014-15 Audit Report

Ms. Key noted that the Audit Report is completed to determine if the Office is in compliance with generally acceptable accounting principles. The report organizes the financial information of the office into a format easily understood by other financial agencies.

Ms. Key introduced Royce Townsend from Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., LLP.

Mr. Townsend reported that overall things look very good. There were no disagreements with Business Management or staff. Auditors don't provide total assurance, because they only sample a random number of transactions, offer an opinion, and look at the processes where any issues might be and how they can support the numbers in this report.

This year there has been a change that has a tremendous impact on this financial statement. The Net Position is now a negative number (unrestricted) (Pg. 7). Government agencies are now required to present long term assets and liabilities including retiree benefits as defined by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). This is complicated and will affect LEA's differently.

Mrs. Ulrich asked that "Districts" be changed to "County Office" on page 62.

Dr. Lisagor questioned if this one-time adjustment reflecting pension liability is volatile going forward. Mr. Townsend stated that this number is actuarially driven and is a proportional calculation. It should be decreasing.

In response to a question about the return on investment of county funds, Ms. Key responded that she is a member of the County Oversight Treasury Committee meetings who meet at least semi-annually. The county does invest our cash but it doesn't have spending authority. That risk is very low and there are certain parameters required by Government Code and Education Code. We have low risk, thus low returns.

Dr. Lisagor moved the Board accept the 2014-15 Audit Report for the Ventura County Office of Education as presented by Vavrinek, Trine and Day, Auditors. Ms. Ulrich seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously (5:0).

2. Approval of Resolution 15-07, Exception to the 180-Day Wait Period

Dr. Rice explained that California retirement law provides specific employment restrictions for retirees who, without reinstating from retirement, return to work with an employer in the same public retirement system from which they receive a benefit. CalPERS retirees who have been retired for a period of 180 days or more can work as an employee of a CalPERS employer without reinstatement from retirement as a retired annuitant for a limited amount of hours per year.

Retirees who do not meet the 180-day wait-period requirement can qualify for an exception if the school employer certified the appointment is necessary to fill a

critically needed position and the appointment is approved by the County Board of Education.

Dr. Rice explained that from time to time retired employees are needed to fill vacancies. This particular 180 day waiver is in support of Pleasant Valley School District needing a Chief Business Official. This position requires someone with a special and unique knowledge base. Dr. Rice also clarified that the action is still pending PERS approval and there is a potential that PERS might not approve it. The District and the County Office will not incur any liability.

PVSD Superintendent Ms. RaeAnne Michael explained that they only have a director in the business department who has been on staff for a couple of months. Linda Bekeny, will work for the district part time to help. Ms. Bekeny is also working for VCOE on a limited, part time basis.

Ms. Ulrich asked why the County Board is approving this waiver instead of the Pleasant Valley School District. Dr. Rice explained that PERS views the district as the employer and they don't want the employer approving their own waiver. Ms. Michael explained that this person is retired from this district and will return part time until a new CBO is hired.

Job announcements will go out immediately, however, a new person might not start in the position until as late as July 1, 2016.

Dr. Flores moved the Board adopt Resolution 15-07, Exception to the 180-Day Wait Period, California Government Code Sections 7522.56 & 21221(h) as presented. Dr. Lisagor seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously (5:0).

Annual Programmatic Audit Presentation by River Oaks Charter School  
Director Claudia Weintraub presented the Programmatic Audit for River Oaks Academy.

River Oaks Charter representatives in attendance: Claudia Weintraub, Director, Theresa Haynes and Denise Filz, Board Members.

A River Oaks student, Piper Roth, spoke to the Board. She has been a student at River Oaks since it opened six years ago; she is currently in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. She is proud to belong to this school and spoke of the opportunities it has given her to help her be successful in the future. The Board Members praised her for her poise and willingness to share her experience.

Mrs. Ulrich said that students who choose charter schools are self-selecting. She asked if it is more difficult to teach math in a homeschool. Ms. Weintraub acknowledged this has been a challenge. River Oaks students are avid readers. Math is an area where they need to push and work harder on; there are extra math tutors who provide support. She saw the same struggle with Golden Valley School as well.

Mrs. Ulrich questioned preparing for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills. Math scores show 14% in 8th and 9% in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. She would like to see math as a focus for 2015-16 goals.

Ms. Weintraub doesn't believe these scores are totally reflective of their students. She believes they can improve.

Dr. Rice stated that he and Richard Urias met when reviewing charter school LCAPs and engaged in early conversations and actions are being taken to the degree that VCOE can influence goals that are measurable. The law doesn't allow the County Board to approve charter school LCAPS but VCOE staff is moving forward to be proactive around the LCAP goals.

Mr. Urias said the lack of assessments in the last couple of years has not allowed them to do as thorough an analysis as they'd like. This has been remedied with the new CAASPP System.

Mr. Bates would like to see more students from the surrounding Thousand Oaks and Newbury Park areas attending who might be lower income.

Dr. Lisagor mentioned that 25% of the students are on free and reduced lunch. Mr. Urias stated the student population who qualify for free or reduced lunch is 11.7%.

Ms. Weintraub along with Mr. Urias explained that typically, students from the Santa Paula, Fillmore and Oxnard areas do not attend River Oaks because of the distance.

In response to the Board questioning the highest level of math taught at the school, Ms. Weintraub answered that Pre-calculus is the highest math class offered.

Ms. Weintraub said they do have a high attrition rate. Sometime students attending the school need a year or two to get their feet on the ground before they transition back into a classroom setting. They also have high school students who have been homeschooled.

Dr. Flores stated that the 100% graduation rate is outstanding.

Mr. Kunicki would like to see 2015-16 goals instead of the school reporting on last year's goals. He also asked if River Oaks does any outreach with other charter schools.

Ms. Weintraub stated they do collaborate with Bridges, Ventura Charter, UPS, ACE and Vista Real. They have hosted directors meetings and belong to Charter School Association Advocacy groups. She is also coaching an individual from Bridges for her administrative credential.

Mr. Kunicki mentioned he is pro charter. He recognizes that other charters are dealing with the same dynamics. Mr. Kunicki stated he is very unhappy with the River Oaks math scores and will look at those the next time.

3. Annual Programmatic Audit Presentation by Bridges Charter School  
Jay Guidetti presented the Programmatic Audit for Bridges Charter School.

Bridges Charter School representatives in Attendance: Jay Guidetti, Director; Juliet Herman, Assistant Director; Terri Childs, Board President; Brian O'Patry, Marcy Crawford and Christine Thompson, Board Members.

Mr. Guidetti has been in his position at Bridges for four months. He was a high school administrator for 17 years. He believes he has found a phenomenal home at Bridges.

They have bilingual front office staff. They are updating their correspondence to include Spanish.

Bridges staff has been working with Conejo Valley Unified and hope to bring school lunches to Bridges next year.

Ellen Smith has assisted them to use "Let's Go Learn" embedded math assessments; they are using the PLC framework, and they would like to establish teacher effectiveness and student learning.

CAASPP has provided baseline data; in response they are looking at curriculum to address the math scores and adopted "My Math" which was piloted last year and fully implemented this year. They are eager to see how these results compare with next year.

In ELA the focus is on writing. A River Oaks teacher went to Columbia University to train and will train the rest of the Bridges staff. Their Science teacher is an expert in NGSS; Science goes hand-in-hand with math.

Benny Martinez, Director of School Business Services addressed the Board and stated River Oaks has large fund balances in the current year due to one-time funds; their budget is in good shape.

Mr. Martinez indicated that despite past concerns with the Extensions Program, last year the program made \$10,000.

Mr. Guidetti stated that River Oaks has a very supportive Board.

The school is revising board policies and handbooks and overhauling the Extensions program.

River Oaks doesn't currently have a counselor, however Juliette Herman is the acting counselor as a "go to" person, and Mr. Guidetti has counseling credentials.

They see a need for a counselor to assist in career paths.

The highest level of math offered is Algebra. Students are taking outside Geometry classes in addition to Honors curriculum.

Dr. Ramon Flores stated that when this charter was approved, the response was fantastic; he wants this charter to succeed.

Mrs. Ulrich noticed that the CAASPP results are in line with the state. She asked why LCAP goals are centered around reading. Ms. Herman said that two years ago, they wanted to be conservative. They will change this year.

Mrs. Ulrich also asked why CHAMPS is being implemented. Mr. Guidetti said there have not been any expulsions or suspensions. He was an intervention coordinator for other districts. PBIS works and Champs works. It fits in with the whole child; it's an agreement, sets expectations and sets a foundation.

Mrs. Ulrich said it was nice to see it being implemented in schools not as a reaction, but part of our society.

Mr. Kunicki stated that charter schools have been successful in this county. Bridges has had a huge turn around with a new leadership team. He has been impressed with this staff. He urged the charter to access the talent at the county office.

**M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

- 1.

**N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. One to Two-day VCBE Tour of VCOE Facilities (TBD).
2. Charter School Annual Programmatic Audit and Renewal Request  
Ventura Charter – January 2016.

**O. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Date: Tuesday, December 8, 2015  
Time: 4:00 p.m. Reception  
4:30 p.m. Meeting Time Certain  
Location: Ventura County Community College District Office  
255 West Stanley Avenue, Ventura  
Purpose: Special Meeting of the Board

Date: Monday, January 25, 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 8:12 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED BY BOARD ACTION ON DECEMBER 7, 2015

*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.*