

**VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF  
November 27, 2023**

**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. 23-15, was called to order by Mr. Arleigh Kidd, Board President, at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 27, 2023, 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 Mr. Kidd, 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 & Administrative Services  
Dr. Consuelo Hernandez Williams, Associate Superintendent, Student Services  
Lisa Salas Brown, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services  
Dr. Juan Santos, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources  
Lisa Bork, Sr. Executive Assistant  
Cathy Samuel, Executive Assistant  
Brian Meza, Facilities  
John Meza, Facilities
  
3. Approval of Agenda  
Ms. Ulrich made a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Flores seconded the motion, and the motion passed 4:0.

**B. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**C. HEARINGS**

None

**D. CLOSED SESSION**

None

**E. PRELIMINARY**

1. Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting of October 23, 2023  
Dr. Lisagor made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of October 23, 2023. Ms. Ulrich seconded the motion and it passed (4:0).

**F. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

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

1. Upcoming Events  
CSBA Annual Conference, San Francisco ..... Nov. 30-Dec 2, 2023  
VCSBA Dinner Meeting ..... Jan. 29, 2023  
Academic Decathlon Awards ..... Jan. 30, 2024  
Migrant Education Program, Regional Family Conference ..... Feb. 10, 2024  
High School Mock Trial Awards ..... Feb. 26, 2024  
Middle School Mock Trial Championship Rounds & Awards ..... Feb. 27, 2024  
CCBE County Board Governance Workshop, Sacramento ..... Mar 8-9, 2024  
VCOE Equity Conference ..... Mar. 12, 2024  
Science Fair Awards ..... Mar. 25, 2024  
Coast2Coast, Washington DC ..... Apr. 8-10, 2024  
Battle of the Books ..... Apr. 24, 2024  
Impact II Awards ..... May 22, 2024
2. Board Members' Reports  
Board members look forward to collaborating and learning together at the CSBA Annual Education Conference in San Francisco November 29 – December 2, 2023.  
  
Dr. Flores was pleased with the Civic Alliance State of the Region event on November 1<sup>st</sup>. A wealth of information was presented; the event was very professional and well attended. He was pleased with the community and VCOE staff hospitality.  
  
Dr. Lisagor enjoys seeing VCOE host significant events at the VCOE conference center.  
  
Mr. Kidd noted the Simi Valley High School football team won the Southern Division 6 Football Championship.

**H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Morales is looking forward to spending time with colleagues at the CSBA Conference in San Francisco. He referred to the Civic Alliance State of the Region and the Ventura County State of the County events and said it is apparent staff and leaders at VCOE are working collaboratively with Ventura County agencies. He is proud of the VCOE team.

On November 13<sup>th</sup>, in partnership with VCCCD, VCOE hosted a Dual Enrollment Summit. All of the high school districts participated. This is the beginning of a journey to build capacity in high schools with VCCCD to provide opportunities for high school students to graduate with an A.A. degree. The goal is for high school graduates to have at least 12 college units upon graduation. Whether students are pursuing a career or working in the technical field, this will lead to their independence and being an active contributor in the community. A shout out to Lisa Salas Brown

and Dr. Consuelo Hernandez Williams for being key leaders and making this event a success.

VCOE was part of a statewide CalTrin (California Training Institute) webinar presented with David Swanson Hollinger from the Ventura County Human Services Agency. The topic centered around the system of interconnectedness among the education system and the county agencies and integrating the core practice model. Dr. Morales was asked to speak at this state conference because Ventura County is being looked at as a model in how to best partner across agencies.

Dr. Morales attended a community partnership event in Santa Paula on November 16<sup>th</sup>. This event brought together business and non-profit partners. The school principals presented information and other activities to promote and cement more partnerships for their district. He appreciated the opportunity to give one of the keynote addresses that evening.

Dr. Morales asked Ms. Key to report on solar power. Ms. Key was pleased to announce VCOE has found a vendor who presented a proposal for solar equipment that will work. The company is called Luminous. This is a solar project for the conference center, the administration building and Triton Academy. This project will also include a charging station with Level 3 capacity charging – much faster than the current charging stations at CESC. Luminous doesn't currently have charging stations in school systems and they are excited to do this in combination with solar power. David Pollack helped make the connection with Alex Smith from Luminous. This is the first vendor in the 10 ½ years Ms. Key has worked here who has demonstrated a savings. The car charging stations will be located at CESC on the opposite side of Triton.

**I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

None

**J. CONSENT/ACTION ITEMS**

1. Temporary County Certificates
2. Annual Review of Williams Countywide Visitations Report for the 2022-23 School Year  
Ms. Ulrich moved to approve Consent Items J1. and J2. Dr. Flores seconded the motion and the motion passed (4:0).

**K. PRESENTATIONS**

None

**L. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/ACTION**

1. Annual Programmatic Audit for River Oaks Academy Charter School - INFORMATION / DISCUSSION (30 minutes)  
On June 28, 2010, the Ventura County Board of Education approved the charter school petition for River Oaks Academy. On February 24, 2020, the Board approved the renewal of River Oaks Academy, with the term of the charter expiring on June 30, 2025, and extended until June 30, 2027, pursuant to AB 130. In accordance with the VCOE Charter School Progress Report Timeline, representatives from River Oaks Academy will present information required in the annual programmatic audit detailed in the Memorandum of Understanding.

Dr. Hernandez Williams introduced Marlo Hartsuyker, Director of Charter School Support for VCOE. Ms. Hartsuyker referred to the Whole Child Resource Map. She is going to

have charter schools integrate this into their programmatic audits this year. This graphic is a great visual of the one system connectedness of resources and supports and underscores the importance of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) priorities the state has identified.

She introduced Teri Childs, River Oak Academy Board President, Benny Martinez, Board Trustee, Claudia Weintraub, Executive Director, Maria Montagne, Assistant Director, Rudy Calasin, Financial Advisor as well as many other staff members.

#### Engagement

Ms. Montagne began the presentation on enrollment and attendance. Enrollment at the Westlake campus is 179, and 157 at the Oxnard Campus with a total of 336 students enrolled. The average daily attendance rate is 98.5%. There has been growth in the Unduplicated Student Population student subgroups.

During the Pandemic years, Westlake was exempt from hold harmless and had an influx of students attending the school without funding for those students. Enrollment has been stable for the past two years with a steady increase in students at the Oxnard campus.

River Oaks has a 30% attrition rate and also receives about the same percentage in new students every year. There has been an increase in the Hispanic population as well as Students with Disabilities.

#### Student Outcomes

CAASPP results show 46.66% of students met or exceeded the ELA Standard. Since the Dashboard isn't public yet, only comparisons to the state can be made. This is ten percent over the state rate.

CAASPP results show 34.62 % of students met or exceeded the Math Standard. Math scores are also more than ten percent higher than the state. Students who attended River Oaks for more than one year had a result of 55% met or exceeded the standard.

River Oaks Academy offers wellness rooms and enrichment workshops to explore new ideas and connect with other students. Student connectedness is led by a school psychologist. There is a focus room at both the Westlake and Oxnard locations (which is similar to a study hall where tutoring is offered).

A Student Data Tracker system is in place; this is a system where teachers can collaborate and support students through intervention. It is a live document where data is gathered and adjustments can be made to the students' learning plan. Ms. Ulrich complimented the staff on creating this system for every student.

#### Conditions of Learning

School safety is a priority. River Oaks has added an IT Technician to help with cybersecurity. There is a school sign-in/sign-out system and identification checks.

#### Student well-being.

Student well-being is also a priority. Staff has been increased in the wellness and focus

rooms. There are now credentialled teachers offering support. River Oaks provides Student and Parent Connect, hosts school events at the park and activities such as the Family Heritage Showcase, etc.

The teachers' well-being is one of Ms. Weintraub's main goals. There are grade level cohorts where teachers can collaborate in small teams together. There is also a child co-op to assist teachers with childcare needs.

#### Finances

Mr. Rudy Calasin, Director of School Business Services said River Oaks Academy is financially stable and well managed by school leadership.

River Oaks, as a non-classroom based charter school is required to spend 80% of its revenues on instruction. This limits the school's ability to generate reserves. Almost all revenue resources are based on the average daily attendance (ADA). The trends follow attendance and enrollment. Expenditures include step and column adjustments. Non-salary expenditures look at historical data and trends in the current year. The budget is as tight as it can be.

Summer school is a major LCFF generator. It is budgeted in the 2023-24 school year, but not in future years. There is always a possibility that River Oaks won't be allowed to run a summer school. The budget is on a year-to-year basis. The first interim will be approved next week. The COLA is not going to be as high as projected. Next year is projected at 4%, 3% the following year and 1.5% the next year. Step increases for staff are part of the expenditures with inflation factored in. Through Prop 28, an arts and music grant, there are many workshops available. Overall the school is in great shape.

Dr. Lisagor inquired about the make-up of summer school with it being a non-classroom school. Mr. Calasin said River Oaks has built relationships with other schools, and there are many students enrolled in summer school who don't attend River Oaks during the school year. Using a non-classroom platform, River Oaks can get ADA. River Oaks doesn't need summer school to keep the school financially solvent, but it helps.

Dr. Flores asked if River Oaks takes all students, what is the vetting process? Ms. Weintraub said they take all students as long as there are enough teachers. They are able to accommodate most students. There is a lot of credit recovery in grade levels 9-12.

Dr. Flores also asked where the students come from who attend the Oxnard campus. Ms. Weintraub said from all over, including Oak Park, Simi Valley and Conejo Valley.

Ms. Key asked if the enrollment figures include summer school. Mr. Calasin indicated it does not.

Ms. Montagne ended with the school's successes and highlights. River Oaks is a 2023 California Distinguished School. They also won the Aplus+ Pioneer Award.

The longer students stay with River Oaks, the better they perform. River Oaks has two community partnerships that provide therapy, and MFT interns provide supervision.

Dr. Lisagor inquired about the childcare co-op for teachers. Ms. Montagne said this is a result of Ms. Weintraub's creativity. A few teachers have little ones and childcare is expensive. The co-op allows flexibility for teachers to free up their time. They appreciate the on-site care. The Co-op is open two times a week in Westlake and Oxnard.

Dr. Flores is pleased with the addition of an IT tech for cybersecurity purposes. He asked if River Oaks provides devices and hotspots. Ms. Montagne said they do, there is a Google form on the website for students who need equipment; the equipment is available the next day for pick up.

Dr. Flores also asked if River Oaks anticipates more growth in Oxnard and if they might outgrow the facility. Ms. Montagne says they do plan for continued growth, they want their program to be available for all students in the county. The focus rooms are well used, as they provide safety and the teachers know the students. There is another part of the building that can be rented out if needed.

Ms. Ulrich applauded River Oaks staff for venturing into the Student Data Tracker. It is a lot of work, but seems to be very helpful to have everyone share thoughts, progress, and data.

2. Board Agenda Calendar Items - INFORMATION /DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

The Board has requested a list of agenda items to review to prepare for the 2024 Board meeting calendar.

Public Speaker - Jasmine Duran, Advocacy and Community Impact Coordinator of Autism Society of Ventura County. She is also a member of ASVC's Advocacy Committee. They appreciate the transparency in publishing this calendar. The advocacy committee reviews several agendas from local decision makers every week and this level of transparency is rare and should be celebrated. While reviewing the calendar, their committee noticed there wasn't a future agenda item for livestreaming Board meetings. They are hopeful this is an oversight, and the Board will move forward with consideration to have Board meetings livestreamed as discussed earlier this year. They appreciate the use of Board Docs for better public access. The Ventura County Office of Education is a leader in accessibility and inclusivity. Livestreaming Board meetings is one way to ensure that families all over the county have the option to tune in on these discussions and be part of the solution for a strong education system in our county.

Dr. Morales said this information has always existed but has not been brought forward in this format before. This document encapsulates the traditional items on our calendar. Most are required and part of statute. The Board President and the Superintendent do have some flexibility to change dates.

Dr. Lisagor suggested adding another layer and putting a spotlight on various programs such as Court and Community Schools and Career Education. These are always well received. Perhaps some of these topics could be integrated into this calendar.

Dr. Morales asked if this request is beyond what we do with the budget presentations? Dr. Lisagor indicated yes.

Ms. Key noted that in the past, staff has brought forward programs that are new or have significant changes or are high profile; CTE grants comes to mind. Recently Transitional Kindergarten (which turned into Universal Pre-Kindergarten and had new legislation) was highlighted. A large effort was put on highlighting special education programs and the transition between VCOE and school districts. There was purpose with highlighting those programs. Staff can add highlight services other than the budget study sessions if there are programs to highlight with a purpose.

In response to Ms. Key's information, Dr. Lisagor noted that programs don't necessarily need to be calendared, but highlighted as programs change as Ms. Key stated.

Dr. Morales mentioned the VCOE Newsletter highlights events/programs that are happening on an ongoing basis. If there are items that have increased in significance or could be elaborated on, those items could be agendaized. He will work with staff in this way.

Dr. Flores recognizes Dr. Morales' strategic planning sessions and would appreciate any items being brought before the Board which might assist with the Board's decision-making process. He also said the Board doesn't review the superintendent's performance per say, but maybe give an update every six months or yearly of some significant accomplishments that would be good for the Board to know.

3. Discussion on 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 Board and Superintendent Shared Goals.  
INFORMATION /DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

The Board and the Superintendent will discuss their shared goals.

Public speaker Jasmine Duran spoke on behalf of the ASVC Advocacy Committee. Upon review of this week's agenda, they were enthused to see one of VCOE's goals for 2023-24 is highlighting advocacy including a focus on CTE and workforce housing. A focus on Career Technical education is needed. Although CTE programs were invented for students with disabilities, they have proven to be generally inaccessible to students with disabilities. Rectifying this inequity is key to giving these students access to the best that Ventura County has to offer. Workforce housing is another key to rectifying the staffing shortage and getting credentialed teachers and passionate paraeducators in our classrooms. She took the opportunity to invite the community to an advocacy training on December 7 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. in Camarillo. Information can be found on [autismventura.org](http://autismventura.org). This training focuses on empowering individuals with disabilities and their families as well as concerned community members to engage with the advocacy committee and community members to unite to build a better Ventura County for all.

Mr. Kidd suggested moving this agenda item to the December meeting so Mr. Teasdale could be in attendance as he is currently at the CSBA conference in San Francisco. Ms. Ulrich, Dr. Flores and Dr. Lisagor agreed to table this item to the December Board agenda.

paroled for awhile, he was very excited about the scholarship. A reminder to continue to contribute to the Board's scholarship fund.

**5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

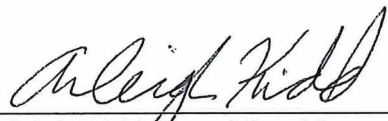
**6. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Date: Monday, December 11, 2023  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo  
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board


**O. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Kidd adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Date: 12/11/23

  
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Arleigh Kidd, Board President

Date: 12/11/23

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