

**VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
April 17, 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. 15-07, was called to order by Dean Kunicki, Board President, at 8:03 a.m. on Friday, April 17, 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 Mr. Kunicki, followed by a moment of reflection.

2. Roll Call
Trustees Present:
Rachel Ulrich, Area 1 – *Arrived at 8:07 a.m.*
Marty Bates, Area 2
Dr. Mark Lisagor, Area 3
Dean Kunicki, Area 4
Dr. Ramon Flores, Area 5

VCOE Personnel Present:
Stanley C. Mantooh, 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
Misty Key, Associate Superintendent, Fiscal & Administrative Services
Mary Samples, Assistant Superintendent, SELPA
James Koenig, Principal, Gateway School
Dr. Paul Marietti, Principal, Providence School
Emily Mostovoy, Executive Director, Special Education
Dr. Tiffany Morse, Director, Career and Technical Education

Tom Etchart, Director, Internal Business Services
Rudy Calasin, Budget Manager
Lisa Worsley, Accountant

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 (4:0); Ms. Ulrich arrived after the vote was taken.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

C. HEARINGS

None.

D. CLOSED SESSION

None.

E. PRELIMINARY

1. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 30, 2015.
Dr. Flores moved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 30, 2015 be approved with the following corrections: Agenda Item L.2 "*the CSU system contains 23 ~~53~~ schools ... approve funding of \$500,000 per year for 3 ~~5~~ years.*"
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 presented at the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers who will also be supporting the request by Assemblymember Irwin. He participated in two CCBE Legislative Committee conference calls. The Committee is in the process of updating the legislative platform.
2. Dr. Lisagor reported that he attended the Science Fair Awards night. He will be attending the CCBE Board of Directors and the CSBA Delegate Assembly in May. He will be unable to attend the April 27 and May 13, 2015 Board meetings.
3. Ms. Ulrich reported that she participated as a judge in the Science Fair.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

1. Career Pathways Trust Grant Round 2 application interviews will take place in Sacramento next week. A team comprised of representatives from K-12, Community Colleges, and the business community will be participating.

I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

None.

J. CONSENT/ACTION

None.

K. PRESENTATIONS

None.

L. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/ACTION

1. Budget Study Session

Career Education Center (CEC), Dr. Tiffany Morse

The CEC focuses on three areas of work: Core programs for High School students which include on-site classes at the Camarillo airport (transportation provided) and at satellite locations as well. New courses, including the unmanned aerial vehicles, are being added. Ten new courses have been approved as meeting a-g requirements. Some courses are offered online or have an online component. CTE programs are now provided for Oxnard Adult Education programs on a fee for service basis. Certification courses are offered to high school students and the community at large. One month summer internship programs are being added.

Regional work is being done through the Career Pathways Trust Grant, including marketing to middle and high school students; a countywide meeting with high school counselors to present information on CTE; and additional meetings with regional groups. Marketing flyers have been developed and a sample was distributed. This week, regional representatives of the Career Pathways Trust Grant will be participating in round two interviews of the grant.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle program – A VCFly institute will be provided over the summer to demonstrate the opportunities to local high school students who may want to add this to their course curriculum. CEC works directly with the airport to ensure that the course activities are within FAA regulations.

Ms. Ulrich questioned if orientations are provided to 9th grade students. Dr. Morse responded that tours are provided to Middle School students and partner high schools. Staff is sent to Middle Schools and High Schools to assist with the marketing efforts. Round Two of the grant would be directed towards outreach to middle school students. Dr. Morse now attends Curriculum Council, providing information on CTE to all Curriculum Directors. There is extensive outreach to High School Counselors.

Ms. Ulrich asked if these career pathways are offered to Community College students. Staff responded that courses are offered to high school students and adults.

Dr. Rice noted that Career Education courses are now being offered to Court and Community School students. Special Education students from Phoenix and Triton are also able to participate.

Mr. Bates suggested that an upcoming edition of Focus on Education be dedicated to Career Education. Mr. Mantooth noted that Focus on Education is now published online which allows for more frequent publications.

Special Education, Emily Mostovoy

VCOE provides services to the 20 districts in Ventura County, operating 81 self-contained classrooms on 22 sites. Three programs operated include: developmentally delayed; socially-emotionally disturbed; and autism. In addition, special education services are provided for the five small school districts. Transportation is provided utilizing 70 busses. Referrals are provided through the IEP process. Since July 1, 2014, VCOE has processed 198 referrals with 37 students added.

The Special Education department offers professional development opportunities for teachers, paraeducators, bus drivers, etc. Trainings on CHAMPS, Non-Crisis Interventions, Common Core instruction was added this year, and an agreement has been developed with Durham Transportation that all bus drivers now receive training on CHAMPS and non-crisis intervention.

State Testing is now occurring. Phoenix, Foster and Triton are participating in the new computer based testing with field tests being given. Students also participate in the SBAS, CAPA and CAA assessments and PE testing.

The Special Education program is expanding. Since August, the Ojai Teen program (9 students) was started; a second classroom was added at Las Colinas Middle School and Buena High School – all were due to increases in enrollment. Triton Academy became a model CHAMPS school. Dwire is a model site of MOVE – a program that supports students with impeded movement. Technology in the classroom is being increased with interactive whiteboards being added and utilized.

A partnership with CSUN has been developed for CSUN Board Certified Behavior Analysts. Students graduate from the program with their Masters and their BCBA which allows them to be intensive behavior analysts, which are greatly needed in the schools. This partnership has allowed the interns to gain an understanding of public schools and how to work with schools. Early this year, a \$400,000 grant with CDE was applied for to support this program.

Phoenix School has been working to implement restorative justice. A number of students participate in CEC courses. The Special Education County Office Administrators group has been working to develop a tool kit on how to write IEP goals aligned with Common Core; and a training on Common Core and IEP goals for teachers.

Seven special education classrooms will be added next year – 2 at Penfield, 1 at Foster, 1 at Phoenix Los Nogales (to support K-2 students); 2 at Phoenix, and 1 at Triton (which now has 11 classrooms). The Special Education department has an excellent relationship with the local school districts.

SELPA, Mary Samples

The Ventura County SELPA serves the 20 districts in Ventura County and is the 2nd largest multidistrict SELPA in the State. SELPA is governed by the SELPA Policy Council. SELPA has a staff of 37 people (30 of which are contracted out to various districts). There are 146,000 students in Ventura County - 17,089 students have IEPs. Autism is the fastest growing disability. There are approximately 700,000 students in California with IEPs. The milder disabilities are decreasing with the moderate to severe disabilities increasing. Ten year trends are identified with the districts.

The SELPA budget contains all the special education funds for the districts. Budget is approximately \$140 million in revenue and \$248 million in expenditures, leading to a \$108 million encroachment (local general fund contribution) on districts' general funds. California spends over \$10 billion on special education each year.

When IDEA was initiated, the federal government promised 40% funding of special education costs. This has never been met. The State funding has decreased from 52% in 2005 to 46% in 2011-12. Currently IDEA funds approximately 11.5%, the State funds 46%, and the local government pays the approximately 42% of special education costs. It is anticipated that 50% of special education funding will be coming from the local districts next year.

In this county there is excellent collaboration between the districts and the county. Decisions are made for the benefit of all districts, not just the individual districts. Three years ago the State moved mental health services for students back to schools. A continuum of services was developed and students are receiving services. Previously there were 86 students in out-of-state, residential treatment centers. Now, 11 years later, there are 17 students housed in residential treatment centers. An excellent partnership with Behavioral Health has been developed. There has been a cost savings in this program.

SELPA offers 140 professional development trainings each year. Common Core for Special Educators is a focus this year.

Challenges ahead include: finding space for additional classrooms, shortages of certain types of specialists due to competition with other counties and the health fields, and credentialing requirements.

Ms. Samples was selected to Chair a Special Education Task Force Fiscal Committee. Suggestions include equalizing funding throughout the State and a \$150 million increase in preschool funding which is currently funded at only 20%. It is one of the worst funded areas of special education. The executive summary of the Task Force report was included in the explanatory materials.

Mr. Kunicki questioned if the Office is concerned about the upcoming costs. Mr. Mantooth noted that the students served are actually district students so VCOE's budget is made whole by excess cost recovery from the districts. Mr. Mantooth noted that there is no indication that the federal government will increase funding. In California, last year's sequestration was used to backfill funds and this resulted in an actual loss of 3% in funding.

Ms. Ulrich requested additional information on careers as Occupational Therapists for her Kinesiology students. CSUCI and CLU have been approached to provide Speech Therapy programs, in addition to that offered by CSUN, with little progress.

Court and Community Schools, James Koenig

Four years ago Gateway was low performing, with over 40 fights a year. Currently, Gateway is a school of destination, providing a balanced education program. The climate has improved with the implementation of CHAMPS and Restorative Justice. Attendance and graduation rates have improved, the API has increased by 50 points, and post program options have increased. There are currently 130-140 students attending.

Gateway is a model school for CHAMPS. A variety of school districts and Counties have visited to view the program. Gateway was highlighted in the book, "It's about Time" by DuFour. A leadership class was added with students participating in community programs, volunteer work, campus issues, fundraising, and student store. Leadership also runs certificate and incentive programs for other students, and recently worked with teachers and the Principal to relax the dress code. Gang activity has decreased. Student involvement in the CEC has increased from 10 students to 50 students.

Restorative Justice is used as a tool to work with students as an alternative to the suspension process. The program utilizes restorative meetings, circles, post meetings. It has been very successful. In addition, socio-emotional counseling has been increased, and drug and alcohol counseling has been added.

A transition program is provided for new students. All students are assessed and oriented through this program. Attendance and academics are monitored continually. Access to technology has been increased. The collaboration between CEC, Special Education and Court and Community Schools has increased and the training of bus drivers in CHAMPS and non-violent intervention has been very beneficial.

Providence School provides education services to students housed in Juvenile Hall. The programs are designed to engage and motivate students. There are two programs – detention, which is short term, and commitment, which is long term placement. There are currently 75-80 students.

A CEC course in Landscaping is offered. Enrichment opportunities including Reading Out Loud, guest presenters, increased access to technology – smartboards and tablets, support for socio-emotional needs as well as academics, are offered. Gateway and Providence teachers participate in ongoing professional development.

Dr. Flores noted that he has visited the Gateway and Providence Schools and the programs are excellent. Students interact and are engaged in their schools.

Ms. Key opened the fiscal segment of the budget study session. The budget assumptions utilized for 2015-16 are listed on Page 1. The increase of 7 special education classrooms is included in the budget. Health insurance costs have increased by 10% with the medical package now costing \$20,000 per employee. This exceeds the annual salary of a 30 hour per week paraeducator. The increase in PERS and STRS rates are also not supported by increases in revenue.

Fund 001 (Special Education Instruction)

In 2014-15 the budget for expenditures as \$29 million; in 2015-16 it will be \$33 million based on the addition of 7 classrooms. The Superintendents Policy Council and the Operations Cabinet have both approved this expenditure. The employee benefits have increased due to increases in STRS and PERS and the addition of staff in the 7 classrooms.

Fund 002 (Special Education Transportation)

Fund 002 is for a fee for service program which is billed to the districts. The State has provided \$2.7 million for transportation for the past 7 years (no change). Although the Governor's budget proposal does address transportation statewide, our County would not benefit.

Fund 003 (SELPA)

In 2014-15, there is a one-time expenditure of \$4 million that was returned to districts. This one time expenditure was removed in 2015-16.

Fund 014 (Juvenile Court Schools)

The total funding per ADA has increased slightly from \$16,986 to \$17,255. This is an on paper increase only in our overall budget. The decrease in enrollment has resulted in a loss of revenue and expenditures. The increase in staff has been due to the increase in Career Education staff.

Fund 015 (County Community Schools)

The total funding per ADA has increased slightly and again, a little more will be budgeted according to LCFF.

Fund 016 (Career Education)

When the complete budget is presented to the Board, Career Education will be separated into unrestricted and restricted funds. The Career Trust Grant and the UAV programs are restricted grant funds. For today's budget study session, the funds are combined.

Mr. Kunicki asked how increased health benefits costs are being addressed and if alternatives are being reviewed. Is there any national program that may have been developed? Ms. Key will provide further information at a future budget study session.

Ms. Ulrich requested information on the option of only providing an HMO. In addition, she requested information on the cost of contracting with Occupational Therapists instead of hiring them and a report on future increases in STRS and PERS contributions.

This item was presented for information only.

M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

O. FUTURE MEETINGS

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 9:58 a.m.

Approved by Board Action on 4/27/15.

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