

# VENTURA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Dr. César Morales, County Superintendent of Schools



SARB Minutes  
February 9, 2022  
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM  
Zoom

Attendees: Carol Bjordahl, Amber Bowman, Bartley Brown, Cheryl Burns, Maureen Byrne, Carlos Covarrubias, Veronica Escobedo, Phyllis Franco, Sonia Garcia, Alfredo Gutierrez, Erika Jimenez, Liz Jimenez, Heather Johnson, Christina Mahone, Laurel McWaters, Alex Mejia, Jodi Nocero, Liney Ochoa, Michele Ortiguerra, Chris Ridge, Stefanie Rodriguez, Rosie Rosales, Shannon Houston Scott, Gina Simonsgaard, Stefan Sisman, Jamie Snodgrass, Justus Spillner, Consuelo Hernandez Williams, Mike Winters, Connie Wright, Taylene Yniguez

**I. Welcome**

Mr. Winters welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**II. Review of Minutes, January 19, 2022**

Mr. Winters asked that everyone review the minutes from the January 19<sup>th</sup> meeting (previously emailed). The minutes were reviewed and approved.

**III. Public Comments**

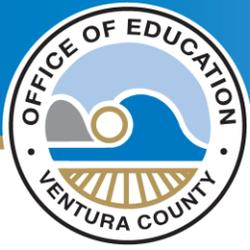
There were no public comments.

**IV. Partner Reports/Updates**

- District Attorney's Office - Ms. McWaters shared that the courts will open starting next week. They have parents and kids on the calendar for next week. Mr. Spillner has had citations for mostly high school students.
- Public Defender's Office - Nothing to report.
- Probation Agency - Nothing to report.
- Gateway Community School - Nothing to report.
- Behavioral Health – Ms. Johnson stated that Behavioral Health is receiving record number of referrals. She asked if anyone knew clinicians, please let them know they are hiring.
- Public Health - Nothing to report.
- Human Services Agency/Children Family Services - Nothing to report.
- Human Services Agency/CalWORKS - Ms. Garcia shared information on the pandemic EBT, families will get another set of benefits soon. State is trying to see how the benefits will be issued. They have been receiving a high number of referrals.
- Community Partners - Nothing to report.

**V. SARB Member Questions/Insights/Best Practices/Training Needs**

Dr. Hernandez Williams shared that a training opportunity has been scheduled for those team members that were not able to participate in the fall and winter Student Attendance workshops. VCOE will be



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offering a training on March 11 presented by S4. The training registration link was posted on the chat.

Dr. Hernandez Williams asked that the team share the registration link with colleagues. Mr. Winters thanked Ms. Ortiguerra for organizing these great training opportunities. Mr. Winters thanked the community partners for everything they are doing. He stated that everyone is very busy and just wanted to thank all for what they are doing.

Ms. McWaters asked about mental health days to be excused. She asked what districts are doing when a parent calls in the child for a mental health day. She asked if they are treated as a sick day and if there is a limit. Mr. Winters stated that Moorpark USD will accept mental health days as sick days, they are recorded in the student information record as a sick day. The attendance clerks take notes for each day. Ms. McWaters asked if the districts sent out a notice to let parents know this is available as an option for students. Dr. Hernandez Williams stated that this content was covered last week at the legislative update. S4 shared resources with LEAs. It is an option in the student information system and this still impacts the chronic absenteeism rate.

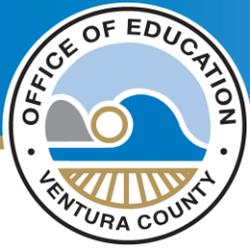
Dr. Nocero stated that Oxnard SD did not send out a notice, she added that it may have been included in the annual parent notification. After 14 parent notes, students are required to bring in a doctor note.

Ms. McWaters stated she is noticing a lot of kids with mental issues. She asked if anyone is having excessive number of absences related to parents calling in for Covid symptoms or exposures and getting a large number of absences. Ms. Bjordahl stated their numbers doubled. Ms. McWaters said she was just curious if anyone has noticed parents taking advantage of it and if so, what can a district do? Ms. Bowman said at Conejo Valley USD she has seen it used excessively. She added that they are scheduling meetings to go over options. If they are getting to a high number, they schedule a meeting.

Ms. Carol Bjordahl offered IS for those concerned. If they want to continue to not come to school, they need to enroll in digital independent study.

Dr. Nocero asked if at some point in time, is it required to provide a positive test? They are finding some chronic absentees have more absences because of Covid. Asked if other districts were experiencing the same thing and if they have any solutions. Mr. Winters stated they look at individual students and the situation.

Ms. Bowman asked about the Ventura County Truancy Referral and Prosecution Program document posted on the VCOE, Student Services, County SARB webpage. This form needs to be updated. Mr. Winters will put this on the calendar to be reviewed and updated. Ms. Bowman offered to help if needed.



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## VI. Kids on the Move

Ms. Houston Scott has not been able to locate AA, Ms. Bjordahl has background information on this student. Another student that has not been located is SC, Ms. Bjordahl has background information on this student. Ms. Bowman is looking for WLP and LT, anyone with information on these two students is asked to contact Ms. Bowman.

Mr. Winters asked for additional comments.

## VII. Upcoming Trainings/Workshops/Items and Resources

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CpBtJ2WxL5s59SCgUGJkvXOQ5jWXBEC8/view?usp=sharing>

- Feb. 8-11, 15-17, 2022      Mock Trial
- Feb. 10, 2022              Google 101 <http://vcoe.k12oms.org/1817-214755>
- Feb. 10, 2022              Introduction to Google Forms <http://vcoe.k12oms.org/1817-214754>
- Feb. 10 & March 23, 2022      EL Rise Secondary <http://vcoe.k12oms.org/1617-205305>
- Feb. 17, 2022              Mock Trial Awards
- Feb. 24, 2022              CTE Collaborative
- Feb. 24, 2022              Google Docs and Slides <http://vcoe.k12oms.org/1817-214757>
- Feb. 25, 2022              Industry Day at Ventura College
- March 3, 2022              Google Sheets <http://vcoe.k12oms.org/1817-214758>
- March 4, 2022              Counselor Connection: Opening of CEC Registration for Fall 2022
- March 10, 2022              Intermediate Excel <http://vcoe.k12oms.org/1817-214759>
- March 11-19, 2022              Hackathon By The Sea (Hybrid Event)
- March 18, 2022              Science Fair
- March 22, 2022              VCOE Equity Conference [www.vcoe.org/equity](http://www.vcoe.org/equity)
- March 23 & 30, 2022              Trauma-Informed Practices for Schools Part I & II
- March 29, 2022              CTE Collaborative
- April 29, 2022              805 Industry Day @ Oxnard College
- April 30, 2022              MEP Family Conference
- May 3, 2022              CEC Counselor Connection
- May 5, 2022              Articulation Summit, Moorpark College & Oxnard College
- May 21, 2022              MEP Speech & Debate Tournament
- May 24, 2022              Impact II Awards
- June 21, 2022              CTE Collaborative

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

## VIII. Next Meeting – March 9, 2022

*“Commitment to Quality Education for All”*