



**VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
August 5, 2021
MINUTES**

Call to Order

In accordance with Governor Newsom's executive orders of social distancing due to the COVID-19, the Special Board of Education meeting was held on Tuesday, August 5, 2021, as a teleconference/video conference meeting where one or more members participated. The public had the opportunity to submit their public comment via the public comments email address or live via the Zoom platform. The public streaming of the Special Board meeting was made available through the Ventura Adult and Continuing Education, TDC Studios YouTube Channel. Those in attendance were:

Board President	Ms. Velma Lomax
Board Vice President	Mr. Matt Almaraz
Board Member	Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez
Board Member	Ms. Amy Callahan
Board Member	Dr. Jerry Dannenberg
Superintendent	Dr. Roger Rice
Asst. Supt. /Bus. Services	Ms. Rebecca Chandler
Asst. Supt. /Ed. Services	Dr. Antonio Castro
Asst. Supt./Human Resources	Mr. Brett Taylor
General Counsel	Mr. Anthony Ramos

Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Matt Almaraz, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the agenda as presented.

Ayes: Ms. Velma Lomax, Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg

Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

Public Comment on Closed Session Items

None.

Motion to go to Closed Session

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to go to Closed Session at 2:02 p.m.

Ayes: Ms. Velma Lomax, Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg

Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

REGULAR SESSION - ESC- Time 3:00 p.m.

At 3:00 p.m., Board President Velma Lomax called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

None.

Public Comments

None.

CONFERENCE - BUSINESS SERVICES

12.a Consideration for Approval of Resolution #21-20, Reconfirming Acceptance of the Advisory Committee Recommendation Regarding District Real Property; Declaring Property Surplus; Declaring Intention to Offer Property for Sale; Authorizing the Solicitation of Sale Through a Bid Process (Action Requested)

After Board discussion, there was no action taken on Resolution #21-20. There was Board consensus to bring the item back at the August 10, 2021 Regular Board meeting and include all properties listed for surplus approval including the Sudden Estate and the Jewitt Estate.

12.b Discussion Regarding Short/Long-Term Lease for Washington School Property

VUSD staff provided an overview of the history of the circumstances leading to the leasing of the Washington School Property to Ventura County Christian School (VCCS) and the progress towards a successor lease. The Board stated that VCCS has been a good neighbor and great resource for our community. The Board encouraged communication with the community and with VCCS families going forward. The Board also had concerns regarding the structural safety of the building for the students.

12.c Review of BP 7310 - Naming of Facility

Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Dr. Rebecca Chandler, reviewed Board Policy 7310 on Naming of Facilities and asked for Board feedback regarding changes they would like to make to the policy. The Board decided to have the board members currently on rotation to review board policies, review BP 7310 and make revisions. The revised BP 7310 will then be brought back to a future meeting for board approval.

12.d Consideration to Refurbish Ventura High School Larrabee Stadium Snack Bar Area

Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Dr. Rebecca Chandler, presented on the Ventura High School Stadium Egress/Ingress on the home side of the stadium, included in the Long-Range Master Facilities Plan. A discussion followed regarding the importance of having the stadium more accessible for everyone, ADA compliant, and improvements on safety. Dr. Chandler also led a discussion regarding the snack bar at Larrabee Stadium and proposed upgrades to improve safety and function. Ms. Anna Campbell shared that VUSD currently has 8.5 million dollars in the building fund and that all projects currently underway, have funds encumbered and are not included in the 8.5 million. Facilities Manager Ms. Teri Allison, noted that in order to build/rebuild a structure, a seismic study would need to be done. An option discussed was placing a new, temporary building that could be moved and repurposed in the future when something more permanent was constructed.

CLOSED SESSION

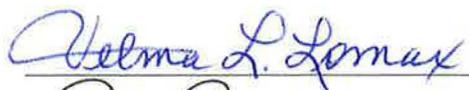
There was no reason to return to closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

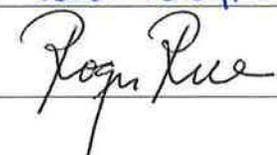
It was moved by Mr. Matt Almaraz, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to adjourn the meeting at 4:30 p.m., to the next Regular Board meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m. on August 10, 2021.

Ayes: Ms. Velma Lomax, Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg
Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

APPROVED



President



Secretary

[REDACTED]

From: morrispartyof4 [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 1:03 PM
To: [REDACTED] Rice, Roger; Public Comment
Cc: Lomax, Velma; Almaraz, Matt; sabrena@sbcglobal.net; [REDACTED] Dannenberg, Jerry
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- Re: REVISED - Special Board Agenda 8/5/21 - Public Comment Item 12c

Dear All:

Please disregard my earlier email this morning, and use this version that more fully addresses the Title IX and mandatory reporter issues instead of the original as my official public comment on Item 12c.

Thank you, Deborah

Dear Superintendent Rice and Board of Trustees:

I am writing to give public comments regarding item 12C which is on the agenda for the special school board meeting August 5, 2021. This relates to BP 7310 which was adopted on April 27, 2021, related to the Naming of Facility.

I note that none of the limitations regarding naming include a prohibition against naming a building, grounds or facilities against an individual, living or deceased employed or volunteering with Ventura United School District as an administrator, educator, coach, volunteer coach, staff or any other employee position with VUSD (collectively "employees"), who has been the subject of a Government Tort Claim, Uniform Complaint, or lawsuit alleging sexual assault or sexual harassment that resulted in a CONFIDENTIAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT with the alleged survivor of the sexual assault or sexual harassment.

In light of the fact that the California Stands Together Against Nondisclosure Act (STAND) prohibits the voids any confidentiality provisions in agreements for employees settling claims for sexual harassment or discrimination, failure to prevent harassment or retaliation for reporting sexual harassment or discrimination (Civil Code 51.9). Therefore, while this law did not go into effect until the #MeToo movement took hold on January 1, 2019, survivors of sexual harassment or discrimination experienced by VUSD employees who have been compelled to sign a CONFIDENTIAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT releasing their claims for the foregoing claims, should not be further victimized by having VUSD name buildings, grounds or facilities after their perpetrators only because their CONFIDENTIAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS predate this law and/or they were students of VUSD at the time the settled claims occurred and not employees of VUSD.

Based on the foregoing, it is requested that VUSD adopt an additional prohibition against naming that is consistent with the California Stands Together Against Nondisclosure Act and which gives voice to the many survivors of sexual harassment and/or assault who have been silenced by confidentiality provisions in their settlement agreements with VUSD. #Believesurvivors is not just a hip Instagram tag, it a cultural shift that needs to occur on all K-12 campuses. Thatcher School is not an outlier in having some of its current buildings named after those who stood by and condoned lax or non-compliant mandatory reporting and/or Title IX reporting and investigations of alleged sexual assault and harassment of its K-12 students, and residents of Ventura need look no further than the Ventura County Superior Court and the VCSSFA to locate past cases and claims involving CONFIDENTIAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS of VUSD students and employees who would have made similar allegations of sexual assaults, sexual harassment and retaliation for reporting sexual harassment or discrimination, up to and including systemic violations of Title IX and UCP laws related to reporting of sexual assaults and harassment by students as well as violations of mandatory reporter laws. These actions are not the types of actions of cowards that should be rewarded with public naming of buildings, grounds and facilities merely due to the existence of a CONFIDENTIAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT, which California has now determined to be against public policy when they occur in the context of employment related settlements.

Sincerely,
Deborah

Deborah Meyer-Morris, M.A.
Attorney

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] <Amy.Dahm@[REDACTED]>

Sent: Wed, Aug 4, 2021 11:21 am

Subject: Special Board Agenda 8/5/21

Good morning,

Please see the attached Special Board Meeting Agenda for August 5, 2021.

Amy

Amy Dahm
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Ventura Unified School District

255 W. Stanley Ave.

[REDACTED]
Venturausd.org



[REDACTED]

From: Steven B Chawkins <sbchawk [REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 8:13 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- Item 12b: The lease for Ventura County Christian School

Aug. 4, 2021

To the board members of the Ventura Unified School District:

As a resident of Midtown Ventura, I'm glad that our neighbors include the students and teachers of the Ventura County Christian School. I wish the board well in negotiating a lease that will allow the school to operate at its present site.

It was a previous board that hammered out the lease under which the school has operated for years. This creative arrangement was a lifesaver for the school and a boon for the community. It encouraged quality education — obviously the district's top responsibility — while saving the historic Washington School building and the playing fields adjacent to it. I hope a similar win/win plan can be worked out now.

Thank you for your continued efforts to work for for the good of students and the community at large.

Steve Chawkins

[sbchawk \[REDACTED\]](mailto:sbchawk [REDACTED])

[REDACTED]

From: mb.c [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 5, 2021 10:01 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- Washington School

Through the ongoing efforts of the VCSS, the Washington School property is being cared for in a way which helps preserve its Historical significance to the City of Ventura. Arriving at a mutually beneficial Lease for the entire property, will keep the site utilization as intended, provide the School District with a secure income stream, and open up new opportunities for our Midtown neighborhoods.

With Generational Benefit depending on today's decisions, collective participation yields the most efficient process in protecting this benefit.

Michael Blaugrund

[REDACTED]

From: Charlotte Rossler <ms.charlotte.rossler@[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, August 5, 2021 12:19 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- re: WASHINGTON SCHOOL

Dear Sir or Ma'am,
I'm a homeowner on San Nicholas and McMillan.
I'm very concerned about the talk of selling Washington School or the property behind it to developers or anyone thinking of changing the face of this special neighborhood.

Why not negotiate with the Christian School to determine what rent increase their budget will allow?

Use the property behind it for an event park or another public recreation use. Please DO NOT consider selling it for multi-unit development. There are already so many condos going up in Ventura, why would you want to build more in our quaint single-family neighborhood?

Thank you for your time regarding this matter,
Charlotte Rossler



Charlotte Rossler
Author

[REDACTED]

Create your own [email signature](#)