

# VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board Meeting will be held at the  
VCOE Conference & Educational Services Center  
Board Room  
5100 Adolfo Road, Camarillo  
(805) 383-1900

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING

### AGENDA NO. 08-26

Date: Friday, November 7, 2008

OPEN SESSION: 8:00 a.m. ±

Times are approximate and are provided for convenience only.  
Open Session items may be re-ordered.

Speaker requests will be accepted 5 minutes prior to the item coming up on the agenda.  
Adjournment will be no later than 10:00 a.m. (*Unless extended by Board Action*)

#### A. CALL TO ORDER

1. Pledge of Allegiance.  
Moment of Reflection.
2. Roll Call and Acknowledgment of Guests.
3. Approval of Agenda.

#### B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

#### C. HEARINGS

1. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Case No. 497.  
*LEE (Santa Paula Elementary School District)*

**D. CLOSED SESSION**

None.

**E. PRELIMINARY**

None.

**F. CORRESPONDENCE**

*(Correspondence addressed specifically to the Ventura County Board of Education. Correspondence addressed to individual Board members will be delivered/mailed to them directly.)*

1. Correspondence regarding the Meadows Arts and Technology Elementary School charter appeal sent to Board members and staff after 3:00 p.m., October 27, 2008.
2. Letter from Dr. Lawrence Borelli, regarding Phoenix Camarillo.

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

*(Reports by Board members regarding their individual activities affecting the Office pursuant to Govt. Code Sec. 54954.2(a)).*

1. Upcoming Events  
December 3 - 6, 2008..... CSBA Annual Conference, San Diego

**H. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

*(The Superintendent will report on the activities of the Office and/or other pertinent issues in education.)*

**I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

*(Board Members, the Superintendent, and staff, may discuss current legislation of particular interest to the Ventura County schools.)*

**J. CONSENT/ACTION**

None.

**K. PRESENTATIONS**

None.

## L. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/ACTION

1. Response to Complaint and Potential Adoption of Social Science Textbooks for Gateway, Providence and Phoenix Schools – DISCUSSION / ACTION (10 minutes)  
On September 14, 2008, the Board received a complaint regarding three of the Social Science textbooks recommended for Gateway, Providence and Phoenix Schools. On October 8, 2008, the Board accepted the challenge for investigation and report. Per Board Policy 6144, staff has completed the report and it will be presented to the Board. Administration recommends the Board adopt the Social Science textbooks, published by Pearson-Prentice Hall, World History – The Modern World, United States History – Modern America, Magruder’s American Government, for the Gateway, Providence and Phoenix Schools.
2. Determination of Next Steps regarding Textbook Complaint – DISCUSSION / ACTION (10 minutes)  
On October 23, 2008, the Board received an additional complaint regarding two of the Social Science textbooks, Economics – Principles in Action, and World Geography, recommended for adoption for Gateway, Providence and Phoenix Schools. Administration, and the teaching staff, continue to support these recommended textbooks. Board Policy 6144 stipulates that the Board shall act upon a challenge by either rejecting the challenge or accepting it for investigation and further report.
3. Adoption of Social Science Textbooks for Gateway, Providence and Phoenix Schools – INFORMATION / ACTION (10 minutes)  
This item was tabled from October 27, 2008. The high school programs at Gateway, Providence and Phoenix Schools have selected their social sciences textbooks. Five textbooks were initially presented for adoption. The Board received a complaint regarding three of the Social Science textbooks on September 14, 2008. On October 8, 2008, the Board accepted the challenge for investigation and further report. The remaining two textbooks published by Pearson-Prentice Hall, Economics – Principles in Action, and World Geography, are presented for adoption. Administration recommends the Board adopt the Social Science textbooks, Economics – Principles in Action, and World Geography, for the Gateway, Providence and Phoenix Schools.
4. Discussion of School Districts of Choice – INFORMATION / DISCUSSION (10 minutes)  
Per the Board’s request, staff will present additional information pertaining to the School Choice legislation including: Interdistrict Permits and Student Residency Based on Parental Employment from Schools Legal Service, representatives of Orange County Office of Education and information from Los Angeles County Office of Education. Henry Kraft, Board Legal Counsel, will present additional information at the meeting.

5. Annual Review of Williams/Valenzuela Lawsuit Settlements Countywide Visitations Report for 2007-08 School Year - INFORMATION (10 minutes)  
Education Code 1240, as modified by the Williams and Valenzuela Lawsuit Settlements, requires that the County Superintendent visit schools in Ventura County that were ranked in Deciles 1-3 on the 2006 API, and report to the County Board the results of these visits. The purpose of the visits are to determine if students have sufficient standards-aligned instructional materials, if there are any facility conditions that pose an emergency or urgent threat to the health or safety of pupils or staff, if all schools have provided accurate data on the annual school accountability report card, to annually monitor and review teacher misassignments and teacher vacancies, and to determine if students who have not passed the California High School Exit Examination by the end of grade 12 are informed that they are entitled to additional services for two consecutive years after completion of grade 12. A summary report that reflects the findings of the Office from school visits conducted is included in the explanatory materials. Our visits showed that the students of Ventura County did have access to sufficient textbooks and/or instructional materials and that school facilities were safe, clean and functional.
  
6. Board Legal Counsel Statement for Services – INFORMATION (5 minutes)  
Statements provided by Mr. Henry Kraft, Board Legal Counsel, for services rendered during September 2008, including general educational issues, Expulsion Appeal Case No. 08-02, Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Case No. 496, and Fillmore Unified School District litigation, are presented for the Board's information. The itemized billings were reviewed by the Board President and determined to be correct.

#### **M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

*(Government Code Section 54954.2(a) states: "No action or discussion shall be undertaken on any item not appearing on the posted agenda, except that members of a legislative body or its staff may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their public testimony rights under Section 54954.3. In addition, on their own initiative or in response to questions posed by the public a member of a legislative body or its staff may ask a question for clarification, make a brief announcement, or make a brief report on his or her own activities. Furthermore, a member of a legislative body, or the body itself, subject to rules or procedures of the legislative body, may provide a reference to staff or other resources for factual information, request staff to report back to the body at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter, or take action to direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda.")*

#### **N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

*(Per Board Policy 9320, the Superintendent [as Ex-Officio Secretary of the Board], in conjunction with the Board President, shall prepare the Agenda for each regular and special meeting of the Board. Board members may request items be placed on the agenda by notifying the Superintendent of the request at least 12 days prior to the date of the next scheduled meeting. The Superintendent and the Board President shall review the requested agenda items and determine the items to be placed on the agenda. Any requested agenda item not placed on the agenda by the Superintendent and Board President may be brought to the next Board meeting. The majority vote of the Board shall determine if the item will be placed on a future*

agenda.)

## O. FUTURE MEETINGS

Date: Monday, November 24, 2008  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo  
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: Monday, December 8, 2008  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Location: 5100 Adolfo Road, Board Room, Camarillo  
Purpose: Organizational Meeting of the Board

## P. ADJOURNMENT

Board meetings are recorded by audio tape pursuant to Government Code Section 54953.5(b). Auxiliary aids and services include a wide range of services and devices that promote effective communication for individuals with disabilities. If you require such assistance, please notify this office at (805) 383-1900 as soon as possible or **at least 48 hours prior to any meeting**. We will make every effort to give primary consideration to expressed preferences or provide equally effective means of communication to ensure equal access to Ventura County Office of Education programs and events.

The agenda is posted for minimum of 72 contiguous hours prior to Board meeting dates at the entrance to the Ventura County Office of Education, Conference & Educational Services Center, 5100 Adolfo Way, Camarillo. A full agenda packet, with explanatory materials, is available for public review at this location. The agenda is also posted at the following locations, and on the Internet at <http://www.vcoe.org>.

1. Conejos Valley Unified School District, 1400 E. Jams Road, Thousand Oaks
2. Ojai Unified School District, 414 E. Ojai Avenue, Ojai
3. Oxnard School District, 1051 S. A Street, Oxnard
4. Santa Paula School District, 201 S. Stickle Drive, Santa Paula
5. Simi Valley Unified School District, 875 E. Cochran Street, Simi Valley
6. Ventura Unified School District, 255 West Stanley Avenue, Ventura

Copies of specific explanatory materials can be requested by contacting the office at (805) 383-1900.