# MINUTES - BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2022**
**7:00 p.m. – Regular Session**
(5:30 p.m. Closed Session and Public Comment)

Visalia Unified School District
District Office Boardroom
5000 West Cypress Avenue
Visalia, CA 93277

**AGENDA**

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**ATTENDANCE**

| Board Members | Arrive | Leave |
|---|---|---|
| Catalina Blair | 5:30 p.m. | 8:57 p.m. |
| Megan Casebeer Soleno | 5:30 p.m. | 8:57 p.m. |
| Jacqueline A. Gaebe | 5:30 p.m. | 8:57 p.m. |
| Walta S. Gamoian | 5:30 p.m. | 8:57 p.m. |
| Juan R. Guerrero | 5:30 p.m. | 8:57 p.m. |
| Joy M. Naylor | Absent | ---------- |
| Randy Villegas | 5:30 p.m. | 8:57 p.m. |

Student Representative to the Board - Present
Manuel Caseres, Jr., Sequoia High School

Staff Members - Present
Kirk Shrum, Superintendent
Andy Di Meo, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services
Mark Thompson, Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Leadership
Nathan Hernandez, Chief Business Officer
Erik Kehrer, Chief Operations Officer
Delia Smart, Board Manager

Staff Members – Absent
Ben Dhillon, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources Development

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1. **OPENING BUSINESS**

1.1 CALL PUBLIC SESSION TO ORDER
The October 11, 2022, Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Board President Juan Guerrero. Board Member Joy Naylor was absent from the meeting. All other Board members were present in the Boardroom at Visalia Unified School District, 5000 W. Cypress Avenue, Visalia, CA 93277.

1.2 ESTABLISH QUORUM
A quorum of the Board was present.

1.3 IDENTIFY CLOSED SESSION TOPICS OF DISCUSSION
President Guerrero identified the closed session items.

1.4 PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION TOPICS
There was no public comment provided.

1.5 ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION
The Board adjourned to closed session to deliberate on the closed session items.

2. **CLOSED SESSION** (May reconvene after the public meeting, if necessary)
2.1 RECOMMENDED EXPULSIONS (Education Code Sections 48900, et. seq.)
2.2 RECOMMENDED SUSPENDED EXPULSIONS
2.3 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE ASSIGNMENT/REASSIGNMENT/APPOINTMENT (Government Code Section 54957)
2.4 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE/COMPLAINTS (Government Code Section 54957)
2.5 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR (Government Code Section 54957.6)
1. Agency Negotiator: Ben Dhillon, Assistant Superintendent of HRD
2. Employee Organizations
1. CSEA
2. VUTA
3. Management
2.6 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9(a))
2.7 CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS
Property: VCIS West Campus, 649 S County Center, Visalia
APN: 095-010-063-000
Property: Family and Community Resource Center, 505 N Court St, Visalia
APN: 094-355-011-000
Property: VCIS East Campus, 1821 W Meadow, Visalia
APN: 096-011-022-000
Property: Charter Home School Academy, 211 W. Tulare Ave., Visalia
APN: 097-320-072-000
Agency Negotiator: Erik Kehrer, Chief Operations Officer
Negotiation Parties: Internal Discussion
Under Negotiation: Potential Utilization

2.8 ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Significant Exposure to Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(b))
2.9 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE EVALUATION – SUPERINTENDENT

## 3. REGULAR SESSION

3.1 CONVENE REGULAR SESSION
The Board convened the regular Board meeting at 7:00 p.m. Board Member Joy Naylor was absent from the meeting. All other Board members were present in the Boardroom.

3.2 INTRODUCE INTERPRETER
President Guerrero announced that Adam Avalos would serve as the Spanish Interpreter for the Board meeting and provided instructions for members of the public who were in attendance in person to listen to the Spanish interpretation of the Board meeting. This message was also repeated in Spanish by Adam Avalos, Spanish Interpreter.

3.3 MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT
President Guerrero announced that the meeting was being webcast live and recorded and may capture images and sounds of those attending the meeting.

President Guerrero announced the public comment instructions for the Board meeting.

3.4 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – BOARD PRESIDENT JUAN GUERRERO
Board President Juan Guerrero led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3.5 REPORT ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION (If any)
President Guerrero reported that no action was taken in closed session.

3.6 REVISIONS TO AGENDA AND/OR ENCLOSURE ITEMS
President Guerrero announced that there were revised meeting handouts for Encl. Nos. 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 22, & 24.

3.7 STUDENT PERFORMANCE
- Washington Elementary School and Mt. Whitney High School - Folklorico Dance Group & Poem Recital

Mark Thompson, Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Leadership, introduced the Washington Elementary School and Mt. Whitney High School student performers.

## 4. OATH OF OFFICE/INSTALLATION

4.1 INTRODUCTION/OATH OF OFFICE/INSTALLATION OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE SCHOOL BOARD FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR (Encl. No. 1)
The following Student Representatives to the Board took their oath of office and were installed for the 2022-23 school year by Assistant Superintendent Mark Thompson.

- Manuel Caseres, Jr. - Sequoia High School
- Fabi Tattersfield - Visalia Charter Independent Study
- Fernando Saldivar - Visalia Technical Early College High School

Manuel Caseres, Jr., took his seat at the dais as he was on the rotation to serve as the Student Representative to the Board.

## 5. FOCUS ON STUDENT LEARNING

### 5.1 SPOTLIGHT ON GOOD THINGS HAPPENING IN THE DISTRICT (Encl. No. 2)

Superintendent Kirk Shrum shared the report on the good things happening in the district, which included the following:

- Ongoing investment in campus supports includes counselors, On-Campus Intervention (OCI), the Safe Student Intervention Program (SSIP), and social workers. OCI has been expanded to all middle and high schools and is short-term intervention for challenging behavior. VUSD continues to invest in school-based staffing to meet present needs.
- The Raptor system identifies visitors and guests who are on campus at all times, including times of emergencies, and provides team assist alerts.
- Transfinder is an automatic alert system that will be on all buses, which helps ensure students are on the right bus and notifies parents when the bus will be late.
- ALICE active shooter training will be administered districtwide. Superintendent Kirk Shrum introduced Youth Service Officer Sergeant Cummings, who provided a fentanyl update, stating that every officer is trained to use NARCAN.
- Superintendent Kirk Shrum stated that VAPA updates include baseline coverage of transportation costs, additional funding, a new building for instrument repair, and $100,000 of immediate investment for the 2022-2023 school year.
- He provided a site, District, and October update.

This was an informational-only item. There were no comments from the public.

## 6. PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC INTEREST ANNOUNCEMENTS / STATUS REPORTS / ACTION (as applicable)

### 6.1 SUPERINTENDENT'S ENTRY PLAN UPDATE (Encl. No. 3)

Superintendent Kirk Shrum provided a final update on the Superintendent's Entry Plan. The community's top priorities identified during the superintendent search were academics, student and staff safety, and communications. It is important to make decisions based on data and have accountability. Immediate actions have been taken to engage, examine, and envision.

- 41.75% of VUSD students met the ELA CAASPP scores for 2021-2022, and 24.88% for math. This is the new baseline to exceed next school year.
- There was inaccurate reporting to CALPADS related to A-G completer data, and students performed much better than reported. The Administrator of Instructive Technology is now responsible for ensuring those numbers are correct.
- A three-year math requirement was recently adopted by the Board, and there is now 24/7 tutoring available for students in Grades 4-12 via Paper, an online tutoring service provider.
- A K-12 counseling structure is being developed.
- Mr. Shrum reviewed the VUSD Core Beliefs and Commitments that have been adopted

by the Board. These Beliefs and Commitments can be achieved through clarifying roles and responsibilities. The Board drives policy, sets a fiscally responsible budget, and evaluates the superintendent. Every student should be taught at grade level, and if they are not performing at that level, they should have supports. Every student deserves the best instruction available. Monitoring metrics have been created for each department.

- There are ongoing roundtables and student advisories to gather stakeholder input for the OneVisalia Connected Initiative.
- Conditions are being created for the district leadership team to support learning on campuses.

This was an informational-only item. There were no comments from the public.

Board discussion:

- Board Clerk Gamoian thanked Superintendent Kirk Shrum and his team for laying a foundation in only 90 days. She stated that there is a community member who is a teacher in the prison system, and inmates stated that if someone had connected with them by fifth grade, it could have made a difference in their life. She encouraged community members to be engaged with the OneVisalia Connected Initiative.
- Trustee Blair thanked Superintendent Kirk Shrum for connecting with parents and students. Listening to student voices is important, and she appreciates the student advisories.
- Trustee Villegas stated that he is looking forward to the student listening session at the high schools, which was done last semester. It could be valuable to do this in middle schools as well. He thanked all staff for their hard work.
- Board President Guerrero stated that he appreciates the 2021-2022 data, which was not gathered in past years and it reflects the hard work across the board. This is a good baseline that will only increase.

7. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Joseph Beaton, community member, spoke about a new law in California outlawing medical misinformation. He hopes the right to free speech will supersede censorship of criticism. He spoke in support of reinstating telephone public comment for Board meetings. He filed a public-records request 21 days ago and has not received what was requested. He spoke in support of candidates running for the Board: Jesse Perez, Paul Belt, Crystal Reynolds, and Janelle Murphy.
- Crystal Reynolds, VUSD parent, spoke in support of the Board reinstating telephone public comment for Board meetings.

8. **CONSENT AGENDA**

President Guerrero announced that Encl. No. 6 was pulled from the agenda. He asked Board members if there were any items they'd like to pull from the consent agenda.

Trustee Villegas pulled Agenda Item 8.5.3 - La Joya HVAC & Science Modernization Project – Second Read (Encl. No. 17)

***Motion** by Trustee Casebeer Soleno, **seconded** by Trustee Blair, to approve the balance of the Consent Agenda (Encl. Nos. 4-5, 7-16, and 18-19). **Motion carried 6-0 (absent 1).***
***Vote:***
*Ayes: Blair, Casebeer Soleno, Gaebe, Gamoian, Guerrero, Villegas*

*Noes: None*
*Abstain: None*
*Absent: Naylor*

*Student Board Representative Caseres.: Aye*

Agenda Item 8.5.3 - La Joya HVAC & Science Modernization Project – Second Read (Encl. No. 17)
Trustee Villegas shared that he would abstain from voting on this item as he has a sibling who works for a company that does business with the district.

***Motion** by Trustee Gaebe, **seconded** by Trustee Casebeer Soleno, to approve Consent Agenda Encl. No. 17. **Motion carried 5-0 (absent 1 and abstain 1).***
***Vote:***
*Ayes: Blair, Casebeer Soleno, Gaebe, Gamoian, Guerrero*
*Noes: None*
*Abstain: Villegas*
*Absent: Naylor*

*Student Board Representative Caseres: Aye*

Consent Agenda Items

8.1 BUSINESS SERVICES
1. Approval to Contract with Pre-Qualified School Activity Vendors (Encl. No. 4)
2. Donations to the District (Encl. No. 5)

8.2 EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
~~1. Request for Out of State Travel to Attend Conference/Workshop (Encl. No. 6)~~ **(Note: item pulled from the Board agenda)**

8.3 HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
1. Classified Personnel Report (Encl. No. 7)
2. Certificated Personnel Report (Encl. No. 8)
3. Management Personnel Report (Encl. No. 9)
4. Consultant Contracts (Encl. No. 10)
5. Certification of Temporary Athletic Coach List for Fall 2022 (Encl. No. 11)

8.4 LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP
1. Student Field Trip Requests (Encl. No. 12)
2. Agreement between Visalia Unified School District (VUSD) and Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) - Music Theatre International (MTI) (Encl. No. 13)
3. Quarterly Uniform Complaint Report – 3rd Quarter (Encl. No. 14)

8.5 OPERATIONS SERVICES
1. CalWater Design for Elbow Creek Well – Second Read (Encl. No. 15)
2. El Diamante Boiler and Chiller Replacement Building No. 3 (Design Only) – Second Read (Encl. No. 16)
3. La Joya HVAC & Science Modernization Project – Second Read (Encl. No. 17)

8.6 SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE
1. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 13, 2022 (Encl. No. 18)
2. Record of Board Member Attendance for Regular and Special Board Meetings (Encl. No. 19)

9. **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – MR. MANUEL CACERES, JR. – SEQUOIA HIGH SCHOOL**

Student Board Representative Manuel Caceres, Jr., provided a summary of activities that are taking place at each of the comprehensive high schools, Sequoias High School, Visalia Technical Early College High School, and Visalia Charter Independent Study.

10. **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS/REQUESTS**

Board members shared their individual reports on school, district, and community-related matters and made the following requests:

- Trustee Villegas requested Board discussion of a resolution on Measure C and Proposition 28. As November 8, 2022, approaches, local and statewide initiatives can assist students in accessing higher education and additional music/arts education without increasing taxes.
- President Guerrero requested the reinstatement of the Parent Institute on Quality Education (PIQE) program. He supported the request from Trustee Villegas and suggested it be discussed in the Executive Committee meeting.

11. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Kirk Shrum expressed his appreciation to all staff for the work they do every day.

12. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF STAFF DISMISSAL FROM MEETING**

At 8:34 p.m., President Guerrero announced the staff dismissal.

13. **ADMINISTRATIVE PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS / ACTION**

13.1 RECOMMENDED EXPULSIONS (Encl. No. 20)

1. Case No. 22-23-06 E
2. Case No. 22-23-07 E

***Motion** by Trustee Casebeer Soleno, **seconded** by Trustee Gaebe, to approve the Administrative Panel Recommendations for the Recommended Expulsions. **Motion carried 6-0 (absent 1).***

***Vote:***
*Ayes: Blair, Casebeer Soleno, Gaebe, Gamoian, Guerrero, Villegas*
*Noes: None*
*Abstain: None*
*Absent: Naylor*

*Student Board Representative Caceres: Abstained*

13.2 RECOMMENDED SUSPENDED EXPULSIONS (Encl. No. 21)

1. Case No. 22-23-02 SE

***Motion** by Trustee Villegas, **seconded** by Trustee Blair, to approve the Administrative Panel Recommendations for the Recommended Suspended Expulsions. **Motion carried 6-0 (absent 1).***

*Vote:*
*Ayes: Blair, Casebeer Soleno, Gaebe, Gamoian, Guerrero, Villegas*
*Noes: None*
*Abstain: None*
*Absent: Naylor*

*Student Board Representative Caceres: Abstained*

## 14. GENERAL AGENDA

### 14.1 EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM (ELO-P) OVERVIEW AND FIRST READ ON THREE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES: 1) ELEVO, 2) AIMS, 3) ARTS VISALIA (Encl. No. 22)

Andy Di Meo, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, provided an overview of the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program. Students were surveyed during summer programming. Teams consisting of elementary principals, district experts, and community and parent partners meet weekly to discuss plans for athletics, CTE, STEM, and VAPA. Each team is creating a monitoring tool to track outcomes. There will be field trip opportunities for all schools. Winter Intersession with daily programming is planned for December 19, 2022, to January 6, 2023. Afterschool programming will begin on January 9, 2023. Proposed programs include Elevo, AIMS, and a partnership with Arts Visalia. Total expenditures would be $6,299,687 for all initiatives, and there is $24,445,416 available for the 2022-2023 school year. There is a link to the ELO-P webpage on the VUSD website (www.vusd.org).

There was no public comment provided.

Board discussion:

- Trustee Villegas stated that he appreciates the emphasis on culturally informed approaches, and this should be considered in relation to VAPA. He asked about the block schedule and whether families have the option to have their students participate in certain blocks. Assistant Superintendent Andy Di Meo responded that there is great flexibility in the programs and snacks are provided.
- Trustee Gaebe thanked Assistant Superintendent Andy Di Meo and stated that she is currently signing her kids up.
- Board Clerk Gamoian stated that she went to the AIMS workshop at Fresno Pacific, and she adopted it for high school biology.
- Trustee Blair asked for more information about the A-G program. Assistant Superintendent Andy Di Meo responded that the intention is to add this for the second semester.
- President Guerrero asked about soccer and sports other than football. Assistant Superintendent Andy Di Meo responded that there will be several sports; and eventually, there are planned competitions between the sites. President Guerrero asked if athletics programs will be co-ed. Superintendent Andy Di Meo responded that they will be. President Guerrero stated that the cinema program run by Edward James Olmos can improve creativity, reading, and writing.

14.2 HVAC MATERIAL PROCUREMENT FOR VCIS NEW CAMPUS MODERNIZATION – FIRST READ (Encl. No. 23)

Erik Kehrer, Chief Operations Officer, presented the first read for the HVAC material procurement project for the new VCIS campus. This will be funded through ESSER III funds. This project is scheduled to begin in January 2023, but the equipment must be ordered now due to lead times. The estimated equipment cost is $250,000.

There was no public comment provided.

14.3 PINKHAM ELEMENTARY HVAC MATERIAL PROCUREMENT – FIRST READ (Encl. No. 24)

Erik Kehrer, Chief Operations Officer, presented the first read on HVAC material procurement for Pinkham Elementary. The estimated equipment cost is $240,000. This will be funded through ESSER III funds.

There was no public comment provided.

14.4 VALLEY OAK MODERNIZATION PROJECT – FIRST READ (Encl. No. 25)

Erik Kehrer, Chief Operations Officer, presented the first read on the Valley Oak Middle School modernization project. The project includes roof replacement, boiler/chiller/HVAC removal from the main admin building, and science room modernization. Construction costs are estimated at $6 million.

There was no public comment provided.

14.5 2023-2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR – FIRST READ (Encl. No. 26)

Nathan Hernandez, Chief Business Officer, stated that the calendar was developed by a committee with input from CSEA (California School Employees Association) and VUTA (Visalia Unified Teachers Association) bargaining groups, and they have recommended approval of both calendars, 2023-24 and 2024-25. This was the first read on this item.

There was no public comment provided.

14.6 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR – FIRST READ (Encl. No. 27)

Nathan Hernandez, Chief Business Officer, stated that the calendar was developed by a committee with input from CSEA (California School Employees Association) and VUTA (Visalia Unified Teachers Association) bargaining groups, and they have recommended approval of both calendars, 2023-24 and 2024-25. This was the first read on this item.

There was no public comment provided.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on October 25, 2022, with Open Session – Public Comment starting at 5:30 p.m. in the Boardroom at the VUSD District Office located at 5000 West Cypress Avenue, Visalia, and then adjourning into Closed Session. The regular meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. in the Boardroom (unless otherwise posted).

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SIGNED:

Walta S. Gamoian
Board Clerk

ATTEST:

William K. Shrum
Board Secretary/Superintendent