

VMCS REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES (Wednesday, August 11, 2021)

1. CLOSED GENERAL SESSION

Procedural: 1.1 Call to Order 5:32 p.m.

Procedural: 1.2 The VMCS Board recessed to Closed Session for discussion and/or action on the following item(s): Under 54956.8, a discussion occurred with a real estate negotiator regarding property in Central Anaheim for a possible relocation of VMCS in the future.

Motion: Anderson		Second: Nelson	
Roll Call	Aye	Nay	
Anderson	X		
Farukhi	X		
Hernandez Figueroa	X		
Nelson	X		
Rhee	Absent		
Item Passes – Vote: 4/4			
Item Does Not Pass – Vote:			

Procedural: 1.3 Establishment of Quorum

Roll Call	Present	Absent
Anderson	X	
Farukhi	X	
Hernandez Figueroa	X	
Nelson	X	
Rhee		X

Procedural: 1.4 Public Comment -- Closed Session Agenda Items -- None

Discussion: 1.5 Conference with Real Estate Property Negotiator

2. OPEN GENERAL SESSION

Procedural: 2.1 Call to Order 6:10 p.m.

Procedural: 2.2 Establishment of Quorum

Roll Call	Present	Absent
Anderson	X	
Farukhi	X	
Hernandez Figueroa	X	
Nelson	X	
Rhee		X

Procedural: 2.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Action, Procedural: 2.4 Approval of the Agenda

Motion: Farukhi		Second: Hernandez Figueroa	
Roll Call	Aye	Nay	
Anderson	X		
Farukhi	X		
Hernandez Figueroa	X		
Nelson	X		
Rhee	Absent		
Item Passes – Vote: 4/4			
Item Does Not Pass – Vote:			

Procedural: 2.5 Public Comment -- None

3. REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEM

Information: 3.1 Brief summary of real estate discussion under the Closed Session Item was provided.

4. PARENT REPORTS

Reports: 4.1 School Site Council (SSC) Report by Parent Representative

LaValle provided the report. The primary topic for the SSC Meeting on Thursday, August 5, 2021, was the updated COVID-19 plan.

Reports: 4.2 English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) Report by Parent Representative

No meeting was held. The next scheduled meeting is on Thursday, August 25, 2021.

Reports: 4.3 F.A.S.T. Report by Parent Representative

LaValle provided the report. Cow Chip Bingo is the major fundraiser for F.A.S.T. It will be held on the Saturday, October 2, 2021, at Loara High School with Loara High School and the Eli House. For VMCS, the family that sells the most tickets will receive the newest Nintendo Switch. Other prizes will be given out.

5. CONSENT (ONE VOTE)

Action (Consent), Minutes: 5.1 June 9, 2021, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Recommended Action: Consent section items are for routine matters that do not require discussion or deliberation by the Board. The consent calendar permits the Board to approve multiple items by one action. All Board members have the right to remove a consent item from the consent calendar so that normal discussion and deliberation may take place.

Motion: Nelson		Second: Hernandez Figueroa	
Roll Call	Aye	Nay	
Anderson	X		
Farukhi	X		
Hernandez Figueroa	X		
Nelson	X		
Rhee	Absent		
Item Passes – Vote: 4/4			
Item Does Not Pass – Vote:			

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT -- DEBRA J. SCHROEDER

Information: 6.1 Update Regarding the First Day of School on August 9, 2021

Strong start to the school year with close to full enrollment. Scholars were excited to be back on campus together again.

Information: 6.2 Board Documents for 2021-2020 School Year -- VMCS Board By-Laws, VMCS Board Meeting Calendar

These items are provided for review at the start of each school year. No changes have been made.

Information: 6.3 Resolution Appointing Ad Hoc Facility Committee

The previously established Ad Hoc Committee needed to be renewed for our continued work in securing a permanent building for VMCS. It was hoped that Robert Nelson and Fareed Farukhi would continue to serve on this committee. They agreed to this assignment. The wording of the document was discussed, and it was refined to reflect the various purchasing models available.

Discussion: 6.4 LEA Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

The plan was discussed, with a focus on universal masking and weekly COVID-19 testing. The modified plan was needed as part of the application for ESSER III funding. Additionally, it has to be revisited every six months.

Information: 6.5 VM COVID-19 Waiver

Under the advisement of legal counsel, it was determined that the COVID-19 Waiver that was in place last year for scholars and staff is no longer needed.

Discussion: 6.6 Mask Exemption for Parents/Physicians

While VMCS parents are supportive of the universal wearing of masks, there may be a few families who are opposed. By creating a form that a physician needs to complete if a medical exemption is pursued by parents, it is hoped that the process will be more formal. While the legal team reviewed the form and felt it was supportable, they also acknowledged that a physician may use his/her own form, and it would need to be accepted. The only recourse if there was a question about the legitimacy of the waiver would be for VMCS to determine if the physician was appropriately licensed.

Information: 6.7 Consolidated Applications Report

This is an annual application process that is completed each year that addresses assurances that need to be met in order to receive federal funds, as well as determine which federal funds we wish to receive. The Board had no questions regarding the document.

Information: 6.8 Board Policy Bill 104 Supplemental Scholar Retention Policy

The Board was informed of parents' right to ask for their children to be retained after the difficulties of the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the Board members mentioned that this seemed to come after the fact since the school year had already started. However, the parents had been informed of this option via ParentSquare once this legislation had been approved.

Information: 6.9 Board Policy Independent Study

With possible quarantining due to COVID-19 pandemic exposure, as well as isolation when there is a COVID-19 diagnosis, there may be an increase in the need for Independent Study. VMCS has opted to only offer short-term Independent Study (15 days per school year) rather than an Independent Study Program for more than 15 days. The regulations for Independent Study continues to shift at the State level, but the offered documents in the Board Packet are currently in alignment with the regulations.

7. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR REPORT -- CHAMMARRA NGUYEN

Information, Reports: 7.1 2021-2022 School Enrollment

Currently, the school enrollment is 236, which means we are short by four scholars for our projected enrollment of 240. It is anticipated that we will reach our enrollment goal. However, the 6th grade classes may continue to be under 30 scholars per classroom due to the challenge of recruiting scholars who are already firmly established in their current schools.

Information: 7.2 Professional Development August 2-6, 2021

Focus areas for the week of professional development included iReady Math and Reading, supporting all scholars, Project-Based Learning, Schoolwide Behavioral Support Plan, and Zones of Regulation. Logistics were also discussed, as well as a visit from Baba the Storyteller.

Information: 7.3 Title III Funding

The documents associated with Title III funding were shared. This funding stream supports English learners. Because the number of English Learners are relatively low at VMCS, we are in a consortium with another school. The funding goes to the larger school, and then we receive funds for our reimbursables. The plan for VMCS was shared.

8. ICON SCHOOL MANAGEMENT REPORT -- ROY KIM

Information, Reports: 8.1 May/June Financials

Roy presented a PowerPoint that included the budgetary picture for California, as well as the budget for VMCS. The school's budget continues to be strong with a reserve that will permit the school to move forward with a future relocation.

9. ACTION ITEMS

Action: 9.1 LEA Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the VMCS Board of Directors approve the LEA Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan for 2021-2022

RATIONALE: This plan needs to be in place in order to receive the ESSER III Funds for the safe reopening of the school. It is a plan that will need to be revisited at least every six months due to the changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Motion: Nelson	Second: Anderson	
Roll Call	Aye	Nay
Anderson	X	
Farukhi	X	
Hernandez Figueroa	X	
Nelson	X	
Rhee	Absent	
Item Passes – Vote: 4/4		
Item Does Not Pass – Vote:		

Action: 9.2 VM COVID-19 Waiver and Release

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the VMCS Board of Directors approve the COVID-19 Waiver and Release of Scholars/Parents -- Assumption of Risk, Waiver of Liability, Indemnification Agreement.

RATIONALE: A similar version of this form was adopted for the 2020-2021 school year, and was based on a recommendation by our legal counsel. Prior to the Board Meeting, it will be determined through consultation with the legal team if this waiver is still recommended.

Based on legal counsel that occurred prior to the Board Meeting, but after the publication of the Board Meeting Agenda, this item was withdrawn.

Motion:	Second:	
Roll Call	Aye	Nay
Anderson		
Farukhi		
Hernandez Figueroa		
Nelson		
Rhee		
Item Passes – Vote:		
Item Does Not Pass – Vote:		

Action: 9.3 Mask Exemption for Parents/Physicians

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the VMCS Board of Directors approve the proposed "Mask Exemption Form" in anticipation of a few families who may request it.

RATIONALE: While there are a few VMCS parents who may not want their scholars to wear masks, the current CDPH guidelines are clear in this area, and there are only a few permissible exemptions for not wearing masks while indoors at a school. This form will make it clear to the parent and physician what are allowable reasons for not wearing a mask.

Motion: Hernandez Figueroa	Second: Nelson	
Roll Call	Aye	Nay
Anderson	X	
Farukhi	X	
Hernandez Figueroa	X	
Nelson	X	
Rhee	Absent	
Item Passes – Vote: 4/4		
Item Does Not Pass – Vote:		

Action: 9.4 Consolidated Applications Report

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the VMCS Board of Directors approve the proposed "Consolidated Applications Report."

RATIONALE: The completion and submission of the "Consolidated Applications Report" is a yearly process, which gives VMCS access to federal funds.

Motion: Hernandez Figueroa		Second: Farukhi
Roll Call	Aye	Nay
Anderson	X	
Farukhi	X	
Hernandez Figueroa	X	
Nelson	X	
Rhee	Absent	
Item Passes – Vote: 4/4		
Item Does Not Pass – Vote:		

Action: 9.5 Board Policy Bill 104 Supplemental Scholar Retention Policy

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the VMCS Board of Directors approve the proposed Board Policy for Supplemental Scholar Retention, as directed in Bill 104.

RATIONALE: Because of the academic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, legislation has directed schools to honor parents' requests to have their scholars retained.

Motion: Anderson		Second: Nelson
Roll Call	Aye	Nay
Anderson	X	
Farukhi	X	
Hernandez Figueroa	X	
Nelson	X	
Rhee	Absent	
Item Passes – Vote: 4/4		
Item Does Not Pass – Vote:		

Action: 9.6 Board Policy Independent Study

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the VMCS Board of Directors approve the proposed Board Policy for Independent Study, which reflects current requirements.

RATIONALE: Because of the academic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, legislation has supported parents' choice when it comes to the possible retention of their scholars due to the detrimental impact of distance learning on many young scholars.

Motion: Farukhi		Second: Anderson
Roll Call	Aye	Nay
Anderson	X	
Farukhi	X	
Hernandez Figueroa	X	
Nelson	X	
Rhee	Absent	
Item Passes – Vote: 4/4		
Item Does Not Pass – Vote:		

Action: 9.7 Title III Funding

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the VMCS Board of Directors approve the documents to acquire Title III funds to support our English learners.

RATIONALE: Beginning in 2020-2021, we became a part of a consortium of two schools so we can access Title III funds for our English learners.

Motion: Hernandez Figueroa		Second: Nelson
Roll Call	Aye	Nay
Anderson	X	
Farukhi	X	
Hernandez Figueroa	X	
Nelson	X	
Rhee	Absent	
Item Passes – Vote: 4/4		
Item Does Not Pass – Vote:		

10. BOARD COMMENTS

Procedural: 10.1 General Comments

None

Procedural: 10.2 Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, September 8, 2021

Prior to this meeting, it will be determined if it is by Zoom or in-person depending upon the pandemic.

11. BOARD ADJOURNMENT

Procedural: 11.1 Board Adjournment: 7:19 p.m.

Motion: Nelson		Second: Hernandez Figueroa
Roll Call	Aye	Nay
Anderson	X	
Farukhi	X	
Hernandez Figueroa	X	
Nelson	X	
Rhee	Absent	
Item Passes – Vote: 4/4		
Item Does Not Pass – Vote:		