School Advisory Council of Venice Elementary School

Minutes - Sept. 11, 2025.

Attendance: Raymond Wilson, Denise Harris, Heather Zabrowski, Kelly Marsh, Erin Holloway, Amber Roberts, Tammy Vowell, Jill Flores, Kerry Lewis, William Brennan, Marcia Wyszynski, Whitney Bartlett, Maggie Sharrer, Melissa Lyszczasz

Call to Order:

A meeting of the Venice Elementary School Advisory Council was held in the media center on 9/11/25. Raymond Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:37 A.M.. Tammy Vowell will record minutes for this meeting.

Minutes:

Tammy Vowell will send the minutes of the last meeting of school year 24-25, from 4/10/25, to SAC members for approval at the next meeting.

New Business:

A. Review and adopt Bylaws – After the Council reviewed the bylaws, Tammy Vowell motioned to adopt the 2025-26 Bylaws as they were written. Motion seconded by Heather Zabrowski and carried unanimously by show of hands.
B. School Improvement Plan and Goals – Mr. Wilson shared the highest priorities of the 2025-26 School Improvement Plan, based on FAST PM3 data from 2025. They are:
    a. We will increase overall ELA learning gains for the Lowest Quartile from 54% to 70%.
    b. At least 80% of students in grades 3-5 will score at or above Level 3 on ELA FAST.
    c. We will increase overall Math learning gains for the Lowest Quartile from 60% to 70%.
    d. At least 80% students in grade 5 will score at or above Level 3 in science.
C. Attendance Goal – VES will reduce absenteeism by 10%. At least 16 students per grade level did not meet the 90% attendance goal in 2024-25. Some plans to increase student attendance include:
    a. Providing families with monthly attendance reports so as to bring attention to, and make families aware of, the need to support our attendance goals.
    b. VES administration team will present the attendance goals at the Open House on Sept 18 in the cafeteria. The first session will be for families of students in grades 3-5 at 5:45. The second session will be for families of students in grades Pre-k – 2 at 6:10.

Reports: N/A

Questions/Open Discussion:

The following questions regarding attendance were posed by parents:

Q: Are there "parent choice" days for an excused absence in elementary school like there are at Student Leadership Academy?

A: No. All absences are either excused according to the district attendance policy, or they are unexcused. SLA may operate by different rules since they are a charter school.

Q: Does attendance affect the final school grade?

A: Not directly in the formula used for the calculation, but certainly in the area of learning and overall achievement, it can, especially for those students who are in the Lowest Quartile. So the overall school grade can be affected by the attendance of a few kids, particularly those in the Lowest Quartile.

Q: Can we make this information available to parents?

A: It is already in the VES Handbook and on the District website, but VES will put out a reminder in a way that is visible to more parents, such as Social Media.

Q: Do tardies accumulate to convert to absences?
A: No. But tardies and early dismissals have been an issue in the past. This year parents are required to walk their children in and sign them in if they are tardy, and the number of tardies have greatly improved. Reports are sent to families if tardies and/or early dismissals become a problem.

Selection of Officers:

This was tabled until the next meeting so that Council members have time to review the duties of officers and to nominate candidates.

Next Meeting Date & Time:
The next meeting will be held on October 10, 2025 at 7:30 A.M. in the Venice Elementary School Media Center.

Meeting Adjournment:
Motion: Whitney Bartlett motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 A.M. Seconded by Kelly Marsh. Motion carried unanimously by show of hands and verbal "aye".

Submitted by,
Name of Recorder Tammy Vowell,
Name of Position on Board: Secretary
Approval Date: 9/11/25