



BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
May 4, 2021

CALL TO ORDER/MEETING PLACE

The meeting was held in accordance with Governor Newsom's Executive Orders N-33-20 and N-25-20 in regard to the COVID-19 virus, which included provisions relating to the Brown Act in regard to local legislative bodies, such as school boards, holding meetings via teleconference. Notice was given that the regular meeting of the Las Virgenes Unified School District Board of Education, scheduled for May 4, 2021 would be live-streamed for the public to observe. Members of the public were also allowed to provide comments in writing or in person.

Board President Angela Cutbill called the Board meeting to order at 4:50 p.m. at the Las Virgenes Unified School District, 4111 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Angela Cutbill
Dallas Lawrence
Linda Menges
Lesli Stein
Kate Vadehra

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION REGARDING CALENDARING ASSIGNMENTS AND GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

The Board Adjourned to Closed Session at 4:54 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session Adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER OPEN SESSION

President Cutbill reconvened the Board meeting at 5:55 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Angela Cutbill
Dallas Lawrence
Linda Menges
Lesli Stein
Kate Vadehra
Agoura High School Student Board Member, Jake Goodman (watched the meeting online)
Calabasas High School Student Board Member, Noah Murray

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Daniel Stepenosky, Superintendent
Karen Kimmel, Assistant Superintendent of Business
Dr. Steve Scifres, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
Dr. Clara Finneran, Assistant Superintendent of Education

Ryan Gleason, Director of Education and Leadership
Laura Kintz, Director of Elementary Education
Robbie Amodio, Director of Human Resources
Angie Falk, Director of Pupil Services
Jim Klein, Chief Technology Officer

STAFF ABSENT

None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Calabasas High School Student Board Member, Noah Murray.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

President Cutbill reported that the Board of Education took no specific action in Closed Session.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Ms. Menges, seconded by Dr. Vadehra, the Board of Education approved the agenda of May 4, 2021.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

AYES: Board members Cutbill, Lawrence, Menges, Stein, and Vadehra

NAYES: None

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Ms. Stein, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of April 20, 2021.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

AYES: Board members Cutbill, Lawrence, Menges, Stein, and Vadehra

NAYES: None

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0

STAFF/BOARD COMMUNICATION

The Board of Education and Cabinet honored the Certificated and Classified Employees of the Month; Pat Schulz, Special Education Teacher, and Joan Izenstark, Speech and Language Pathologist.

Ms. Cutbill shared that on behalf of the Board of Education, she was honored present both employees with this honor tonight. She thanked Ms. Schulz and Ms. Izenstark for all they do for the students in the District.

Calabasas High School Student Board Member, Noah Murray shared how honored he was to be at his very first Board meeting in person. The CHS Student Board Member for next year will be Willow Gaven. She is very excited for next year. The seniors have been planning for their prom. The location will be announced at a later date. CHS is celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week and acknowledging the wonderful work of our teachers on and off campus. Today, CHS ASB held an information meeting for incoming commissioners. CHS had a virtual pep rally last week. There will be an off campus Blood Drive on June 2, 2021. Agoura High School just finished their Pennies for Patients fundraiser.

Ms. Stein personally welcomed Mr. Murray to his first in person Board meeting. She shared that it was nice to meet him in person. She thanked him for his service. Ms. Stein shared that her and Dr. Vadehra visited A.C. Stelle yesterday for a site visit. It had been awhile since the Board has done any site visits. She was pleased to see the amount of students in the classrooms. She asked the students if they were happy to be back, They answered with an enthusiastic yes. The support the teachers have given their students has been remarkable. She thanked Ms. Baird for the royalty treatment. Julie Lythcott-Haims visited last night with a webinar on her new book, Your Turn, How to be an Adult. The webinar was so informative. Ms. Stein thanked the teachers and staff for their hard work and dedication.

Ms. Menges shared that she watched the Julie Lythcott-Haims presentation last night. She shared that there have been a lot of webinars through Community360.me. She hoped the community has taken advantage of those webinars. The webinars are very informative. She shared that she felt honored to be on the dais during Staff Appreciation Week. She echoed Ms. Stein's sentiment about how wonderful our staff has been. They have worked so hard and have recreated how to teach and keep our students strong. On May 13, 2021, the City of Agoura Hills is offering a Fire Service and Public Safety day from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. This should be a great event for the community.

Mr. Lawrence shared his appreciation for Staff Appreciation Week. He thanked our staff and teachers.

Dr. Vadehra thanked our teachers and staff for all they do and for the impact they have on our students' lives. She enjoyed visiting A.C. Stelle yesterday. She loved seeing the teachers and students in the classrooms. One of the teachers started a chat with the students during virtual learning. She has continued that practice every day. She asks the students how they feel and they respond. During distance learning, the students responded in the chat box. Now the students respond on written paper. This practice includes writing for the students which is an added benefit. There are little notes being passed back and forth. Dr. Vadehra loved seeing this interaction.

Ms. Cutbill thanked our teachers and staff for all they do. She went to a CHS Girls Basketball game. It was wonderful to be at a sports game in person. She shared how wonderful the Equity Talks webinar was. She thanked Mr. Gleason for his work on these webinars.

Dr. Stepenosky thanked our staff for their hard work. He congratulated Mr. Scifres on receiving his doctorate degree last week. He is now Dr. Scifres. Dr. Scifres gave a shout-out to Ms. Bergstrom for getting his new name plaque for the meeting tonight. He shared the name plaque with the Board and Cabinet. Dr. Stepenosky shared how wonderful it was to have Julie Lythcott-Haims here with us last night. She talked about her book and the superpowers that everyone possesses. One of those is gratitude and appreciation. He hoped next time would be in person.

Dr. Finneran thanked every staff member. She stated that every staff member matters. She shared information about the summer programs. The District will have the elementary program, Find Your Genius. It will serve 100 students at Sumac Elementary. In addition to that program, the District will host its own summer program from June 14 to July 1, 2021. This will run from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The YMCA will offer an afternoon program continuing after summer school. The YMCA program will include literacy, math, guest speakers, etc. There will be some camp like events as well. This will serve 150 students. There are 500 high school students and 75 middle school students already registered for the summer school opportunities. The District will impact over 1,000 students this summer.

Ms. Kintz attended the Counselor Leadership meeting today. She accepted the hand off from Mr. Gleason who has led this team for the last five years. She looks forward to supporting this team and the implementation of our social-emotional learning programs next year.

Ms. Falk shared that every year the state calls out districts that are out of compliance for disproportionality which are districts that have too much of a racial or ethnic group in four areas: special education in general, special education in a particular category, disciplinary action or placement in more restrictive environments. For the first time in five years, LVUSD was not selected to be out of compliance for disproportionality. This is in direct relation to the work that District personnel have done with respect to training, intervention and restorative justice measures.

Ms. Amodio announced that after 30 years of working in the District, she will retire this June. Ms. Hallie Chambers, who is on the agenda tonight, will be her replacement as the Director of Human Resources, per the Board's approval. If approved, Ms. Amodio will work closely with the transition. Ms. Chambers will shadow Ms. Amodio to learn the new position. Ms. Amodio will train Ms. Chambers working with LVCA personnel and day to day roles and activities.

Mr. Gleason shared next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing along with five state representatives will come to have about thirty meetings with 300 of our graduates, candidates and advisory team for Center EdX. This is part of the accreditation process.

Dr. Scifres shared that his dissertation was on the social-emotional learning needs of K-5 students and teacher perception of social-emotional needs. He shared that the District hosted a vaccination clinic this past Saturday for students 16 years old and over. The clinic was held at AEW. The opportunity was opened to other LVUSD family members as well. The second dose will be given on May 22, 2021. He thanked our team members for their efforts.

Ms. Kimmel shared that last Friday launched our 2021-22 negotiating season. We had double events beginning with LVCA negotiations. Ms. Kimmel and Dr. Scifres hosted an Administrative Supportive Series Negotiation 101. They had their administrative team of around 12 principals and assistant principals. The focus was on trust, transparency and teamwork within the negotiations process. It was a great discussion and meeting.

Mr. Klein shared that the technology team will be hosting live graduations this year. The team has been prepping for streaming options. They will be using single cameras this year. Mr. Klein is testing the equipment tonight during our live stream. Technology is preparing for CAASP testing which is approaching very fast. The schools are testing next week. We have prepared our testing coordinators and made sure our principals are set. We hope to have a smooth testing transition this year.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

There were three submitted comments. Tina Payne and Jessica Taggart appeared in person and spoke about the reopening of schools. Please use the following link to see the submitted comments:

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - A

On motion of Ms. Menges, seconded by Ms. Stein, the Board of Education approved Consent Agenda A, Items 1-3. Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

AYES: Board members Cutbill, Lawrence, Menges, Stein, and Vadehra

NAYES: None

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0

1. Approved School Representatives to the Athletic Leagues in the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) as listed on the attached document.
2. Approved Warrants as listed on the attached document.
3. Approved Disposal of Surplus Property as listed on the attached document.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - B

On motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved Consent Agenda B, Item 1. Board Motion Carried 4:0 as follows:

AYES: Board members Cutbill, Lawrence, Menges, and Vadehra

NAYES: 0

ABSTAINED: Board member Stein

1. Approved Personnel Document as listed on the attached document.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of Agoura High School IB Course Consolidation was presented by AHS Principal, Dr. Stephanie McClay and AHS IB Coordinator, Jennifer Kesterbaum. Mr. Gleason shared that this item was approved by Curriculum Council last week. Dr. McClay shared that over the past decade, AHS has expanded access to their academic pathways in an effort to provide students with unique programs such as: International Baccalaureate, Sports Medicine, Dual Language, Early College Academy and Immersion and Visual and Performing Arts. As these pathways have matured, there is a need to create greater coherence across the Master Schedule through identifying courses that have overlap, are mislabeled, or can be consolidated. This consolidation process will allow for the following benefits: more balanced class sizes through the reduction of singleton courses, more opportunities for students to participate in courses across multiple pathways, more alignment with an instructional vision in conjunction with the approaches to teaching and learning that all programs share.

Ms. Kesterbaum shared that at the very core of the IB program lies the IB Learner Profile which helps students to have the following: thinking skills, social skills, communication skills, self-management skills, and research skills.

Mr. Gleason explained the District wants to change the title of the courses, not the content. The changes need approval from the Board as stated in the bylaws.

Dr. McClay stated this does not take away from any of the programs. In fact, it allows students that are not in the IB program to take some of these courses that used to be exclusively for IB students. Any student can take an AP class. AHS wants the same approach to IB classes. Ms. Stein asked about the GPA bump on the new classes. Dr. McClay stated the new courses will carry the same GPA bump as it did before if they were honors or IB. Ms. Stein asked if all colleges understand and accept IB courses. Dr. McClay confirmed that all colleges accept IB courses. Ms. Menges asked about the IB math courses. Those courses used to be taught a certain way. Are they still taught differently? Ms. Kesterbaum explained that it depends on the course. There are currently two math pathways; one is calculus based and the other is statistical based. Ms. Cutbill thanked Dr. McClay and Ms. Kesterbaum for their efforts and clarity.

On Motion of Ms. Stein, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved Agoura High School IB Course Consolidation.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

AYES: Board members Cutbill, Lawrence, Menges, Stein, and Vadehra

NAYES: None

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0

2. Approval of IB Music Courses was presented. Both AHS music teachers Bob Hackett and Chad Bloom were present for this discussion. Mr. Gleason shared that this item is related to the previous action item. LVUSD continues to be a destination district for music. These changes are to increase access to these courses. Dr. McClay shared that these

music courses are being changed as well. This will increase the course work and make it available to other students. There are many instances where students will need to choose whether they want to be an IB student or a music student. This will allow them to take the courses without having to choose. These courses allow for more students in our visual and performing arts to participate in the IB program as well as complete additional coursework for a weighted grade. Mr. Gleason stated that Curriculum Council approved this item before we brought this to the Board.

On Motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved IB Music Courses.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

AYES: Board members Cutbill, Lawrence, Menges, Stein, and Vadehra

NAYES: None

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0

3. Approval of College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) Agreement: Los Angeles Community College District (Pierce College) was presented. Mr. Gleason shared that the CCAP agreement went before the Board on March 23rd as an information item. No suggestions were recommended. The agreement will allow LVUSD students exclusive access to dual enrollment classes without having college students entering the campus. Furthermore, this formalizes a long-term partnership for expansion. Since the District straddles both Moorpark and Pierce colleges, it would be in the District's best interest to further this agreement. This would allow more access to more classes. Both Boards need to approve this; it is a Board to Board agreement. The classes are taught by college professors. The impact on our classes would be smaller class sizes and greater opportunity for our students. Moorpark College has been a great partner. There have been times when Moorpark College can not fulfill our students' requests. This would allow Pierce College to fulfill some of those requests.

On Motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Dr. Vadehra, the Board of Education approved College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) Agreement: Los Angeles Community College District (Pierce College).

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

AYES: Board members Cutbill, Lawrence, Menges, Stein, and Vadehra

NAYES: None

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0

4. Approval of Extended Learning Opportunities Grant Plan (Strategic Plan) was presented. Dr. Stepenosky was excited to bring this to the Board tonight. To develop the attached Strategic Plan, LVUSD assembled a committee of Board representatives, administrators, teachers, staff, parents, and students across our K-12 schools. The Strategic Planning Committee met three times formally since the funding was announced on March 5th. The Committee worked in conjunction with our Pathways, LCAP, Safety/Wellness Finance Committees, and Curriculum Council along with LVEA/LVCA and our PFA/C's to ensure we received as much input and feedback as possible. Additionally, all LVUSD staff was surveyed to gain their input on how best to support their work and our students. The Strategic Committee reviewed the survey data in their second meeting. At the final meeting held on April 26, 2021 the Strategic Planning Committee unanimously recommended the adoption of the attached draft plan.

Dr. Finneran shared her excitement about bringing this to the Board tonight. Mr. Gleason shared that the State of California required the District to come up with a plan by June 1, 2021. The directive came to us in March. There will be \$6.5m in grant funds from the state. Mr. Gleason stated the plan has four areas of focus: Accelerated Learning, Social-Emotional Wellness, Professional Development, and Infrastructure and Tech. For Accelerated Learning, the benefits will include: expanded library hours, summer school opportunities, targeted class size reduction, full time intervention specialists, and support for bilingual families. For Social-Emotional Wellness, the benefits include: a trauma-informed social-emotional program, extended wellness counseling for staff, students and families, and using art and creative outlets as an opportunity for students to learn mindfulness and positive self-expression. For Professional Development, the benefits include: providing professional development to all staff to support learning gaps, hiring two coaches who will work with teachers that are new or need extra support, identify and hire consultants to support with literacy, math, equity, PLC's and social-emotional goals. For Infrastructure and Tech, the benefits include: invest in PPE and infrastructure to safely reopen schools, and to invest in staff and student laptops, faster wireless infrastructure, and voice amplification systems.

Ms. Stein commended the entire committee for their effort and hard work. This preparation was very detailed and the plan was extremely thoughtful. Dr. Vadehra appreciated the Committee thoughtfulness and was so pleased that this plan was so student focused. Ms. Menges was very thankful for the committee and their focus.

On Motion of Ms. Stein, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved Extended Learning Opportunities Grant Plan (Strategic Plan).

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

AYES: Board members Cutbill, Lawrence, Menges, Stein, and Vadehra

NAYES: None

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. 2020-21 School Year Update was presented. Dr. Stepenosky shared that LVUSD is preparing for full time student learning in the fall. Our current focus is continuing to provide quality on-campus and virtual learning, fun end-of-year activities including graduations and culminations, strategic planning to support all students and staff, and for the full return in the fall. Dr. Stepenosky shared his thoughts for the fall. New furniture has been ordered in case distancing is required. He anticipated that mask wearing will still exist. The classrooms will continue to be cleaned regularly. Dr. Stepenosky shared the information again about the vaccination clinic this past weekend for students and families.

Sara Exner, Principal of Calabasas High School, shared some news about the end-of-year plans. She thanked the Board and Cabinet for their support. The seniors will have an in person graduation on June 10, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. The middle school culminations will be on June 9, 2021 in the evening. The schools are following the CDC guidelines to make the events safe. The senior events are aligned at both high schools. Prom will be outdoors with dinner and entertainment. There will be a senior picnic where lunch will be provided. There will be a movie night in the PAECs. The students will need to show they are fully vaccinated or proof of a negative Covid test. On another note, the high schools have been very busy with sports. There have been three sports seasons occurring at the same time. It has been exciting to have sport events back on campus.

Dr. Roberts, Principal of A.E. Wright Middle School, shared his excitement for the 8th grade culminations. The culminations and graduations will allow each student to have 4 guests. The guests will have to show proof that they are fully vaccinated or have a negative Covid test. More information to follow. Some culmination practices will include breakfast for the kids. Cornerstone will provide some picture packages. Dr. Roberts stated that he had a freshman football player this year. It has been very exciting to watch him play. Some sport teams have been practicing at A.E. Wright in the afternoons; like lacrosse, volleyball and basketball. It has been a joy to watch sports teams practice and compete.

Mr. Klein stated that his team has been working hard on their marketing plans. They are promoting all the great things that happen here at LVUSD. He held a marketing meeting this week. They discussed strategies with social media, physical material drops, etc. They will have ads coming out shortly to reach out to our local community. He stated we are looking forward to recapturing many students who have left the district for one reason or another.

Mr. Gleason shared information about Las Virgenes Independent School starting this fall. He is working with the 250 families that are interested. The District has asked families to confirm their placement by May 7, 2021. The next step will be to work with Dr. Scifres and his team on staffing.

Dr. Stepenosky shared that if you missed the Julie Lythcott-Haims webinar last night, you can see the recorded version on [Community360.me/view](https://community360.me/view).

Mr. Lawrence stated that there were three written comments submitted. All three comments asked about the reopening plan for this school year. Dr. Stepenosky stated that unless the CDC changes the 3-foot rule, we still have a problem with grades 4-10. The yellow tier does not change the 3-foot social distancing rule.

2. Curriculum Updates to School Libraries was presented. Mr. Gleason shared this was a Curriculum Council item. This item highlights the amazing work that Ms. Tina Johnson and her team have led over the last 5-10 years in our libraries. Mr. Gleason introduced Ms. Johnson to share what the libraries have been doing.

Ms. Johnson shared that she is thrilled to be here to share the accomplishments of her team. Her team has redesigned the learning spaces. You can see the vibrant colors and 3-D murals on the walls. The goal was to create a space where students want to be. They surveyed the students to ask what they wanted and additionally used the creative talents of her team members. The number one goal is to support our teachers and our curriculum. The materials have been organized in a way that makes it easier for the students to find the information. The libraries have been genrefied to improve accessibility by 96%. The student ID's have been linked with the Calabasas Library. This will allow students to access dozens of databases and thousands of ebooks. The libraries have curated non-fiction ebooks for our curriculum

to allow students to access books for research in their classes. We have developed community partnerships. We have brought in authors to speak to the students. We have also implemented field trips to make reading fun. The libraries will continue to modernize for our students.

Ms. Cutbill thanked Ms. Johnson and her team for their hard work. Mr. Lawrence commended Ms. Johnson for her work. The libraries have transformed. He thanked her for her efforts.

Mr. Gleason wanted to give a shout-out to her team; Ms. Johnson, Ms. Maureen McDonald, Mr. Klein and all the media specialists at our schools. Curriculum Council has worked through both a subcommittee of K-12 teachers and the larger council to develop recommended fiction and non-fiction books in line with our new standards. The recommended investment would add approximately 20,000 books across our thirteen school libraries so that students continue to read and experience contemporary texts. The recommendations were vetted through the American Library Association. The Curriculum Council reviewed our lists and process and unanimously recommended the Board approve this investment.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Date Approved

President, Board of Education