



BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
May 18, 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 18, 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 3:30pm at the Agoura High School Performing Arts Education Center, 28545 W. Driver Ave, Agoura Hills, CA.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Angela Cutbill
Dallas Lawrence
Linda Menges
Lesli Stein
Kate Vadehra

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

RECOGNITION OF RETIREES

The following retirees were honored for their collective 649 years of service and dedication to the students of the Las Virgenes Unified School District:
Robbie Amodio, Sahar Barsoum, Maryann Bonthius, Vivian Brink, John Carpenter, Leslie Case, Wendy Chodor, Elisa Cortina, Lori Crane, Karen Denova, Vivian Ding, Faye DiPanni, Janet Douvros, Michele Dow, Greg Fried, Deborah Goldenberg, Kathryn Heukrodt, Craig Hochhaus, Nancy Jobsz, Donna Kawakami, Diane Lawrence, Deborah Loeb, Jack Maranto, Don McCombs, Margaret McClean, Elaine Neiman, Jani Nelson, Jean Nishimura, Dennis Ritterbush, Barbara Santana, Sandra Schilz, Pat Schulz, Maria Sheinkman, Cindy Silvers, Verlyn Simon, Michelle Sobieraj, Robin Stidham, Cindy Sugano, Cindy Swain, Pamela Thomas, Rick Way, Julie Wisdom, Carolyn Yarin, and Donna Yeary.

The Board of Education adjourned the meeting to return to the District Office for Regular Session.

CALL TO ORDER OPEN SESSION

President Cutbill reconvened the Board meeting at 4:45 p.m. at the Las Virgenes Unified School District, 4111 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA.

BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION REGARDING CALENDARING ASSIGNMENTS AND GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

The Board Adjourned to Closed Session at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session Adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER OPEN SESSION

President Cutbill reconvened the Board meeting at 6:00 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

Agoura High School Student Board Member, Jake Goodman

Calabasas High School Student Board Member, Noah Murray (observed the meeting in the audience)

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 Agoura High School Student Board Member, Jake Goodman.

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. Stein, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved the agenda of May 18, 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. Menges, seconded by Dr. Vadehra, the Board of Education approved the Regular Board Meeting Minutes 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

STAFF/BOARD COMMUNICATION

Dr. Stepenosky shared his appreciation for the Student Board Members that have been with us this past year. He shared that he enjoyed working with both Mr. Jake Goodman and Mr. Noah Murray. He introduced Mr. Goodman and asked him to share about his plans moving forward next year. He thanked both Board Members for their dedication and advocacy for the students in the Las Virgenes Unified School District.

Ms. Cutbill thanked both Student Board Members for their service. The students are always so articulate and are true advocates for students. She shared how proud she was of both Mr. Goodman and Mr. Murray. She asked them to come back and check in every so often. She presented an engraved leather portfolio to each of the Board Members on behalf of the Board of Education.

Mr. Goodman introduced the new Agoura High School Student Board Member, Ms. Bella Bernt. She will be a junior next year at AHS. She is one of the hardest working people at AHS. He is proud to have her as his successor. Mr. Goodman shared that next year he will be going to American University as a Political Science major. He wants to eventually serve in the Navy.

Dr. Stepenosky introduced Mr. Noah Murray from Calabasas High School. He thanked him for his service. He also shared how much he liked his sense of humor and has personally enjoyed the way he has endorsed and seconded the motions during Board meetings.

Ms. Cutbill stated how much they enjoyed Mr. Murray this year. She stated that even though the majority of the year was virtual, she could still enjoy his personality and sense of humor.

Mr. Murray thanked everyone. Next year, he will be attending University of Wisconsin studying Psychology. He wants to continue on with medical school to become a Psychiatrist. He introduced the new Calabasas High School Student Board Member, Ms. Willow Gaven. She was one of the hardest working people in ASB this year. She is smart, talented and very passionate about what she does for the students and the school. Mr. Murray shared that he is extremely proud of Ms. Gaven.

Dr. Stepenosky thanked Mr. Goodman and Mr. Murray for their leadership and welcomed the new members, Ms. Bernt and Ms. Gaven. Dr. Stepenosky shared that Ms. Gaven's mom works at the District Office in Pupil Services.

Mr. Goodman shared that Agoura High School will hold their Prom this weekend at the Moorpark Country Club. Senior Awards will happen on June 1, 2021. The Senior Picnic will be June 7, 2021 at Calamigos Ranch. At Calabasas High School, the seniors are having their Prom on June 5 at the Ronald Regan Library. All seniors are so excited to be having in person prom and graduation. He thanked everyone involved that made this happen for the seniors.

Ms. Stein thanked Mr. Goodman and Mr. Murray for their service in this very strange and different year. She welcomed the new members, Ms. Bernt and Ms. Gaven. Ms. Stein and Dr. Vadehra visited Lindero Canyon Middle School last week. It was wonderful to be on campus and see so many students. They have over 80% of their students back on campus. Both teachers and students are thrilled to be there. Ms. Stein spoke to a student who stated that it was difficult to wear a mask all the time. She congratulated the PFC/PFA Presidents. They were recognized last Friday. She thanked Dr. Stepenosky, Dr. Finneran, and President Cutbill for their kind words during the recognition. She also thanked Mr. Gleason for his work on the accreditation for our PASC and CASC programs through Center EdX. The accreditation process was a wonderful experience.

Ms. Menges congratulated Mr. Goodman and Mr. Murray for their service on the Board. She wished them well in their college endeavors. She was thankful that they got to sit on the dais a little and was sad that most of the year was virtual. She welcomed Ms. Bernt and Ms. Gaven to the Board for next year. She participated in the accreditation meeting. It was wonderful. She also participated in the PFA/PFC President recognition. It was nice to see that so many PFC/PFA members will return next year.

Mr. Lawrence thanked Mr. Goodman and Mr. Murray for their service. He thanked them for their passion and advocacy for the students. He also welcomed Ms. Bernt and Ms. Gaven.

Dr. Vadehra thanked Mr. Goodman and Mr. Murray for their services. She stated how much she appreciated their input while on the Strategic Planning Committee. She welcomed the new members for next year. Dr. Vadehra shared again that her and Ms. Stein visited Lindero Canyon Middle School. She stated how important it was to meet the teachers, maintenance workers, etc. at the schools because they are the ones that do the work every day. Dr. Vadehra wants the workers to know how much the Board appreciates their hard work and dedication. She kept hearing from workers that the kids come first and the kids are their focus. She was very happy to hear that. She thanked Ms. Pescetto, Director of Facilities, for creating these safe nurturing places for our students to play their musical instruments. She played the flute when she was younger. It was nice to see the band students playing their instruments in a safe environment. She shared that Round Meadow will be getting a digital marquee. Dr. Vadehra shared that vaccines are available to children, 12 years and older. Please reach out to a health care provider if you have questions.

Ms. Cutbill congratulated Mr. Gleason, Ms. Wenter, and everyone involved in Center EdX for their work in the accreditation process. She thanked Mr. Gleason for his patience during this process. Since the Board members are not educators, Mr. Gleason had to be patient with them during this process. Ms. Cutbill was so proud of everyone in Ed. Services and the program at Center EdX. It has really grown into a remarkable program. Calabasas High School had a virtual dance concert which was nice to watch. She thanked the PFA/PFC members. The celebration was wonderful last Friday. She commented how proud she was of the PFA/PFC presidents who choose to help our students every day.

Dr. Stepenosky shared that we had a visit from Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE); Dr. Debra Duardo and Dr. Arturo Valdez. He stated that he could not remember the last time the Deputy Superintendent had visited. It has probably been 20 years. LACOE visited Butter Cup/Yerba Buena and Lindero Canyon Middle School. They wanted to see our special needs students to see how we support them. We were proud to spotlight those students using a video which highlighted the Director of Pupil Services, Ms. Angie Falk. The video was played during the meeting.

Dr. Finneran shared how wonderful it will be to celebrate the seniors. We are looking forward to in person graduation and culminations. There are a lot of districts not offering in person activities. We will continue to look at ways to support our students academically, mentally and emotionally.

Ms. Falk shared that due to the hard work of Dr. Roderick and Valerie Louthian, we will start Buttercup next year at our pre-pandemic levels. All general and special ed spots have been filled. Ms. Falk was excited to report that information.

Ms. Amodio stated that the District is hiring for the robust summer program including the ESY Program, Special Ed Enrichment Program and Camp LV Learns Program.

Ms. Kintz shared the three sub-committees of the Elementary Summit Committee are meeting this spring and summer preparing for next year. The Curriculum Alignment Committee met to discuss the themed unit of study of English Language Arts and Social Studies at each grade level K-5.

Mr. Gleason shared that the District had the pleasure of hosting the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. This was a culmination of eight months of deep self study and over 30 interviews with the committee. He thanked Ms. Cutbill and Ms. Stein for participating and being interviewed. The commission does not often come to school districts for programs. The commission asked Mr. Gleason why would they interview Board members. Mr. Gleason shared that it was because the Board was so integrated in getting this program off the ground. They took a big risk during a time that we had a lot going on. We didn't know how successful the program would be. The commission was proud of how invested our Board and Superintendent were. The committee will go to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing this summer. We will have accreditation until 2028 and will have had over 350 candidates during that time. The impact of the program has been significant. The next cohort, which is the largest to date, has 20 administrators which is very exciting.

Dr. Scifres shared congratulations to Ms. Amodio for being awarded COLVOPS Leadership Matters award. He shared a picture of Ms. Amodio accepting the award together with Cabinet. Ms. Amodio was chosen out of one hundred administrators in Las Virgenes, Oak Park and Conejo. It is well deserved for the relationships she continues to build and foster with employees. She has been with LVUSD since 1992. She will retire this year. It has been an honor to work with her and see her receive this award. Dr. Scifres and Ms. Amodio have been working with her replacement, Ms. Hallie Chambers, to transition into this new position. Ms. Chambers visited Chaparral, Lupin Hill, and Yerba Buena to tour the schools and meet some employees.

Ms. Kimmel shared that she participated in the school tours with Ms. Chambers. That was a fun outing last week. It will be great having Ms. Chambers on board even though Ms. Amodio will be missed.

Mr. Klein shared that we received our commitment letter from the FCC stating that we will receive \$211,000 from the FCC to help pay for our internet services. This helps us every year to provide better internet for our students. He announced that Mr. Salva Dut will host the webinar, A Long Walk to Water on May 24, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Ms. Tina Payne spoke about the reopening of schools and the comments submitted for the May 4, 2021 meeting. President Cutbill asked staff to verify the comments submitted from the May 4, 2021 meeting were documented in the May 4, 2021 minutes.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - A

On motion of Ms. Stein, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved Consent Agenda A, Items 1-6.

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 Disposal of Surplus Property as listed on the attached document.
2. Approved Purchase Orders as listed on the attached document.
3. Approved Award of Bid to Mission Paving and Sealing, Inc. as listed on the attached document.

4. Approved City of Calabasas Fourth of July Celebration as listed on the attached document.
5. Approved Measure G Oversight Committee Appointments as listed on the attached document.
6. Approved Job Description: Office Assistant 2 - Bilingual as listed on the attached document.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - B

On motion of Ms. Stein, seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the Board of Education approved Consent Agenda B, Item 1. Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

AYES: Board members Cutbill, Lawrence, Menges, Stein, and Vadehra
NAYES: 0

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

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of Application: Las Virgenes Independent School was presented. Dr. Stepenosky clarified that with the approval from the Board, this will allow the District to work and submit the application for Las Virgenes Independent School. Mr. Gleason shared that the COVID-19 Pandemic led to the creation of the Las Virgenes Virtual Academy, which currently supports approximately 2,300 students in K-12. As the pandemic subsides, there is demand for continuing to have an alternative education option available for students through a blended virtual/independent educational offering. Approximately 200 LVUSD families have registered in this model for the 2021-22 school year. This year, we were allowed flexibility with respect to our reporting with CALPADS which allowed the Virtual Academy to exist as a separate academy. Las Virgenes Independent School (LVIS) will allow for this similarly with respect to school identity and growth, fundraising efforts, consolidation of CALPADS reporting and a clearer organizational chart. The model will include partial virtual instruction plus independent learning in grades K-5. This will also include the APEX, FUEL, and SCOUT model where you have case manager support in grades 6-12. All students will have access to enrichment. Next year, there will be managing contracts in place for the students. We will also have advanced counseling support. The next steps will be to hire staff and faculty, facility identification, and outreach and growth. This has been approved by the Pathway Committee.

Ms. Stein asked how long the approval process takes. Mr. Gleason said it is a short process. Ms. Stein stated this program is exciting for LVUSD. Ms. Menges asked about enrichment. Which schools would provide that enrichment? Mr. Gleason stated that all staff would be on the same campus and the enrichment would occur on that same campus.

On Motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved Application: Las Virgenes Independent School.

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 Assignment of Lease - 4345 Las Virgenes Road was presented. Ms. Kimmel stated that in 2013, the District entered into a lease with Muse School CA. With a board approved First Amendment to the Original Lease, a new 6-year term with Muse School CA began in July 2019 with an expiration date of June 30, 2025. On June 30, 2020, Muse School CA notified the District of their intention to vacate the property and relinquish the lease. On March 9, 2021, the District entered into a formal settlement agreement with Muse School CA to settle any outstanding issues, whereby Muse School CA waived any claimed right or interest in the Property. While the final negotiations were occurring with Muse School, the District contracted with a real estate agent to market the property as an assignment of lease. Proposals from potential renters were due on March 19, 2021. The District received one proposal in response to the marketing campaign, which was from Arete Preparatory Academy. Arete Preparatory Academy is a private program serving approximately 60 middle and high school students. Arete Preparatory Academy is currently located in an office building in Los Angeles and desires to move its school to a facility which offers physical classrooms and outdoor space. We received a Letter of Intent from Arete Preparatory Academy. This would enable Arete Preparatory Academy to take over the lease beginning July 1, 2021, for the remaining four-year term and include an option to extend for an additional five years. The monthly rent would stay the same, \$30,911.44 with 3% annual escalation. Rent over the remaining term of the four-year lease assignment would total \$1,443,673. They will provide a security deposit of \$185,468.

Ms. Stein commended Ms. Kimmel for her work on this. This was a huge feat especially during the pandemic. Mr. Lawrence commended Ms. Kimmel as well. He thanked her and her team for their efforts.

On Motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved Assignment of Lease - 4345 Las Virgenes Road.

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. Update: Summer Deferred Maintenance and Construction Projects was presented. Ms. Kimmel introduced Ms. Julie Pescetto to present this information. Ms. Pescetto started by thanking her team of maintenance, custodians, including plant managers, and ground staff. The staff went above and beyond during the pandemic to make sure the campuses were clean and safe for the return of students. The vaccination clinics were made possible by the maintenance and custodial staff. The District will replace the roofing on the MPR at Willow Elementary. They will also replace asphalt at Sumac, Bay Laurel, and Round Meadow. There are many cracks on the playgrounds. The District needs to replace some HVAC units at Willow and Bay Laurel. There will be 7 rooftop units and 4 wall units replaced at Bay Laurel and 11 rooftop units at Willow. The District has hired Jam to test our fire alarm units. Every fire alarm at every site will be tested annually. The Snack Shack at Calabasas High School will be relocated. The shack is currently on the varsity baseball field. It will be moved to a more central area so junior varsity can use this as well. The District removed some diseased trees at A.E. Wright Middle School, leaving a tripping hazard. The concrete in this area will be replaced to remove the tripping hazard. There is an area at White Oak Elementary that pools water when it rains. The District will add drainage to help with that issue. The playground at White Oak will be replaced with the help of their PFC. The proposed new playground will have good shading for the kids. The District will replace iron fencing at Agoura High School. This will enclose the front of the school. Some iron fencing with panic hardware will be added at Lindero Canyon as well.

Ms. Cutbill commended Ms. Pescetto for the incredible work of her and her team.

2. Update: May Revise/Budget was presented. Ms. Kimmel shared that last week, the Governor presented his "May Revise" which is his proposal for the state's 2021-2022 budget. Staff will be utilizing the details of the May Revise in the development of the 2021-2022 budget for presentation to the Board of Education on June 8, 2021. Overall, the proposed budget was very strong for education. He used the "California Roars Back" tagline with \$100 billion over the next three years. Three fourths of this comes from surplus over three years and the other portion will come from federal relief. Proposition 98 will present a \$15.4 billion increase over three years. The budget will include 5.07% compounded "Super COLA" for Base LCFF Funding effective with the new year, 4.05% compounded COLA for Special Education, buy-down of most state deferrals (cashflow benefit), Universal TK phased in by 2024-25 for July 2nd birthdays (no change next year), which will generate ADA, and Child Nutrition funding augmentation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Date Approved

President, Board of Education