



BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
August 10, 2021

CALL TO ORDER/MEETING PLACE

Board President Angela Cutbill called the Board meeting to order at 5:00 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
Dr. Kate Vadehra, M.D.

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 5:19 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session Adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER OPEN SESSION

President Cutbill reconvened the Board meeting at 5:53 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Angela Cutbill
Dallas Lawrence
Linda Menges
Lesli Stein
Kate Vadehra

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
Dr. Ryan Gleason, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services
Laura Kintz, Director of Elementary Education
Hallie Chambers, Director of Human Resources
Angie Falk, Director of Pupil Services
Jim Klein, Chief Technology Officer
Agoura High School Student Representative, Bella Bernt (participated on the dais)
Calabasas High School Student Representative, Willow Gaven (observed the meeting in the audience)

STAFF ABSENT

None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Agoura High School Student Representative, Bella Bernt.

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 August 10, 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 Mr. Lawrence, the Board of Education approved the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of June 22, 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

On motion of Ms. Stein, seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the Board of Education approved the Virtual Special Meeting Minutes of June 25, 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

Ms. Bella Bernt, Agoura High School Representative, shared that all LVUSD schools are excited to welcome back students to full time in person learning. Registration began today for both AHS and CHS. Link Crew at both schools have been preparing to lead the freshman students on Friday during their registration. They will be giving tours and advice to the new freshman students. AHS Student Council will have their summer retreat this Sunday. They will be participating in bonding activities and getting to know one another. On the second Friday after school starts, AHS will hold their first football game.

Ms. Stein welcomed everyone back to the dais since there were no Board meetings in July. Ms. Stein wished everyone a great year as the teachers and staff get their rooms and campus ready for the first day of school. Ms. Stein, along with Dr. Vadehra, visited summer school at Yerba Buena and Find My Genius at Sumac. It was heart-warming to see the students back in the classroom learning and having fun. Ms. Stein noticed that the kids did not seem conscious about wearing masks. They just continued on as normal; socializing, learning and doing their lessons. Ms. Stein welcomed back the community.

Dr. Vadehra welcomed back the community. She thanked Ms. Falk for showing her around the extended school program this summer. It was incredible and she learned a lot. Dr. Vadehra loved visiting Find My Genius at Sumac. She loved seeing the students engaged and having fun. She commended Jim Klein and Tina Johnson on the LVLeans program. This was an incredible opportunity for the students to continue growing. Dr. Vadehra participated in the training program held by the California School Board Association for new trustees. The program consists of six to eight courses which teach about school boards and trustees.

Ms. Menges welcomed everyone back. She welcomed Ms. Chambers and the student board representatives to the dais. Ms. Menges attended a budget webinar held by Capital Advisors. They covered the new rules for independent study. Ms. Menges toured the LVLeans summer program with Mr. Klein and Ms. Johnson at Yerba Buena. It was a blessing to see the students engaged in learning.

Mr. Lawrence welcomed back everyone. He shared the excitement of his kids coming back to school and assumed most of the kids in the District are just as excited. He congratulated the staff for their preparation in getting kids back to school.

Ms. Cutbill thanked staff for their hard work last year. She hoped they had a nice break over the summer. She is appreciative and excited about the new members to the dais.

Dr. Stepenosky invited Mr. Mark Madnick to come up. He is Vice President of The Foundation for Las Virgenes Unified School District. Mr. Madnick shared that he is honored to be here tonight to present their annual donation to LVUSD. This year, the donation is \$75,000. Parents started The Foundation a little more than 10 years ago. The goal was to work with the school district to fill the gaps between the federal government funding sources and the academic and mental health programs that our community wants for our children. Since The Foundation began, it has raised more than \$1.5 million for LVUSD. The Foundation, like many other organizations, experienced set backs with the lack of live events last year. Community members, businesses and parents answered the call to save our schools and support The Foundation. The Foundation was very creative last year finding ways to have the community support LVUSD from mask sales to Virtual Comedy Night, Virtual Magic Show and the Wine Tasting event. This donation has been earmarked to support the District's strategic plan. The focus has been on class size reduction, centralized STEAM education in elementary schools and mental health support. The Foundation kicked off their back to school appeal last week. Since that time, they have raised almost \$30,000. Mr. Madnick presented the check for \$75,000.

Dr. Stepenosky thanked Mr. Madnick and The Foundation for this donation. He recognized the challenges occurring today. He thanked them again for their outstanding work.

Ms. Cutbill, on behalf of the Board of Education, thanked Mr. Madnick and The Foundation for their partnership and their donation. She shared her excitement for the return of their live events this year.

Dr. Stepenosky showed a picture of Tara Davis, who graduated from AHS in 2017. She attended the Olympics this year and placed 6th in the world. LVUSD was so proud of her. LVUSD held the Admin Retreat today and had so much fun with them. There was one new Principal this year, Joanna Cooper from Round Meadow Elementary. There were also two new Assistant Principals at AHS, Ashley Wenter and Kirby Brock. This morning, Dr. Stepenosky along with Ms. Kimmel and Ms. Beder met with the Durham bus drivers to welcome them back this year and show the District's appreciation for the bus driving team. The bus drivers are the first and last adult our children see every day. Teachers are hard at work preparing their classrooms for the first day of school.

Dr. Finneran welcomed back everyone. She shared that she is responsible for Professional Development for certificated staff. She will be sharing the PD opportunities with staff in the next few days. There will be three choices of opportunity buckets.

Dr. Gleason shared the reading from this summer. It was a book called Permission to Feel. He thanked Dr. Vadehra for bringing this to the District. This book was relevant for today. It shares the feelings students have coming back to school. We continued to nurture our counseling efforts in the District. There are five new counselors on staff. There is a counselor at every elementary school as well as the Independent School. The high schools have a new automated counseling system that was developed this summer.

Mr. Klein shared that the tech team has been very busy all summer implementing upgrades. He will discuss this in further detail later in this meeting. He reminded every to use the #LVRocks on the first day of school. Every year, there is a huge social media push to celebrate all the wonderful things LVUSD has done. Please take pictures and share with the community.

Ms. Falk shared that the District offered a robust summer program. Over 300 students participated. She welcomed back the special ed teachers who came back this week. Tomorrow, the District will be training the 23 new certificated staff in person at the District Office. Our new para educators will be trained on August 17 by one of our behavioral specialists. This year, our para educators will be trained in person for crisis intervention. Over the summer, about 30 special educators participated in the state sponsored dyslexia program.

Ms. Chambers shared that she is excited to be joining the LVUSD team. She has appreciated all the support from Cabinet, the Board of Education, and the District Staff during this transition. She shared that in collaboration with LVCA, the District is launching a new PD website. Ms. Chambers thanked Dr. Gleason for the training on the new website. There will be a menu of options for our classified staff. Our PD Committee will film a short video tomorrow explaining the details of the plan along with where to find the information, how to register for the sessions, and how to document it once completed. There are many interesting sessions such as, how to navigate Google, how to have hard conversations, along with building leadership and management skills. Information will be sent to the classified staff later this week.

Ms. Kintz thanked the elementary teachers and staff members who worked hard on committees this summer to help prepare educators to open this fall. The Math Assessment Committees updated two standardized assessments that

needed updating. The Curriculum Integration Committee worked on aligning our curriculum. The Homework Committee is meeting tomorrow to come out with recommendations for grade level age appropriate homework options. The Positive Behavior Support and Social Emotional Learning Committee has met three times this summer. They have put together restorative circle plans for teachers. There was an elementary counseling training which was great. It helped to build this team. She thanked Veronica Esqueda who will head our Family Resource Center for culturally and linguistically diverse students and families.

Ms. Kimmel gave a shout-out to her team for their hard work this summer. The Payroll Department updated all the salary schedules and processed retro paychecks for all the employees. The Accounting Department has been working late nights to close the books for the last school year and get ready for this school year. The Purchasing Department has ordered all the supplies, including gallons of hand sanitizer. The Maintenance Department has been completing deep cleaning of all campuses throughout the District. The Child Nutrition Department has not taken a break with providing free meals to our community every day. They have served close to 13,000 meals. Transportation is up and running. Ms. Kimmel shared how proud she is of her team.

Dr. Scifres shared that after a two-year hiatus, we are excited to offer an in person New Employee Orientation Thursday and Friday this week. It is for both classified and certificated. We hired about 70 new employees this year. Our world-famous bus tour will happen this Friday afternoon for all new employees. We are excited to welcome all new employees to the LVUSD Family.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Carol Izad spoke about her being against Critical Race and Gender Theories being taught in K-12 schools.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - A

On motion of Ms. Stein, seconded by Dr. Vadehra, the Board of Education approved Consent Agenda A, Items 1-10. The three field trips were pulled from the agenda and not approved.

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 Award of Bid to Fence Factory - Chaparral Elementary School as listed on the attached document.
2. Approved Award of Bid to Avsar Construction Development - A.E. Wright Middle School as listed on the attached document.
3. Approved Acceptance of Gifts as listed on the attached document.
4. Approved Warrants - June 1-30, 2021 as listed on the attached document.
5. Approved Warrants - July 1-31, 2021 as listed on the attached document.
6. Approved Disposal of Surplus Property as listed on the attached document.
7. Approved Purchase Orders as listed on the attached document.
8. Approved Student Teacher Agreement - Cal Lutheran University as listed on the attached document.
9. Approved Student Teacher Agreement - The University of Akron as listed on the attached document.
10. MOU Agreement for Athletic Trainer Services - Adventist Health Simi Valley as listed on the attached document.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - B

On motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Dr. Vadehra, 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

ABSTAINED: Stein

NAYES: None

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

ACTION ITEMS

1. Resolution No. 1-21 - Use of School Fees for Construction or Reconstruction Related Development was presented. Ms. Kimmel stated that Education Code 17620 allows school districts in the state of California to collect school fees from new development or remodeling of residences and commercial properties. The fees collected are used to provide school facilities to accommodate the additional students generated by the construction. The District primarily uses the school fees in Fund 25 to pay debt service on our Certificates of Participation. The District is opening the Las Virgenes Independent School (LVIS) in the fall of 2021-22 and needs to create space to prepare for students who will

be accessing LVIS. The District is proposing the use of the school fees to fund the project on the A.E. Wright campus. The estimated cost is \$100k and has been approved by the Facilities Committee.

On Motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Stein, the Board of Education approved Resolution No. 1-21 - Use of School Fees for Construction or Reconstruction Related Development.

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. 45-Day Budget Revise was presented. Ms. Kimmel shared that during the last Board meeting on June 22, we adopted our budget. The Governor signed the annual state budget act on June 28, 2021. In accordance with AB1200, school districts post revisions to their budgets within 45 days of the Governor's signature on the state budget. Ms. Kimmel turned it over to Ms. Torres to go over the revisions. Ms. Torres shared the highlights of the State Adopted Budget. These include the overall Cost of Living on LCFF funding at 5.07%, a compound Cost of Living at 4.05% for Special Ed funding, concentration grant funding increase to 65%, supplemental grant funding remains at 20%, pay off all Feb-Jun 2021 deferrals (IOU's) in 2021-22, and Universal Transitional Kindergarten (TK) by 2025-26. There are several grant opportunities that the District can apply for. There is an Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant for ~ \$600k, a one-time planning & facilities grant of ~ \$119k, and A-G Completion Improvement Grant of ~ \$211k and several other opportunities. The LVUSD Budget already includes: Final Cost of Living rates of 4.05%, Special Ed at 5.07% LCFF, and salary settlements that were agreed upon in May 2021. There are two new updates to the budget which include: CDE revised their guidelines requiring COVID ESSER II/III revenues to align with expenses over four years, and unemployment rate change decrease of \$600k. With these changes, our current 2021-22 budget still shows a net loss of \$10.7m.

On Motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Dr. Vadehra, the Board of Education approved 45-Day Budget Revise.

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. BP 6158 - Independent Study was presented. Dr. Stepenosky stated that since the state will not allow us to continue with the Virtual Academy, the District has created the Las Virgenes Independent School (LVIS), which is an independent (IS) option for students in grades K-12. LVIS will operate within the parameters of state and local requirements, and is a fit for students who are self-motivated and can work at their own pace with structured support from LVUSD staff.

Dr. Roberts, Principal of LVIS, shared that LVIS will be housed in the M building at A.E. Wright. There are approximately 65 elementary students, Some of those students have chosen the virtual option where they zoom and check-in with a teacher daily. BP 6158 allows that option for K-5 students. Others have chosen the independent study program where they check-in with their teacher every two weeks. Students who have registered include those who are significantly immuno-compromised, those who are professional athletes, and those who are professional actors/dancers/singers. The middle school has 30 students and the high school has 69 students. Dr. Roberts stated he expected the enrollment numbers to go up over the next several days. Each student will be assigned a case manager. The instruction time varies for each grade level. Grades K-3 will be daily instruction, Grades 4-8 daily live interaction and weekly instruction, Grades 9-12 weekly instruction. The staff includes: 3 full-time elementary teachers, 3 full-time teachers covering middle and high schools, one full-time art specialist, one Principal, Dr. Roberts, one Assistant Principal, Ms. Gianina Jantz, one counselor, Ms. Hollingsworth, and one Office Manager, Eve Stout.

Dr. Finneran shared that due to Assembly Bill 130 on July 9, 2021, changes need to be made to BP 6158, Independent Study, prior to the first day of school. The changes to BP 6158 include: required parent notification of the independent study options, required parent-educator conferences with interested families, required signed parent-educator agreement, and documentation of student attendance and progress.

On Motion of Ms. Stein, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved BP 6158 - Independent Study.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Reopening Report was presented. Dr. Stepenosky shared that LVUSD follows the requirements of three different agencies: Los Angeles County Public Health, California Department of Public Health, and California Governor's Office. Things will change. We need to be flexible and nimble. The District will respond quickly as changes occur. The District is in constant contact with the three agencies.

Ms. Kintz and Ms. Falk shared information about the summer program. LVUSD had over 700 students participate in the summer program. There were 310 students in extended learning, 100 students participated in Find My Genius, which was in partnership with YMCA, 100 students participated in LVUSD Learns (K-5), 185 students completed Freshman Seminar, and there were 269 recovery courses completed.

Dr. Stepenosky stated the masking and social distancing requirements come from the county and state. They have the legal authority to govern what we do. The Family Resource Guide was shared last week. There will be a reopening webinar tomorrow at 3:00 p.m. LVUSD has encouraged everyone who is eligible to receive the vaccine. Over 85% of LVUSD Staff has been vaccinated. The Majority of the Covid-19 cases are from non-vaccinated people. LVUSD is requiring staff to be vaccinated or undergo testing every week. Any staff member who is not vaccinated will be tested August 23, 2021.

Ms. Stein asked if LVUSD can mandate that students must be vaccinated. Dr. Stepenosky stated that the District cannot mandate students to be vaccinated. We are not a public health agency. The county or state legislature would need to mandate that. They probably won't do that until the FDA gives full approval. Currently, the vaccine is under emergency use only. The infection rate has dropped to 1.5%.

Ms. Melissa Foster, the head nurse, shared some information about reopening. Students and parents will need to self check their own health status. There are no required travel quarantines at this time. It has been suggested that you test when you come back, but it is not mandatory at this time. If students do not feel well, they are encouraged to stay home. Each school will have access to a self swab test which gives results within 15 minutes. If a student or staff member who has been vaccinated is exposed to someone who is positive, they do not need to quarantine. However, if an unvaccinated student or staff member is exposed, they will need to quarantine for 10 days. Ms. Stein commented that these requirements can change.

Dr. Stepenosky stated that masks must be worn by all when inside. Outside is optional.

Ms. Kimmel shared that the classrooms will be cleaned daily. The air filtration system will run 2 hours before school starts to keep the air clean. There will be hand sanitizer and wipes readily available to all students and staff.

Dr. Scifres shared that sports and extra-curricular activities will occur in accordance with state and local guidelines.

Dr. Finneran shared that band, orchestra, and music classes will continue with rehearsals outside with PPE.

Ms. Kintz shared that although social distancing is not required, recess and lunch will be staggered. We learned through the pandemic that when we lowered the amount of students for recess, the children did very well playing with less children at one time. This truly helped their social emotional well-being so we will continue to stagger the recess and lunch breaks to allow students to develop more individualized friendships. During lunch, they will be seated with their class. There will also be art and music specialists at every elementary school to support student creativity and development of the whole child.

Ms. Kimmel stated that there is a grant that will cover lunches to every child regardless of their income. School buses will run like normal. The windows of the buses will need to stay open and face masks will need to be worn by everyone on the bus.

Dr. Gleason stated that there will be full-time counselors at every TK-5 school. The centralized counseling center has increased their staff. The counselors at the high schools are more specialized and appointments can be made through the new online system.

Dr. Finneran shared that there will be three extra days of instruction to support student learning. The first and last days of school have not changed. There will be intervention specialists at every secondary school.

Mr. Klein shared that the tech team is excited to bring new technology infrastructure and teacher training to the District. The District has invested in curriculum to continue excellence in learning. We received additional funding due to the

pandemic which allowed us to purchase new laptops for students. The tech department added new ipads for TK-2. We added new fiber optic lines to increase connectivity. There are new network switches being installed at the school sites.

Dr. Finneran shared information about academic student monitoring. The monitoring for 2021-22 will occur using Rally for social emotional assessments, RenSTAR for academic assessments, D/F rates at all reporting periods, and ongoing formative assessments. There are professional development opportunities for certificated personnel to earn 19.5 hours of paid PD.

Ms. Chambers shared that classified employees can participate in after hours professional development up to a total of two unit member work days. A new website has been created with a menu of PD options.

Ms. Kintz shared her excitement for the new Family Resource Center. This will be a centralized location for families to obtain additional support. The focus will be on the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse students and their families. The books and resources will be in several different languages.

Dr. Stepenosky shared he is hosting a webinar tomorrow at 3:00 p.m. at LVUSD.org covering the opening protocols.

There were three public speakers that attended the meeting.

1. Sam Gaglani asked what data the District used to determine whether testing will be mandated or not. Dr. Stepenosky shared that California Department of Public Health and Los Angeles County Department of Public Health does not require mandated testing of students. He also stated that last year, we tested over 2,000 students per week for athletics and there was no material benefit. It actually caused more chaos than benefit. Mr. Lawrence shared that last year during the pandemic, we had 10,500 students on campus for more than 100 days. There were no known transmitted cases on campus. Dr. Vadehra shared that the Delta variant is new. There is no known data for testing the Delta variant. It is not designed to test asymptomatic people. There are many false positives. She continued that we are trusting parents to do the right thing by keeping their kids home if they don't feel well. Our teachers and staff are trained. If they see a student who is sick, they will send the child home.

2. Cara Franke also spoke about mandated testing. She has an elementary student and is concerned to send her child to school next week without mandated testing. Ms. Cutbill stated that if Covid-19 cases become prevalent, the schools will shut down and go back to virtual learning. Ms. Cutbill continued that LVUSD is governed by Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. We must follow their rules and regulations. The District will pivot when needed. Dr. Stepenosky shared that everything is on the table. We will learn from other districts. We want to see how LAUSD monitors and implements their testing.

3. Alison Nelson spoke about Covid-19 precautions. She stated that the District is only following what is being mandated. She wants masks mandated outside. She stated how much she appreciated all that the Board and District have done for our children and community. Dr. Vadehra stated that lunches will be staggered to allow more separation between students to make it safer when outside. She hears what parents are saying. She understands their concerns. If the District needs to test, we definitely will. Ms. Cutbill stated that the District looks at everything. This Board and District are very concerned about the health and well-being of our students. Mr. Lawrence stated it is ok to be scared. He is terrified to send his kids out into the world, especially to school. He feels that given our protocols, our schools are safe for children to attend school.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Date Approved

President, Board of Education