



BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
October 12, 2021

CALL TO ORDER/MEETING PLACE

Board President Angela Cutbill called the Board meeting to order at 4:52 p.m. at the Las Virgenes Unified School District, 4111 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Angela Cutbill
Dallas Lawrence
Linda Menges participated remotely from: 2025 Kirsten Lee Drive, Westlake Village, CA 91361
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 4:53 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session Adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER OPEN SESSION

President Cutbill reconvened the Board meeting at 5:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Angela Cutbill
Dallas Lawrence
Linda Menges participated remotely from: 2025 Kirsten Lee Drive, Westlake Village, CA 91361
Lesli Stein
Kate Vadehra, M.D.

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 Superintendent, Dan Stepenosky.

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 Mr. Lawrence, the Board of Education approved the agenda of October 12, 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 Mr. Lawrence, the Board of Education approved the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of September 28, 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. Cutbill congratulated Dr. Stepenosky on being named Los Angeles County Superintendent of the Year 2021. Dr. Stepenosky received this award out of the 80 public school districts in Los Angeles County. Ms. Cutbill read a passage about Leadership in Crisis and how this described Dr. Stepenosky's leadership. She stated that Dr. Stepenosky leads the same whether we are in a crisis or not. He is an exemplary leader and deserves this honor. Ms. Cutbill presented Dr. Stepenosky with a Proclamation Certificate and a picture frame on behalf of the Board of Education. The Board of Education was so proud of this accomplishment. Ms. Cutbill presented Dr. Stepenosky two gifts: one from Senator Ted Liu's office and one from the City of Calabasas; neither who could be here tonight. Jeremy Wolf, an LVUSD alumni, from Senator Henry Stern's office, presented Dr. Stepenosky with a Proclamation Certificate for this well deserved honor. Dr. Deborah Klein Lopez, Mayor Pro Tem of Agoura Hills, and District Director for State Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel, presented Dr. Stepenosky with a Certificate. She shared how proud the Assembly members were and how Dr. Stepenosky has been a great partner to the State Assembly. Dr. Deborah Klein Lopez also spoke as a parent of three children in the District, and how proud and thankful she was of Dr. Stepenosky. Illece Buckley Weber, Councilmember of Agoura Hills, presented Dr. Stepenosky with a Proclamation Certificate. She thanked him for leading this District and for hosting the Covid-19 Vaccination Clinics where she received her vaccinations. Chris Anstead, Councilmember of Agoura Hills, thanked Dr. Stepenosky for his leadership. Ms. Cutbill thanked Councilmember, Linda Northrup, and City Manager, Nate Hamburger, for coming tonight and being a part of this celebration. Brad Halpern, Councilmember of Westlake Village, thanked Dr. Stepenosky for his amazing leadership during the Woolsey Fire and the pandemic. He shared how proud the City of Westlake Village was and congratulated Dr. Stepenosky. Ms. Stein shared how proud she was. She stated this honor was overdue. She said that Dr. Stepenosky is calm, kind, thoughtful and caring about our District, students, families and our cities. He is a great leader and has the confidence of his peers. Dr. Vadehra shared how proud she was and how Dr. Stepenosky acted as a true leader. Ms. Menges shared how proud she was. She also felt this was overdue. He has developed a great team to help him lead. She congratulated him on this recognition. Mr. Lawrence remembered how Dr. Stepenosky reacted to the Parkland Shooting. His calmness and decisiveness was best for our community. Mr. Lawrence shared a military quote. He thanked Dr. Stepenosky for all he has done for our District and our community.

Dr. Gleason shared some slides of Dr. Stepenosky over the past ten years since he has been Superintendent, The first slide was during the opening of Center EdX. He shared that Dr. Stepenosky has been willing to be out front and take risks. Dr. Stepenosky has hired every administrator on his team. Dr. Finneran shared a slide during the Woolsey Fire. She shared that there were three things that she noted about Dr. Stepenosky: 1. Commitment, 2. High expectations and 3. Willingness to learn. Mr. Klein shared a slide of some team events. He shared that Dr. Stepenosky likes to build his team and have team building events that are lots of fun. He congratulated Dr. Stepenosky and thanked him for his leadership style. Ms. Falk shared a slide of Dr. Seuss Day. She shared that his greatest desire was to see every LVUSD student succeed. Every decision revolves around students. Ms. Chambers highlighted the

family oriented culture that Dr. Stepenosky has created. She shared that he has been very supportive of her new role and she has been proud to work under him. She congratulated him on this well deserved recognition. Ms. Kintz shared a few qualities that she appreciated about him: forward thinking, team planning, and the ability to make quick decisions. She shared a slide with pictures of the reopening last November. Dr. Scifres shared a slide during dress up days. He shared how much he appreciated the ability to have fun. That fun culture resonates throughout our 14 schools. Ms. Kimmel shared that we have always known what a great leader we have. It took the pandemic for the county to see it. Under his leadership, we were the first to close our schools and the first to open. Ms. Kimmel shared her congratulations. Agoura High School Student Representative Bella Bernt thanked Dr. Stepenosky for his leadership. She shared that the students know how much he cares. Calabasas High School Student Representative Willow Gaven thanked Dr. Stepenosky for his kindness and leadership. She was nervous about this new role and he made her feel welcome. She shared that she enjoyed working closely with him.

Dr. Stepenosky shared that this was a group effort. He thanked his wife, his team, the Board, and the City Councilmembers. He shared that our staff was 98.5% vaccinated. Our eligible students were 89% vaccinated. We are planning another vaccination clinic on November 13 for students 5-11, pending emergency use approval. During our six clinics, we have vaccinated over 4,000 people.

Dr. Stepenosky stated that tonight we celebrate the 16 National Merit Semi-Finalists. There were 1.5 million students that took the PSAT. Out of those, 34,000 advanced and out of those, 16,000 advanced to semi-finalists. There are 8 from Agoura High School and 8 from Calabasas High School. He asked the students to come forward. Both Principals, Sara Exner and Dr. Stephanie McClay congratulated their students and named each one individually; from CHS: Mallory Cooper, Malysa Eddy, Isabella Lozada, Joshua Piesner, Jacob Rosoff, Zachary Rosoff, Jackson Shapiro, and Ella Travedi; from AHS: Titouan Faure, Charles Kindelt, Alissa Klein, Josephine Paik, Sarah Sturgeon, Jamieson Wilke, Thomas Van Fleet, and Megan Thanislas.

Agoura High School Student Representative Bella Bernt stated that Agoura High School and Calabasas High School have both been successful during the last 2 weeks. At Agoura, they had their first Community Blood Drive where they gathered over 25 units of blood. Yesterday, they started their Pennies for Patients Drive to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. At Calabasas, they started a new trend called Selfie with a Staff Member where students will take selfies with teachers/staff and ASB will repost on their Instagram. CHS has participated in Heritage Hispanic Month and on Friday, October 15, they will have a Mariachi band during lunch to celebrate. During the Something Yellow Foundation Football game, CHS donated \$700 to the Something Yellow Foundation.

Ms. Stein stated that Ms. Bergstrom will be setting school visits. Dr. Vadehra and Ms. Stein, who are on the Wellness Committee will be visiting the elementary school sites. Ms. Stein and Ms. Cutbill are visiting Agoura High School this Thursday. Ms. Stein shared that she will report back after the school visits.

Dr. Vadehra reiterated what Ms. Stein said about the school visits. The purpose of the school visits are to observe how the Strategic Plan has been implemented. It is also to observe all the great work that our teachers and staff are doing.

Ms. Menges gave a shout-out to Melissa Foster. Ms. Menges participated remotely tonight due to her exposure to Covid-19. Following science and protocols, it was decided that it was best for Ms. Menges to participate remotely. Prior to her exposure, Ms. Cutbill and Ms. Menges participated in the City Schools meeting with Agoura Hills and Westlake Village. It was interesting to see how the cities were getting back to their celebrations. Reyes Adobe days took place earlier this month. Coming up on October 16th, the City of Westlake Village is going to have their city celebration with Agoura High School Jazz Band and Blue Band along with Lindero Canyon Jazz Band participating in that celebration. The Foundation will have their Carnival at the Whizin Center on October 22, 23, and 24. For more information, go to www.thefoundationlvs.org.

Mr. Lawrence thanked Ms. Cutbill for all the behind-the-scenes work arranging for Dr Stepenosky's award this evening. There was a lot of behind-the-scenes negotiating with the city and county to allow for the presentations to occur. Mr. Lawrence attended the Hidden Hills Fiesta and spent time talking to the mayor and council members. Mr. Lawrence joined Ms. Cutbill for the 30th Anniversary of the State of the City of Calabasas. Mr. Lawrence thanked The Foundation for the Comedy Night which he attended. It was a great evening with a sold-out show. Mr. Lawrence showed his appreciation for The Foundation's work to raise money for the District.

Ms. Cutbill forewent comments.

Dr. Stepenosky shared that we celebrated our two Employees of the Year; Jean Sutherland, Classified, who is a campus supervisor and PE specialist for the past 15 years at Bay Laurel Elementary. Ms. Sutherland is a very hard worker and a force to be reckoned with. The Certificated Employee of the Year was Ms. Dana Dixon who has worked at A.E. Wright Middle School for the past 26 years. Ms. Dixon has provided social and emotional support. She is very kind and during the pandemic, she organized several hikes for the students. Dr. Stepenosky also shared that we have expanded our testing. We are now testing Tuesdays at Agoura High School from 5:30-6:45pm, Wednesdays at Calabasas High School from 5:30-6:45pm, and Thursdays at the District Office from 4-6pm. All staff, students and families are welcome to test. We test about 300 people a week.

Dr. Finneran highlighted a Professional Development opportunity that occurred last week. We have a partnership with Cal Berkeley through their History Social Studies Project. There were two wonderful consultants that work with our secondary Social Studies teachers. This presentation was to modernize and bring history to the present in our curriculum. The consultants are bring modern day history occurrences into our secondary classrooms in a relevant and respectful manner.

Dr. Gleason shared that we have many Professional Development opportunities for classified, certificated and management employees. Dr. Scifres and Ms. Chambers have been hosting a Personnel Series for all administrators. The next one will occur this Thursday.

Ms. Falk shared that this summer a representative from MobyMax, which is a math intervention company, contacted Ms. Falk. They had a grant and wanted to Pilot their program with LVUSD. This was for K through 8 students. All teachers would receive laptops and their math program. The program has since been implemented within our Special Education students and so far the progress has been great. Ms. Falk will present the program at a future meeting.

Ms. Chambers shared that they sent out their second #LVConnects of the year. This segment highlighted the wonderful teachers and staff at Mariposa. It was great to hear from the students and staff about all the great things that are happening there. #LVConnects is sent monthly.

Ms. Kintz shared that professional development is in full swing. There are classes about labeling and emotions that go along with that, which have been very popular. We also have Seven Sessions for Collaborative Classrooms, which is our literacy program for elementary. On November 2nd, Round Meadow Elementary will be visited by the Rams during their Holidays for Heroes program as part of their Salute to Heroes Week. They will partner with Round Meadow Elementary to make holiday cards for veterans.

Ms. Kimmel shared that last week she met with the Measure G Oversight Committee. She wanted to thank the members of the committee that meet a few times a year to discuss our financial situation. This allows us to maintain the financial transparency which is so important for our District. The members ask such great questions which help us maintain our transparency commitment to the community.

Dr. Scifres shared that this year we have expanded our Professional Development opportunities for classified staff. He commended Miss Chambers and the executive team for their commitment to offering many choices of Professional Development for our classified staff. Dr. Scifres had the joy of teaching the class Bringing Joy to the Playground. He talked about building positive moments for students, inclusivity and making the playground a fun place for all students. He really enjoyed teaching this class and working with the classified employees. He gave a shout-out to all classified employees for all they do every day for our students.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

There were no comments from the audience on items not on the agenda.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - A

On motion of Ms. Stein, seconded by Dr. Vadehra, the Board of Education approved Consent Agenda A, Items 1-5. 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 Acceptance of Gifts 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.
4. Approved Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints as listed on the attached document.

5. Approved California Department of Education School Accountability Dashboard Narratives as listed on the attached document.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - B

On motion of Ms. Menges, seconded by Ms. Stein, 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: None

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

ACTION ITEMS

1. Provisional Internship Permit Credential for Preliminary Education Specialist was presented. Dr. Scifres shared that there continues to be a critical shortage of Special Education teachers in the state. In the past, the District used an assignment option to fill vacancies. The following Provisional Intern Permit is needed for the 2021-22 school year to fill a position at A.C. Stelle Middle School. Candidate Sharmila Tanous holds a Bachelor's Degree in Communication from University of Phoenix. She has been a valued LVUSD Instructional Behavior Specialist for special education for the last sixteen years.

On Motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Stein, the Board of Education approved Provisional Internship Permit Credential for Preliminary Education Specialist.

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: Special Education Program was presented. Dr. Stepenosky shared how proud we are of our special education program. We have about 1,100 students noted to have special needs. These students led the way last year during the pandemic by returning to in-person on campus learning first. We brought back about 200 students in October 2020 for in-person learning.

Ms. Falk shared that our special education program within LVUSD always focuses on students first. We have about 1,100 special needs students. The students are identified by a variety of assessments set forth by the federal government. The assessment process takes about 10 hours per student. Not all students that are assessed qualify for special education needs. We find that more parents today are asking for assessment due to learning loss due to the pandemic. One out of every eight students receive special education services. The state takes servicing students very seriously. They look at ethnic populations and base your funding on that. Every year the state identifies what population of students you are servicing and if you are servicing one population more than another, you are considered out of disproportionality. Luckily our district is not out of disproportionality. If you are found out of disproportionality for 3 years in a row, the state will take 50% of your funding and force you to use that funding towards fixing your disproportionality. Our special education program draws students from all over the world. Ms. Falk stated that she receives calls asking how we teach our special needs students. Unlike other populations, our autism population has increased from .15% to .18%. Currently, we have 278 certificated and classified employees in Special Ed. We have tremendous support for our teachers which is extremely important. Ms. Falk shared that LVUSD has tremendous support with respect to the trainings we offer including: in-house trainings in consultation with renowned specialists, ABA: all para-educators and Special Ed teachers receive ABA training (surrounding districts pay for their staff to attend), content area trainings, legal workshops for certificated staff, and new teacher boot camp.

2. Update: Grant Programs was presented. Dr. Gleason shared updates about the current grants, which are as follows: CTE Incentive Grant (CTE Teachers through 2022) for about \$400K, TUPE Grant (Counseling Center counselors through 2023) for about \$200K, Expanded Learning Opportunities Grant (Extended School Year, PD, Para Educators through 2024), ESSER II/III Grant (Class Size Reduction, Counseling, Art Specialists, Teacher Coaching, PPE, PD through 2024), AB 86 Funding (Summer School, PPE through 2023), and Local Solutions SPED Grant (Scholarships through 2024). These grants are monitored by two committees: Finance and Pathways. There are several grants on the horizon such as: Learning Recovery Funds (SPED - Plan must be developed by December to help with learning gaps), Alternative Dispute Resolution (Support SPED costs), Educator Effectiveness Block Grant (Professional Development), A-G Completion Support Grant (Student Intervention), Golden State Teacher Grants and Teacher Residency Grants (EdX, Licensure), and 15+ more for Math, Cultural Proficiency, TK Expansion and more. Each grant has budgeting and

management requirements. There will be a lot of available funds in the future which Dr. Gleason shared that he will work with the Finance and Pathways Committees on how to best spend those funds.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Date Approved

President, Board of Education