



BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
February 1, 2022

CALL TO ORDER/MEETING PLACE

Board President Vadehra called the Board meeting to order at 4:26 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. - participated remotely from 18 Corral Road, Bell Canyon, CA 91307

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION REGARDING CALENDARING ASSIGNMENTS AND GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOARD NORMS

ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

The Board Adjourned to Closed Session at 4:31 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session Adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER OPEN SESSION

President Vadehra reconvened the Board meeting at 5:42 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Angela Cutbill

Dallas Lawrence

Linda Menges

Lesli Stein

Kate Vadehra, M.D. - participated remotely from 18 Corral Road, Bell Canyon, CA 91307

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

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 (observed the meeting in the audience)

Calabasas High School Student Representative, Willow Gaven (participated on the dais)

STAFF ABSENT

Dr. Daniel Stepenosky, Superintendent

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Director of Elementary Education, Laura Kintz.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

President Vadehra 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 February 1, 2022.

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 Ms. Cutbill, the Board of Education approved the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2022.

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. Scifres shared that the two Employees of the Month share so many wonderful qualities in the area of language and literacy. These employees have gone above and beyond building relationships with students. Dr. Scifres called up the Principal of Sumac Elementary, Liberty Logan, to introduce the Classified Employee of the Month. Ms. Logan introduced Blanca Safran. Ms. Safran is bold, lovable, positive, focused, dedicated, reliable, and has an amazing work ethic. Dr. Scifres called the Principal of Chaparral Elementary, Stephanie Brazell, to introduce the Certificated Employee of the Month. Ms. Brazell introduced Sena Dietz. Ms. Dietz is a ray of sunshine, always smiling, collaborative, creative and a pleasure to work with. Ms. Dietz goes out of her way to be kind and helpful to anyone and everyone. President Vadehra presented each employee with an Apple trophy and thanked them for their dedication to the students and the District.

Mr. Lawrence thanked all teachers and staff for their help distributing the Covid-19 home tests given by the Governor. He enjoyed being at the Mariposa, Sumac, Lupin Hill, and Calabasas High School to help with the distribution. Each school site had their own way of distributing the tests. It was a lot of fun. He gave a shout-out to the Foundation. He participated in the Foundation Committee meeting. He thanked the members of the Foundation for all they are doing to raise funds for LVUSD. There is a great Whisky Tasting event coming up on February 24, 2022. For more information, please visit their website, www.thefoundationlvs.org.

Ms. Menges shared that she attended the School Services of California (SSC) Budget Workshop. It was very informative. The State is looking at the Local Control Funding Formula and raising the Base Grant which is Assembly Bill 1614. Ms. Menges also attended the Curriculum Council meeting. She said it was great to be back with that committee. The committee is looking at having virtual field trips. They are also planning for summer school, Universal TK Program, and Professional Development for our staff. Ms. Menges along with Ms. Cutbill attended the City Schools Meeting which meets quarterly. It is always great to hear about the happenings in each city and how the events impact the schools.

Ms. Stein thanked Cabinet for mobilizing the school sites with the Covid-19 home tests for students. Ms. Stein had the pleasure of speaking with the graduating class of PASC and CASC, which are our Administrative Credentialing Programs. There were 10 graduates. It was wonderful to be a part of that ceremony. She thanked Dr. Gleason for starting this program. This program fosters and grows leaders. She thanked Cabinet for being mentors to these leaders. Ms. Stein, along with Ms. Cutbill, met with Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin. Ms. Irwin, if elected, will represent most of LVUSD, except for Bell Canyon. She has been contacting Board Members and city officials trying to gather everyone's needs. Ms. Stein and Ms. Cutbill were very impressed with her knowledge of our District. It was inspiring and a pleasure to meet with her.

Ms. Cutbill shared that a few weeks ago, she had some calls and emails from parents, community members, city officials and even some past Board members about some negative narratives they were hearing about what the school

board was meant to be. She was asked to speak about it. She clarified that the School Board is not a parent club. Parent input is valuable to the School Board. Their thoughts and concerns are always considered when making decisions. Parents are represented on our Curriculum Council, LCAP Committee, and many other committees. The Board of Education was elected to represent the community. The community pays taxes for public schools. Every School Board has a different mix of people that make up their school board. There is a benefit to former parents as they have the experience and have seen the District through graduation and college acceptance. Being a former parent allowed me to be more focused and not distracted from everyday events happening at the school sites. This allowed me to step back and look at the District as a whole. It is important to have both current and past parent involvement. Ms. Cutbill stated that there was another narrative circulating about only one Board member working to get the schools open during the pandemic. Ms. Cutbill clarified that every member of this Board of Education worked hard to get our schools opened. There may have been different ideas of how to get it done, however, they all worked to get the schools opened. One of the requirements was to get approval from their unions. We were the only Board to get that done. The Board of Education is limited by the rules and laws of the county and the state. An example is the School Start Time Bill. This was not desired, however, we are obliged to follow the rules of this bill since it was passed through the State of California.

Dr. Vadehra forewent her comments.

Calabasas High School Student Board Representative, Willow Gaven, shared that both high schools had successful finals and are off to great starts in the new semester. Last week, Agoura High School had their Clothing Drive, where they collected numerous bags of clothes while students gained spirit points for their class. On January 27, 2022, the UNA Club at AHS held a zoom event for the International Day for Commemoration of the victims of the Holocaust. They had a question and answer segment with Holocaust survivor, Ben Lesser. Calabasas High School has started to plan their new Lip Sync Event. The Spring Formal tickets have gone on sale. Today, CHS celebrated Lunar New Year. There were also posters hung around campus to commemorate Black History Month. There is a Blood Drive tomorrow. All 58 spots have been booked with appointments.

Dr. Finneran shared a heartfelt thanks to staff once again for their hard work and dedication to our students. Times are very difficult with this new surge. Staff continues to give generously of their time to help cover for one another and to be there for our students. Today marks the start of Black History Month. During this month, there will be books available through the high school media centers. Each week at our high schools and middle schools, a black figure will be introduced. Dr. Finneran stated that the District has added lot of options for certificated staff to complete their professional development.

Mr. Klein praised the media centers for their work this month. Tomorrow is World Read Aloud Day. We have scheduled a different book for each grade in elementary to be read tomorrow. There will be an optional art activity to go along with the book. Every Thursday for the next month, we will have author visits. They will visit virtually like we have done in the past. This will culminate with Read Across America Day on March 2, 2022. We have planned activities for that day as well.

Dr. Gleason shared updates on the current grants: Expanded Learning Opportunities Pathway Grant, CTEIG Grant (\$400k), Proposition 56 Grant (\$700k), UC A-G Grant (\$200k), TK Transition Grant (\$200k), Educator Effectiveness Grant (\$2.2 million), TK Teacher Development Grant (\$1.3 million), and Reading Instruction and Intervention Grant (\$1.3 million).

Ms. Falk shared a slide which showed one of our special needs student, Tammy Ferrara, that was selected to be a full inclusion model at the Los Angeles Fashion Week. She moved here when she was in sixth grade from South Africa. Ms. Falk shared that Tammy was allowed to bring one person besides her parents. Tammy invited Ms. Falk. Tammy has succeeded in life despite all that she has been dealt.

Ms. Chambers shared an update to Classified Professional Development. During the fall, classified employees took advantage of 675 hours of PD. In collaboration with LVCA, we sent out a menu last week with lots of options to complete PD hours this spring. We are pleased to offer these options to our classified employees.

Ms. Kintz shared that there are two committees working on the TK roll out that begins next year. She thanked the classroom teachers, special education teachers, Buttercup parents and administrators for their participation in the first meeting of the TK Taskforce. This week we will meet with the TK Curriculum Adoption Committee. This is very exciting. Ms. Kintz also thanked the high school seniors and juniors that applied to be a part of the Outdoor Education program for our 5th grade students. There were 130 applicants. With the counselors and alternates, we have offered positions to about 90 students.

Ms. Kimmel shared that during the past year, we have had 30 Vaccine Clinics and 5,995 inoculations. We are hosting one more Vaccine Clinic on February 23, 2022 at Lupin Hill Elementary. Albertsons has been an amazing partner. Ms. Kimmel gave a shout-out to Jessie Sweeney, Melissa Foster, Hallie Chambers, and Steve Scifres.

Dr. Scifres thanked our entire LVUSD staff. We have had some staffing challenges with the Omicron surge. In the beginning of January, we had about 12% of our staff out due to Covid. All staff stepped up to help out. He was extremely thankful to our staff.

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 Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Stein, the Board of Education approved Consent Agenda A, Items 1-7.

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 MOU for Administration of the California Healthy Kids Survey as listed on the attached document.
3. Approved Overnight Field Trip Request 21-22.15 CHS Dance WCE as listed on the attached document.
4. Approved Overnight Field Trip Request 21-22.16 LCMS AstroCamp as listed on the attached documents.
5. Approved Overnight Field Trip Request 21-22.17 AEWMS Yosemite as listed on the attached document.
6. Approved Overnight Field Trip Request 21-22.18 AHS Dance WCE as listed on the attached document.
7. Approved Overnight Field Trip Request 21-22.19 AHS Dance USA as listed on the attached document.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - B

On motion of Mr. Lawrence, 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. Resolution 12-21 - Reduction or Discontinuance of Particular Kinds of Service was presented. Dr. Finneran shared that due to a variety of factors which include student interest and choice, program restructuring, graduation requirements, and declining enrollment, changes are required to maintain the number of credentialed teachers who teach at both the elementary and secondary level. Due to these factors, LVUSD needs to make an adjustment to personnel for the 2022-2023 school year. Dr. Scifres shared that LVUSD will reduce the following jobs: 9 elementary teachers, 11 secondary teachers, and 5 counseling positions. He noted that the 5 counseling positions are not eliminated, but reduced from 203 days to 185 days.

On Motion of Ms. Cutbill, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved Resolution 12-21 - Reduction or Discontinuance of Particular Kinds of Service.

Board Motion Carried 4:0 as follows:

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

ABSTAINED: Stein

NAYES: None

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0

2. Resolution 13-21: Continuance of Counseling Services and Support to Elementary-Aged Students was presented. Dr. Scifres shared for the 2021-22 school year, counseling services were restructured through the initiation of additional wellness counselors as well as the need to provide all elementary schools with a full-time counselor. In order to complete this restructuring, five secondary counselors moved into elementary positions. The aforementioned counselors maintained a 203-day work calendar for the 2021-22 school year. During the 2022-23 school year, these counselors will align with the work calendar of 185 days.

On Motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Meneges, the Board of Education approved Resolution 13-21: Continuance of Counseling Services and Support to Elementary-Aged Students.

Board Motion Carried 4:0 as follows:

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

ABSTAINED: Stein

NAYES: None

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0

3. Supplement for the Annual Update to the 2021-2022 LCAP was presented. Dr. Gleason shared there is a new requirement which is to present a supplement to the Annual 2021-22 LCAP. This requirement needs to be presented to the Board before February 28, 2022.

Ms. Stein questioned why the A-G completion rate went from 66% in 2019-20 to 64% in 2020-21? Dr. Gleason explained that this is due to the World Language courses taken at outside institutions. There were also some students that were impacted by the pandemic with respect to D/F grades.

Mr. Lawrence noticed that the report showed that 80% of English Learners graduate without being eligible for the UC system. Dr. Gleason agreed and stated that was the trend. The reason is that all English Learners are required to receive supplemental courses which are not A-G approved.

On Motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved Supplement for the Annual Update to the 2021-2022 LCAP.

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. MOU: Employee Mental Health and Wellness was presented. Dr. Gleason shared that the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) has awarded LVUSD a two-year grant to provide no cost, confidential counseling services for our employees through the EASE (Employee Assistance Services for Educators) Program. EASE is a confidential and voluntary service offering professional counseling, consultation, and education to district employees. The program is designed to assist employees struggling with work-related and personal concerns which may be adversely affecting the employee. If approved, staff will communicate these available resources through EASE with our staff as soon as possible.

On Motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved MOU: Employee Mental Health and Wellness.

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. Overview of Classified Growth Pathways was presented. Ms. Chambers shared that with the help of LVCA President, Elaine Gottfried Ullman, LVUSD will offer this program to our staff. Ms. Chambers shared that micro-credentials are certificates earned through completing a focused block of learning in a specific domain. Given the rapid changes in society, technology, and the economy, there is a consistent need for employees to upskill, and multi-skill to grow in their career and remain agile in the workforce. Staff will be launching five micro-credential programs in the areas of Coaching, SEL/Mindfulness, Accounting, Data/Information Systems, and Administrative Support. Each micro-credential level involves approximately 90 hours of synchronous and asynchronous learning provided by staff skilled in the designated area. Staff will be working with LVEA and LVCA for the compensation model for staff who complete these micro-credential programs. A benefit to this program will be that once a classified employee completes the micro-credential, they will not need to take the test associated with the job they wish to apply for. The test option will be waived. These courses would be offered through Center EdX. This program would be free for our current employees.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Date Approved

President, Board of Education