



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

CALL TO ORDER/MEETING PLACE

Board President Vadehra called the Board meeting to order at 4:55 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 4:56 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session Adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER OPEN SESSION

President Vadehra reconvened the Board meeting at 5:27 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Angela Cutbill
Dallas Lawrence
Linda Menges
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 (observed the meeting in the audience)
Calabasas High School Student Representative, Willow Gaven (participated on the dais)

STAFF ABSENT

None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Calabasas High School Student Representative, Willow Gaven.

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 Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Cutbill, the Board of Education approved the agenda of March 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. Stein, the Board of Education approved the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of February 15, 2022.

Board Motion Carried 4:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

ABSTAINED: Board Member Lawrence

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0

STAFF/BOARD COMMUNICATION

Dr. Scifres shared that we have two employees that go above and beyond for LVUSD students. Both of these employees provide incredible instruction to our students to give them everything they need to be successful at school. Dr. Scifres introduced the Principal of Lindero Canyon Middle School, Mr. Eric Anhalt, to introduce the Classified Employee of the Month. Mr. Anhalt introduced Jessica Esqueda, Para Educator at Lindero Canyon. Ms. Esqueda is knowledgeable, dependable, caring and warm to all of the students. He shared a video of some students congratulating her. Dr. Scifres then introduced the Principal of A.E. Wright Middle School, Dr. Mike Roberts, to introduce the Certificated Employee of the Month. Dr. Roberts introduced Celine Olivas, Teacher at A. E. Wright Middle School. Ms. Olivas produces magic in the class. The students are so happy to learn. She goes above and beyond for the students at A. E. Wright. President Vadehra presented each employee with an Apple trophy and thanked them for their dedication to the students and the District.

Calabasas High School Student Representative, Ms. Gaven. shared that both Calabasas High School and Agoura High School has some fun upcoming events. CHS has a spirit week this week with an upcoming dance on Saturday. AHS had their Battle of the Bands last Thursday night which featured a lot of talented student bands and performers. Yesterday, the commissioners of Social and Cultural Awareness put on a film night featuring Just Mercy to commemorate Black History Month which was followed by an insightful discussion. The Powder Puff football game will take place this Friday at AHS. The entire CHS community sends a warm congratulations to our Model UN Team. On President's Day weekend, they competed at the Northern Invitational Model UN Conference in Washington, DC. This conference was sponsored by Georgetown University. This conference is the largest student run conference in the world. Out of 139 schools from around the world competing, each CHS delegate received an individual award and the team took home the Overall First Place Team award.

Mr. Lawrence forewent his comments.

Ms. Menges shared that she attended the Curriculum Council meeting with Ms. Stein. There are so many different representatives on Curriculum Council, such as student, parent, and faculty representatives. One of the topics discussed was the Service Learning/Civic Engagement which is on the agenda tonight. She enjoyed going to the meeting as she met with others and heard different views on curriculum. Ms. Menges felt this was important before she sat on the dais and made decisions about curriculum.

Ms. Cutbill thanked the Foundation for their Whisky Tasting event, which was great. She urged people to support the Foundation. You do not need to wait for an event to occur. You can write a donation check at anytime. They need your support. They do incredible work to support the District.

Ms. Stein thanked our families, our students, teachers and staff. It appears that the pandemic restrictions are coming to an end. Life is getting back to normal. The students are attending overnight field trips, going to sporting events, and music concerts with full houses. The mask mandate will be lifted next week. It has been a long two years. She is proud of the LVUSD staff, the community, and the way they handled the pandemic.

Dr. Vadehra thanked everyone for their hard work and support. She stated that she was happy to be here in person tonight.

Dr. Stepenosky shared the excitement of celebrating Women's History Month with displays throughout the District. Dr. Finneran, along with Ms. Tina Johnson, orchestrated the displays throughout our libraries. We just recently learned that we have 28 students who are refugees from Afghanistan. Last Thursday, our staff went out to meet the students at the hotel where they are staying. The students were enrolled last week and started school yesterday at Willow Elementary, A.E. Wright Middle School and Agoura High School. It was truly a joyous occasion. The students seemed very happy and excited. We are thrilled to welcome them to our community and to our schools. We have a new interim Sheriff and J-Team at the Lost Hills Sheriff Station. Sheriff Becerra is leaving. He is being transferred to Norwalk. Lt. Joe Fender will be the interim sheriff until a replacement has been found. Dr. Stepenosky congratulated the AHS Cheer team, who placed second in Nationals this weekend in Anaheim. He also congratulated the CHS Model UN team, along with their coach, Mr. Brad Boelman, for their first place team award at the conference held in Washington DC. The team will be invited to the March 15, 2022 meeting. Out of 139 schools, they won the Small Delegation award. Dr. Stepenosky shared a few slides of student events. There have been sporting events, music concerts, and performances. It has been a joy to be back in the PAEC's with almost sold out crowds. The indoor mask mandate will be lifted after March 11, 2022. After that date, the masks become optional for both students and staff. Dr. Stepenosky thanked all staff for their ability to pivot during the pandemic.

Dr. Gleason shared that last night he sent out the launch of the Early Childhood Educator Permit program to the LVUSD District and our partnering 12 districts. We already received 20 applicants. The grant should come out later this week.

Dr. Finneran shared what a pleasure it has been to attend sporting and music events over the past two weeks. She stated that it was so moving to go to a basketball game. Who would have thought that was the case prior to the pandemic. Dr. Finneran also stated that we will have our in person transitions from 5th grade to middle school and 8th grade to high school. We are excited to offer these transitions in person this year. We also have a Professional Development opportunity that is ongoing for our 6-12 ELA teachers. Dr. Finneran has been working with Courtney Peoples and Tina Johnson on this. We are excited to share that we will have a specialist, trained through UCLA, who will join in these sessions.

Mr. Klein shared that the tech team is excited that things are loosening up. We are able to get in the classrooms. We have been able to get our kids going with robotics and programming. These are middle and elementary students using little robots called Ozobots. They are tiny and have sensors all around them. The kids can program them directly on their laptops. We are finding a lot of activities that the kids can do which coincide with what they are learning in class. The kids have a lot of fun playing with the robots and learning. Mr. Klein also shared that he is getting lots of positive feedback on the Voice Reinforcement Systems that the tech team has installed. There are about 40 classrooms right now that have them. The teachers say that they work great and it really helps to save their voice. Mr. Klein thinks teachers will use these once masks are gone. They can command the classroom much better. The systems make their voices so clear and precise. The tech team has been thrilled to have an impact on learning in the schools.

Ms. Falk shared that this Friday at 1:45 p.m. is the 12th Annual Elka Golds Memorial Baseball game at AHS. Elka Golds was a beloved Para Educator at AHS. This is a great way to honor her memory. It should be a great game.

Ms. Chambers shared an update on our onboarding process for new hires. Ms. Chambers and Dr. Scifres recently filmed a welcome and training video for new substitute teachers. This video includes the history of LVUSD, District expectations as well as helpful tips. Ms. Falk also recorded a welcome video for newly hired para educators. The goal of these videos was to provide a welcome to LVUSD and some helpful information to ease their transition to the District.

Ms. Kintz shared some pictures from the Round Meadow 5th graders during their Outdoor Education experience. There were pictures of students on the high elements course as well as pictures of students making necklaces which is a part of the Chumash daily life. The elementary schools celebrated Kindness Week. There was a lot of positivity and gratitude felt by the whole community.

Ms. Kimmel gave a shout-out to our Child Nutrition team. There are eighteen members on that team. The team went from 1,500 meals per day to 3,900 meals per day without increasing staff. This was due to the Universal Milk program. This will continue next year as well. The elementary schools will start offering free breakfast next year. Tufts University

released an article last week stating that schools are the healthiest place for nutrition. This is because the government requires very high nutritional elements for food in schools. The Child Nutrition team does an amazing job.

Dr. Scifres shared that there are two principal openings on Edjoin.org right now. There is one for Calabasas High School, which closes March 11, and the other for Chaparral Elementary, which closes on March 16. For both positions, there will be an inclusive interview process with staff and community. For anyone interested, please apply on Edjoin.org.

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. Menges, seconded by Ms. Cutbill 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 Award of Bid to JAM Corporation - Annual Test & Inspection of Fire Alarm Systems at All Sites in District as listed on the attached document.
2. Approved Overnight Field Trip Request 21-22.26 AHS Theatre as listed on the attached document.
3. Approved Overnight Field Trip Request 21-22.27 ACS AstroCamp as listed on the attached document.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - B

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

ABSTAINED: Board Member Stein

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

ACTION ITEMS

1. College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) Agreement with Ventura Community College (Moorpark College) was presented. Dr. Gleason shared that in January of 2018, the Board of Education approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Moorpark College to offer dual enrollment classes on the Agoura and Calabasas High School campuses. This allowed for the development of the Early College Academy. While LVUSD currently has a primary CCAP agreement with Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD), renewing our agreement with Moorpark College allows for students to take college classes that Pierce/Los Angeles cannot provide at no cost. This is a three year renewal agreement. There are several hundred kids that benefit from this agreement. Most of the classes are being taught through Pierce right now, however, Moorpark College recently contacted us about the Sports Medicine Program and stated that program can benefit from Moorpark College classes. This is why this is being brought to the Board to renew. The original agreement lapsed in July 2021.

On Motion of Ms. Menges, seconded by Ms. Stein, the Board of Education approved College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) Agreement with Ventura Community College (Moorpark 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

2. Resolution 16-21 - Classified Layoff/Reduction in Hours was presented. Ms. Chambers stated that during the 2021-2022 school year, the District increased funding for Instructional Specialists Music at the high school level in order to help develop the music program at Calabasas High School. Due to a lack of work/funds, it is necessary to decrease the hours of classified service. Music will continue to be supported at the high schools through the remaining Instructional Specialists support staff. Additionally, the Round Meadow PFC/PFA has identified that it will not continue to fund 11.75 hours per week of Campus Supervision and 5.75 hours per week of an Instructional Assistant position. Therefore, due to lack of work/funds, it is necessary to decrease the hours of classified service. Other Campus Supervisor/Instructional Assistant positions will continue to be funded by the District (77 hours per week) and by the PFC/PFA (74.25 hours per week). Ms. Chambers stated this is a procedural step required by law.

On Motion of Ms. Stein, seconded by Ms. Cutbill, the Board of Education approved Resolution 16-21 - Classified Layoff/Reduction in Hours.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Overview of LVUSD A-G Grant Plan was presented. Dr. Gleason stated that the District was awarded a one-time award of \$200k to be spent over five years. The A-G Completion Improvement Grant Program was established for the purpose of providing additional supports to local educational agencies to help increase the number of California high school students who graduate from high school with A-G eligibility. This funding will be used to support targeted intervention efforts in ELA and Math at both high schools. As the high schools work to develop a bell schedule model that provides targeted intervention at five week intervals, these funds will be used to support coordination, tutor training, and data oversight of these efforts. The grant statute requires that the plan for use of the grant funds be brought to the Board as an info item for discussion and later as an action item at a future meeting before the end of March.

2. Revision of BP 6142.4: Service Learning was presented. Dr. Stepenosky shared that a little over 10 years ago, the District and the Board took a step by adding Service Learning as a graduation requirement. Since that time due to the pandemic, we have had a three year pause on this requirement. Some students came to Dr. Gleason and Dr. Stepenosky about one year ago and asked if the District would consider the State Seal of Civic Engagement to be a requirement in place of service learning.

Dr. Gleason shared this policy is very important to the District. To establish a well rounded student at the end of their high school education is a top priority. The many activities and the clubs within the high schools cover many of these aspects. Dr. Gleason looked at the juniors from the end of 11th grade. They should have had 45 hours of service learning. Looking at the chart, you can see that 50% of the students were deficient; 30% were deficient by more than 15 hours which was more than one year worth of service learning. We then had to look at what are we trying to accomplish? The State Seal was really about trying to create equitable access to civic engagement. It also recognizes that civics is not just politics, but really participation in neighborhood organizations. The recommendation is to amend the Board Policy to focus on civic engagement. This will allow multiple pathways for students to obtain a State Seal. This seal would appear on their diploma. The students would also be recognized at graduation. They would have a choice of how to achieve this. They can either participate in a civic engagement project or participate in a tutoring program by helping other students.

Ms. Courtney Johnson from CHS spoke to many different classes on campus to hear from the students on this issue. The feeling was overall positive. Ms. Ashley Wenter from AHS also spoke to many classes. The students felt this would provide a meaningful experience. This topic went through the Safety and Wellness, Pathways, and Curriculum Council Committees. The Committee asked for how the communication would take place as communication is everything.

Mr. Lawrence questioned why this turned into an opt-in program rather than a graduation requirement. Ms. Cutbill explained that it becomes such a burden for the high school to enforce these at the end of the year. The high schools end up holding diplomas from students who haven't completed their service learning requirement. This is not the intended purpose. The program becomes more of a requirement than the reward of giving back. Ms. Stein stated that when it is a graduation requirement, it takes away from it being meaningful service. The point was to make this meaningful for the students. Dr. Vadehra stated that we can review this program in the next 2-3 years to assess the student response. If we feel we failed by not making it a requirement, we can make it a requirement then.

3. Revision AR 6142.4: Service Learning was presented during the prior discussion.

4. Revision of BP 6146: Graduation Requirements was presented during the prior discussion.

5. Revision of BP 6146.1: High School Graduation Requirements was presented. Dr. Gleason stated that the Board decided four years ago that we would require three years of Math as a graduation requirement. The language included in this policy stated that this requirement would exist through the Class of 2021. We need to strikethrough that statement as we are continuing to require three years of Math as a graduation requirement.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Date Approved

President, Board of Education