



**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Minutes of Regular Board Meeting**  
**March 15, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER/MEETING PLACE**

Board President Vadehra called the Board meeting to order at 4:35 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**

**ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION**

The Board Adjourned to Closed Session at 4:37 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION**

Closed Session Adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER OPEN SESSION**

Vice President Menges reconvened the Board meeting at 5:48 p.m.

**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 (arrived at 6:00 p.m.)

**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 Brownie Troop #66, 3rd Grade students at Yerba Buena.

## **REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

Vice President Menges reported that the Board of Education voted 5:0 to approve the settlement agreement with Employee No. WC3017812.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Stein, the Board of Education approved the agenda of March 15, 2022.

Board Motion Carried 4:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Board President Vadehra

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 March 1, 2022.

Board Motion Carried 4:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Board President Vadehra

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0

## **STAFF/BOARD COMMUNICATION**

The Board of Education, along with Cabinet, recognized the Model UN Team from Calabasas High School. The team was led by Mr. Brad Boelman. Mr. Boelman shared how proud he was of this team. The competition was the largest student run competition in the world. Out of 139 schools, with over 3000 students, this team won the Best Small Delegation Team award. The team consists of the following students: Leila Afshari, Sofia Bronshteyn, Bobby Buyalos, Aashi Jhawer, Danika Kerner, Erin Marshall, Dora Liisa Meriste, Kayon Naziri, Miya Rosenthal, Jacob Rosoff, and Natasha Tabatabai. Dr. Stepenosky congratulated this team for their amazing work.

The Board of Education, along with Cabinet, also recognized the National Merit Finalists. Dr. Stepenosky shared that high school juniors enter the 2022 National Merit Scholarship program by taking the 2020 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which serves as an initial screener of program entrants. Out of the 4.5 million students that take the exams, 50,000 are recognized in the program. Out of those students, 34,000 move into quarter-finalist position. Then 16,000 move into semi-finalists and about 90% of those students move into finalists. Las Virgenes had 17 finalists this year. The following students were recognized: Titouan Faure, Charles Kindelt, Alissa Klein, Josephine Paik, Max Henry Reines, Sarah Sturgeon, Megan Thanislas, Thomas Van Fleet, and Jameson Wilke from Agoura High School, and Mallory Cooper, Malysa Eddy, Isabella Lozada, Joshua Piesner, Jacob Rosoff, Zachary Rosoff, Jackson Shapiro, and Ella Trivedi from Calabasas High School. Dr. Stepenosky congratulated the students for their hard work.

Agoura High School Student Representative, Ms. Bernt, shared that both Agoura High School and Calabasas High School have enjoyed participating in events and activities. This week, AHS has their campaign week for ASB positions for next year. AHS will have their Spring Formal Dance On Saturday with the theme, Wonderland. Last week, AHS had their MVP game which was a huge success. AHS Theater will host their spring show, Cinderella. The show dates are March 30 through April 2, 2022. CHS will host their Multi-Cultural Banquet this Friday. March 21-25, 2022, CHS will have their 3 on 3 basketball game during lunch. CHS ASB is starting a new tradition. They are collecting dresses and holding a thrift shop on campus. All proceeds will be donated to Becca's Closets. CHS will host their Powder Puff football game on April 13, 2022. CHS theater will host their spring show, Wizard of Oz. Show dates are April 5-9, 2022.

Mr. Lawrence shared that he was able to join the City of Calabasas at their Traffic Safety meeting. The meeting acknowledged the safety issues we see around our campuses. The city is displaying some more visualizations in the area where a student was hit by a car. Mr. Lawrence shared that he did not think their efforts were sufficient. He expressed that to the City of Calabasas and was pleased that they will look into more serious measures.

Ms. Menges shared that she attended Lindero Canyon Middle School's performance of Shrek at the Agoura Performing Arts Center on March 5, 2022. They performed the musical in concert style. There were 12 microphones lined up at the front of the stage. It was almost choreographed that when a student spoke, they would walk up to the front of the stage and speak into the microphone. This was a new way of watching a musical. It was great to see the kids wearing masks to be safe yet speaking so the audience could hear them clearly. It was a great show. Ms. Menges also attended the Ventura School Board Association dinner. Mr. Lawrence and Ms. Cutbill were honored for their service to the school board for 8 years. Ms. Stein was recognized for her service to the board for 12 years. Ms. Menges congratulated all three of them.

Ms. Stein thanked the Model UN students and the National Merit finalists for attending the Board meeting. This was the largest group of people we have had at our meetings in two years. She was so happy to celebrate our student's success after the challenging two years we have had. Ms. Stein and Ms. Cutbill attended the MVP Baseball game. This is one of their favorite events to attend. The game was in memory of Elka Golds, who was a special education teacher at AHS. Ms. Stein, along with Dr. Vadehra visited the mid-year WASC visit at CHS. Ms. Stein congratulated Ms. Exner for their success. The WASC committee was pleased with the success of CHS.

Ms. Cutbill echoed what Ms. Stein said about the MVP Baseball game. To be present for the game was so wonderful. It was a joy to see the special needs students participate with the support of the whole school. It was very moving. Ms. Cutbill said it was nice to see people back in the boardroom with smiles. She was very pleased about the masking changes this week.

Dr. Vadehra thanked Yerba Buena for the beautiful artwork which decorates the boardroom. She also thanked the PFC's for all they do. She encouraged parents to get involved in their PFC's at their school sites. Dr. Vadehra attended the Superintendent's Council meeting, which was a positive, heart-warming meeting.

Dr. Stepenosky liked Dr. Vadehra's statement about parents getting involved at their children's schools. He shared more information about the MVP Baseball game. There were so many involved students, such as the junior varsity and varsity baseball teams, the cheer team, the band and the students who emceed the event. This was such a joyous and memorable event.

Dr. Gleason congratulated CHS on their 3 year revisit with WASC. The WASC committee didn't really have a lot of questions. Hats off to the CHS Administration, the faculty, and Kristen Lapiner for writing the report. Our PASC program continues to grow. We are recruiting for our 10th cohort. We have 40 candidates interested to start in August. This is exciting for our District.

Dr. Finneran shared that we warmly welcomed 24 refugee students from Afghanistan. She shared a picture showing one of the students who became fast friends with another student from Willow. It was heart-warming to see their connection. Dr. Finneran thanked our families and our staff who have been involved to make this a reality. We are delighted that they are here.

Mr. Klein shared that those Afghanistan students are extremely sharp. The tech team got a chance to work with them. They have been able to fully integrate with our current students. It has been really amazing to witness. We started up our water awareness events with the elementary schools. We partnered with the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District. We planted succulent gardens at each of our elementary schools. Mr. Klein shared a picture which showed the students planting the garden. Tina Johnson and Maureen McDonald were heavily involved in this. This was a great way to study science. Last week, author, Argelia Atiland, came for a visit to Sumac Elementary. She is an actress and radio personality. She has won 5 Golden Mic awards. We were very lucky to have her visit Sumac. This was the first in person author visit in a long time. We streamed the visit to our dual language middle school students who were familiar with Ms. Atiland.

Ms. Falk shared that this week the state released their report on how we did last year for special education. The District was found to be in compliance with respect to disproportionality. This was the second year in a row that we were compliant. We looked at our CAASPP scores to compare how we did nationwide. It was reported that out of the students who reported some disabilities, there were 15.48% of students that met or exceeded standards in ELA and 10.79% that met or exceeded standards in Math. For Las Virgenes students, the scores were a bit higher. There were 25.83% of students that met or exceeded standards in ELA and 20.81% met or exceeded standards in Math. We discovered that the largest decline was at the middle school level for ELA and the largest decline was from 4th to 5th grade in Math. The next step would be to come up with a task force to assist in those areas.

Ms. Chambers provided an update with Classified Professional Development training. Next week, Ms. Chambers and Dr. Scifres will hold classes on interviewing skills. We will provide some best practices. We will also provide information for our employees to fine tune their resumes. Our goal is to provide our employees with the capacity for promotions or transfers within our own organization.

Ms. Kintz shared some more photos from Outdoor Ed. She showed pictures of Lupin Hill and Bay Laurel students. The other elementary schools will continue their Outdoor Ed experience with the last group ending in the first week of May.

Ms. Kimmel forewent her comments.

Dr. Scifres shared that we have three different principal opportunities across the District: Calabasas High School, White Oak Elementary and Chaparral Elementary. We just finished the first round of interviews for Calabasas High School. We had a panel of 18 members including teachers, classified staff, and representatives from the parent community. Dr. Scifres was very pleased with our pool of candidates so it is possible that all three positions could come for approval to the Board during the next meeting on April 12, 2022.

### **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 Ms. Cutbill the Board of Education approved Consent Agenda A, Items 1-11 and 13-15. Item 12 was pulled for discussion.

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 Purchase Orders as listed on the attached document.
5. Approved Award of Bid to Bon Air, Inc. for HVAC Replacement at Bay Laurel and Willow as listed on the attached document.
6. Approved Award of Bid to PT Rigging for Theatrical Rigging and Counterweight Fly System Repairs at the Agoura Performing Arts Education Centers as listed on the attached document.
7. Approved Award of Bid to LA Propoint, Inc. for Theatrical Rigging and Counterweight Fly System Repairs at the Calabasas Performing Arts Education Centers as listed on the attached document.
8. Approved Resolution 18-21 - Intent to Grant Easement to Las Virgenes Municipal Water District for Utilities as listed on the attached document.
9. Approved Booster Affiliated Organizational List as listed on the attached document.
10. Approved Temporary Modification of Salary Schedule C, Non-Unit/Non-Management as listed on the attached document.
11. Approved Job Title and Job Description - Secretary 3 as listed on the attached document.
13. Approved Revision of BP 6142.4 Learning Through Service as listed on the attached document.
14. Approved Revision of BP 6146 Graduation Requirements as listed on the attached document.
15. Approved BP 6146.1 High School Graduation Requirements as listed on the attached document.

### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - A - Item 12**

Mr. Lawrence questioned why did we choose this company? Did we go out for bid? Ms. Cutbill answered with many reasons why this group was chosen. This group had a lot of information that we weren't privy to before. We learned a lot from their presentation. They were very knowledgeable. They came with high recommendations and a great reputation. They had the knowledge for social media presence. They are up to date with today's forms of communication. They also understood the district goals. Ms. Stein shared that Dr. Stepenosky asked Ms. Stein and Ms. Cutbill to be the lead representatives from the Board of Education. Ms. Stein and Ms. Cutbill asked Dr. Stepenosky to reach out to other superintendents to ask who they used when they went out for a bond or parcel tax. Dr. Stepenosky reached out to about 20 other districts and the same four names came up. The interview panel consisted of Dr. Stepenosky, Dr. Finneran, Ms. Cutbill, Ms. Stein, Ms. Kimmel, Ms. Amanda Poulos and Ms. Tara Maynard. The panel interviewed four companies. The panel also asked Mr. Heath to fly here from Sacramento for the presentation. Tonight, he is joining us via zoom if there are any questions. The panel was very impressed with his firm. The timing of the last

bond was an anomaly. The needs of the District are very high. Our HVAC's units are failing and our roofs need repair. We have speakers and teachers here tonight to encourage the district to pass this item. This consultant can evaluate the bond and set forth for the measure to be placed on the ballot this November. We worked with TBWBH on Measure E.

Mr. Heath stated there are challenges out there. You have to address them head on. The best practice is to poll the voters to see how they feel regarding education. He stated this is a good time to do this as the voters have adjusted to this new normal. Over the next few months after doing the polling and feasibility studies, we will have a better feel about whether or not to put this on the November 2022 ballot. Mr. Heath stated they use outside polling companies. He also shared that with approval tonight, his firm will start work with the polling company. The company True North is the polling company they would use. The District has used them in the past.

Darci Miller, Union representative, spoke on behalf of many teachers that came tonight. She is here in support of hiring this firm so that the bond measure can be placed on the November ballot.

Amanda Poulos and Tara Maynard are parent volunteers. They both spoke about the importance of having the bond measure on the November ballot. They understand the needs of the District and feel this bond measure is extremely important to achieve the costly repairs that the schools need across the District. Ms. Poulos and Ms. Maynard support the work of Mr. Heath's firm.

On motion of Ms. Stein, seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the Board of Education approved Consent Agenda A, Item 12.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0

12. Approved Public Outreach & Education Consulting Contract - TBWBH Props & Measures.

### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - B**

On motion of Ms. Stein, seconded by Ms. Menges, 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. Second Interim Budget Report was presented. Ms. Kimmel stated that AB 1200 requires that school districts provide ongoing updates relative to their fiscal integrity. The Second Interim Report is prepared midyear and provides the opportunity to adjust the budget for actual enrollment and staffing, along with known changes to any grant funding. The Second Interim report also reflects adjustments to Child Nutrition, Deferred Maintenance, Building, Developer, and Self-Insurance Funds to reflect projected costs and revenues in the current year. Ms. Torres will present the report. Ms. Torres stated that the state of the California State budget continues to grow. They are estimating a \$47.5b surplus in 2022-23. The Legislative Analyst Office is projecting a 6.17% COLA, which is higher than the Governor's 5.33% COLA. Our overall budget review shows an increase of \$5.6m. The decrease in our expenditures is due to the personnel vacancies that we still continue to have. The vacancies total \$1.5m. We are optimistic that we will fill many of these positions this spring. Our second interim revenue has increased by \$5.6m. A lot of this is due to one-time grants as well as ongoing grants. We include many items when making our projections which include: Measure E funding which provides \$2.3m in annual funding for the next seven years, LCFF with 3.6%-5.3% COLA, managing our declining enrollment, financial impacts from the pandemic, and statutory rate increases to state PERS/STRS without state assistance. Enrollment has decreased over the last 5 years by 13%. This is a statewide average. Looking at the multi-year projections, there will be a huge revenue decrease of \$1m next year. If the Board approves the second interim budget tonight, the District will meet their financial obligations for the current year and two subsequent years based on financial projections.

On motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved Second Interim Budget.

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 17-21 - Affirming Intent to Implement Budget Efficiencies as Needed to Meet the Minimum Required Reserve Requirement was presented. Ms. Kimmel shared that over the past few years, the limited increases in state funding (for districts with LVUSD's demographics) have not kept pace with the increasing cost of living and pension obligations. In order to meet the Board's fiduciary duty with regard to the District's financial obligations, the commitment to fiscal stabilization resolution is attached. While there are many uncertainties at this point in the year, the resolution ensures the fiscal stability of the district, with a focus on sustaining a high-quality education program for our students.

On motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved Resolution 17-21 - Affirming Intent to Implement Budget Efficiencies as Needed to Meet the Minimum Required Reserve Requirement.

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. LVUSD A-G Completion Grant Plan was presented. Dr. Gleason stated that Las Virgenes Unified School District applied to be part of the A-G Completion Improvement Grant program in Fall of 2021. The district was initially awarded a one-time award of \$170k to be spent over five years. Since the March 1st Board Meeting, CDE shared that they had miscalculated the apportionment and the new allocation was at \$370k. The A-G Completion Improvement Grant Program was established for the purpose of providing additional support 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 is intended to be used to support targeted intervention efforts in ELA and math at both High Schools. Dr. Gleason shared that since the amount has increased, we have not had the opportunity to bring it to any committees. This will be brought to the committees to fine tune the spending of the grant.

On motion of Ms. Stein, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved LVUSD A-G Completion Grant Plan.

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. Public Hearing: The Las Virgenes Unified School District and the Las Virgenes Educators' Association's Joint Initial Re-Openers for the LVUSD/LVEA Contract Agreement was presented. Dr. Scifres stated that this is the normal process each year. The LVEA contract is totally open this year meaning all items are open for review.

On Motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Stein, the Board of Education opened Public Hearing: The Las Virgenes Unified School District and the Las Virgenes Educators' Association's Joint Initial Re-Openers for the LVUSD/LVEA Contract Agreement.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

On Motion of Ms. Cutbill, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education closed Public Hearing: The Las Virgenes Unified School District and the Las Virgenes Educators' Association's Joint Initial Re-Openers for the LVUSD/LVEA Contract Agreement.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

5. Presentation of Joint Initial Re-Openers for the Certificated Contract by the Las Virgenes Unified School District and the Las Virgenes Educators' Association was presented. Dr. Scifres stated again this is a normal process to negotiate with LVEA.

On motion of Ms. Stein, seconded by Ms. Cutbill, the Board of Education approved Presentation of Joint Initial Re-Openers for the Certificated Contract by the Las Virgenes Unified School District and the Las Virgenes Educators' Association.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

6. Public Hearing: The Las Virgenes Unified School District and The Las Virgenes Classified Association's Joint Initial Re-Openers for the LVUSD/LVCA Contract Agreement was presented. Dr. Scifres stated this is a normal process each year to negotiate with LVCA.

On Motion of Ms. Menges, seconded by Ms. Cutbill, the Board of Education opened Public Hearing: The Las Virgenes Unified School District and The Las Virgenes Classified Association's Joint Initial Re-Openers for the LVUSD/LVCA Contract Agreement.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

On Motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Stein, the Board of Education closed Public Hearing: The Las Virgenes Unified School District and The Las Virgenes Classified Association's Joint Initial Re-Openers for the LVUSD/LVCA Contract Agreement.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

7. Presentation of Joint Initial Re-Openers for the Classified Contract by Las Virgenes Unified School District and the Las Virgenes Classified Association was presented.

On motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Stein, the Board of Education approved Presentation of Joint Initial Re-Openers for the Classified Contract by Las Virgenes Unified School District and the Las Virgenes Classified Association.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Report: Measure E Committee Annual Report to the Board was presented. Ms. Kimmel stated that a parcel tax was successfully passed by voters in 2004. A citizens' oversight committee was established for the purpose of overseeing the distribution of the funds generated from the parcel tax. Mr. Jay Esban has been a part of this committee for the past six years. Mr. Esban stated that this parcel tax is \$98 annually. This Measure E has prevented budget cuts and allowed some other programs to thrive. The measure requires an oversight committee which needs to provide an annual report to the Board of Education. Mr. Esban reported that he was proud to report to the Board and property owners in the District that every dollar received through Measure E in the school district's 2020-21 fiscal year was spent in compliance with the measure.

2. Update on Las Virgenes Early College Academy was presented. Dr. Gleason shared that the early college academy was created four years ago. Students in grades 9-12 are able to take 1-2 college courses per semester over the course of their four years. This is our first class of graduates who participated in the early college academy. Community College is free for all high school students in the state of California. The credit serves a dual purpose; one is for high school credit and the other is for early college credit. This program starts in grade 6. If students take two courses each year through high school and pass those classes, they will graduate as an early college academy graduate. We now have a relationship with both Moorpark College and Pierce College. There were three students (one from AHS and two from CHS) that spoke about their experience in the early college academy. They explained how they benefitted from the program.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

---

Date Approved

---

President, Board of Education