



**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Minutes of Regular Board Meeting**  
**April 18, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER/MEETING PLACE**

President Stein called the Board meeting to order at 4:37 p.m. at the Las Virgenes Unified School District, 4111 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jill Gaines  
Linda Menges  
Lesli Stein

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Angela Cutbill  
Dallas Lawrence

**STAFF PRESENT**

Dr. Daniel Stepenosky, Superintendent  
Dr. Ryan Gleason, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services  
Dr. Steve Scifres, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources  
Angie Falk, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services  
Kim Patterson, Director of Secondary Education  
Jana Davenport, Director of Elementary Education  
Hallie Chambers, Director of Human Resources  
Jim Klein, Chief Technology Officer

**STAFF ABSENT**

None

**BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION REGARDING CALENDARING ASSIGNMENTS AND GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION**

The Board Adjourned to Closed Session at 4:38 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION**

Closed Session Adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER OPEN SESSION**

President Stein reconvened the Board meeting at 5:31 p.m.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jill Gaines  
Dallas Lawrence - participated remotely from 4441 Collins Ave, Miami Beach, FL 33140  
Linda Menges  
Lesli Stein

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Angela Cutbill

**STAFF PRESENT**

Dr. Daniel Stepenosky, Superintendent  
Dr. Ryan Gleason, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services  
Dr. Steve Scifres, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

Angie Falk, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services  
Kim Patterson, Director of Secondary Education  
Jana Davenport, Director of Elementary Education  
Hallie Chambers, Director of Human Resources  
Jim Klein, Chief Technology Officer  
Agoura High School Student Representative, Emma Richardson (observed in the audience)  
Calabasas High School Student Representative, Justin Pistotnik (participated on the dais)

### **STAFF ABSENT**

None

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Yerba Buena Elementary School Choir.

### **REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

President Stein reported that the Board of Education took no specific action in Closed Session.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion of Ms. Menges, seconded by Ms. Gaines, the Board of Education approved the agenda of April 18, 2023.

Board Motion Carried 4:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Board member Cutbill

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion of Ms Menges, seconded by Ms. Gaines, the Board of Education approved the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of March 28, 2023.

Board Motion Carried 4:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Board member Cutbill

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0

### **STAFF/BOARD COMMUNICATION**

Dr. Stepenosky shared a few updates. Last night, LVUSD hosted the 2nd Annual Tribute to Educators event at the AHS Performing Arts Education Center. We recognized the induction candidates, retirees, Classified Employee of the Year, Ms. Mary Jo Ammon, Certificated Employee of the Year, Ms. Kerri Allen, and also recognized one employee from each school site. It was a great event and lots of fun. Monday morning, we had our last Superintendent Student Council of the year. This council consists of high school students that come to meet with the Superintendent to discuss student issues and concerns. The seniors from this council receive a cord that they can wear during graduation. Dr. Stepenosky shared that A.E. Wright won the State Championship at Odyssey of the Mind competition. Dr. Stepenosky congratulated Ms. Hayley Tepper and her students. They have qualified for the World Championship competition in May. Last Saturday night, CHS hosted the Acapella Concert where Bare Rhythm, Uninstrumental and other local colleges performed. It was a great evening of fantastic singing. Dr. Stepenosky shared a picture of himself visiting Outdoor Ed. This is a great program in a beautiful setting among the Santa Monica Mountains. Dr. Stepenosky thanked Ms. Davenport and the elementary staff for their hard work putting this program together.

Ms. Jessica Marshall, Principal of Yerba Buena Elementary, presented her student choir to sing. They are under the direction of first grade teacher, Ms. Christine Martens. The choir will be singing three songs. Ms. Martens stated that her choir has 60 students. The last song was the Bobcat Song, which is their school song.

Mr. Klein shared a slide from the presentation from Peyton Goddard, who is a non speaking autistic woman who wrote a book with Carol Cujec called Real. All elementary schools participated in this virtual webinar. The students were really engaged. It was a great day. Mr. Klein shared the new door security system. The District Office just installed this new door system and we will start installing these security systems across the district this summer. The display out front has a camera and door bell. The bell will ring our front desk and the receptionist can communicate with the person to allow entry. These new systems are part of the Measure S bond funds.

Ms. Chambers shared an update on the Center EdX Microcredential Program. The summer offerings will be launched very soon. The district is working with LVEA on a new pathway that will work with teacher capacity and will align with the California teacher standards. We will also recognize those students who have completed an entire Microcredential in the near future.

Ms. Davenport shared that on April 12th, principals met at Mariposa for their regular Principal meeting. The principals enjoyed the opportunity to experience Mariposa, which is a Waldorf inspired school. Their whole child and hands on approach in the classroom was wonderful to see. They were able to see Principal Martinez engage with the students during a student assembly. Ms. Davenport stated that last week, we held our last Grade Level Leads meeting where teachers from different schools get together to celebrate their accomplishments as well as recognize their principals. It was great to receive so much positive feedback about the great things that happened this year. These meetings help keep the lines of communication open between the District Office and about 60 teachers from across the district.

Ms. Patterson shared that the 5th grade transition visits to the middle schools and the 8th grade transition visits to the high schools have been completed. The students really enjoyed these visits. She shared some pictures of the student assemblies at the different school sites. Dr. Roberts shared with Ms. Patterson that some students came up to him to share how much better they felt about the transition by being able to walk the campus and meet the staff.

Dr. Gleason shared that Child Nutrition was awarded an Equipment Assistance Grant last week in the amount of \$90k. This will buy a new walk in freezer at AHS and a new gas range at CHS. It is exciting to see our Child Nutrition Program continuing to innovate and invest in our infrastructure.

Dr. Scifres congratulated all of our honorees from last night's festivities at the Tribute to Educators event. It was wonderful to celebrate our inductees, retirees, and honorary awards of our staff. Last night is a reminder of how many extraordinary employees we have across the district. He also congratulated the planning committee for their hard work: Sherry Sonne, Jessie Sweeney, Valerie Louthian, Tina Wilkie and Hallie Chambers.

Ms. Falk stated that as the year winds down, the ESY planning winds up. We are planning our special education summer school. We have around 400 students eligible for the summer program. We anticipate that 40% of those students will participate in ESY.

Calabasas High School Student Representative, Mr. Justin Pistotnik, shared that the seniors at CHS are getting ready for Prom. ASB is getting ready for their elections for next year. Both CHS and AHS are gearing up for AP tests and finals. AHS held their 2nd Annual Blood Drive. Their sports medicine program provided free heart screenings for their community. Mr. Pistotnik shared that AHS hosted their Film Festival in the PAEC, where student films were showcased. Tomorrow, AHS will start their Power for Periods Drive where students can donate menstrual products for women in need.

Ms. Gaines shared that in addition to attending the Calabasas Chamber Education Committee Meeting, she also attended the Valley Economic Alliance Annual Gala where they recognized several honorees such as Bill Allen, Mission Valley Bank, and Lynette Romero, NBC News and Home Again Los Angeles. It was a very beautiful successful event.

Ms. Menges attended the PASC Cohort 10 Graduation. Ms. Stein spoke at the graduation and it was a great event. Ms. Menges also attended the Foundation meeting where they discussed plans for their annual event, Rock the District, which will be held on June 3 at Sagebrush Cantina. She also attended the AHS Spring Concert, where Lindero Canyon Middle School performed. It is always so wonderful to see our students perform. Ms. Menges gave a shout-out to the Tribute for Educators. It was very well done. It is always so wonderful to honor our employees.

Mr. Lawrence forewent his comments.

Ms. Stein congratulated Hallie Chambers and Valerie Louthian for the PASC Graduation. This is the rising administrator program through Center EdX. It was a great event and it's always so nice to see future administrators. Ms. Stein, along with Ms. Menges, attended the SDC meeting which consists of our PFA/PFC Presidents. This is a great opportunity for the Superintendent to get first-hand information from the PFA/PFC presidents about the happenings at the school sites. Ms. Stein thanked the planning committee for the Tribute to Educators event. She also thanked all the employees for their excellent work. It was a perfect beautiful evening.

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Mr. Peter Coopersmith spoke about the affairs of the AHS Theater program and PAEC's under the direction of Dr. Ryan Gleason.

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

On motion of Ms. Menges, seconded by Ms Gaines, the Board of Education approved Consent Agenda A, Items 1-6.

Board Motion Carried 4:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Board member Cutbill

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0

1. Approved Purchase Orders as listed on the attached document.
2. Approved Warrants as listed on the attached document.
3. Approved Change Order - DC Architects - Addition of One Site Restroom Portable-Placement at Chaparral as listed on the attached document.
4. Approved Award of Bid to Venco Western, Inc for Weed Abatement Project at Various Sites listed on the attached document.
5. Approved Memorandum of Understanding Between LVUSD and Loyola Marymount University for a School Psychology Program as listed on the attached document.
6. Approved Revisions to Board Policy 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment as listed on the attached document.

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

On motion of Ms. Menges; seconded by Ms. Gaines, the Board of Education approved Consent Agenda B, Item 1.

Board Motion Carried 4:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Board member Cutbill

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

### **ACTION ITEMS**

1. 6-12 Spanish Curriculum Adoption was presented. Dr. Scifres shared that we have some new curriculum to bring to the Board. He asked for the Spanish Curriculum Adoption Committee to come to the podium to share information on this item. This committee has worked 1.5 years on this adoption through meetings with Curriculum Council, meetings with the District Office staff, and meeting among teachers at the middle schools and high schools. The proposed Spanish adoption is Vista - Senderos. The last adoption for Spanish was in 2015. Curriculum Council passed the recommendation to adopt the Vista program. The State Board of Education (SBE) approved New World Language Standards in 2019 and recommended instructional programs in 2021. The committee consisted of teachers from A.C. Stelle, A.E. Wright, Lindero Canyon, Agoura High School and Calabasas High School. The teachers piloted either Vista - Senderos or Carnegie - Que Chevere for one semester from August 24 to January 27. Teachers chose one of the two programs. They collaborated on a weekly basis about the program they chose. In February 2023, each school site chose the program they selected for their school site. All five school sites chose Vista - Senderos.

Ms. Jessica Mejia shared the differences between the two programs. Overall Vista's assessment process was much easier to use where Carnegie's was extremely difficult to use. Vista has extensive vocabulary, where Carnegie has basic vocabulary. Vista also offered video and virtual chat activities, where Carnegie did not.

Mr. Norman Mejia shared the core values of Vista. Vista uses a six step instructional approach with updated content with fresh and relevant features. They have excellent grammar tutorials and an easy to use digital platform. Mr. Mejia stated that his favorite part of Vista was their digital platform. He also spoke about the instructional support. Teachers have amazing support to help with lessons, etc.

Ms. Molly Liles spoke about the alignment with state standards. Vista fosters student engagement and mastery.

Ms. Holly Stivers spoke about the stimulated conversation and partner chats. They have updated cultural readings and videos which are updated every month. The higher levels offer short films which offers the student to challenge their comprehension. Ms. Stivers shared about student enjoyment. The students love the Fotonovela which is like a Spanish soap opera. They also love the readings, videos, online interface and immediate feedback from online activities and lessons. The updated vocabulary is relatable.

Dr. Scifres stated that with the Board's approval, this would be a 4 year adoption. There would be a half day professional development for all teachers to receive on site training. This program would launch in 2023-24.

On motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved 6-12 Core Literature Adoption.

Board Motion Carried 4:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Board member Cutbill

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0

2. TK-5 Core Literature Adoption was presented. Dr. Scifres invited the Core Literature DEI Committee to come to the podium to present this item. Dr. Scifres congratulated this committee for their presentation to the Curriculum Council. He stated that it was off the charts. Curriculum Council passed the recommendation to adopt the new titles. There were 22 teachers involved with this adoption. Ms. Davenport stated that it has been a pleasure to work with the team of teachers across the district on these core literature titles.

Ms. Courtney Peoples expressed her excitement to be here to present this information to the Board. Ms. Peoples invited her team to come up and introduce themselves. Present tonight was Ms. Angela Carpenter, Ms. Christina Simon, Ms. Kathie Jacobsen, Ms. Brittany Stone, Ms. Cathy Anderson, and Ms. Sarah Stueckle.

Ms. Peoples shared that after reviewing our elementary core literature and conducting a literature audit, data was used to determine the percentage of diverse literary texts in our grades TK-5 core literature selection. We identified areas where various cultural backgrounds were underrepresented. At this juncture, our team made the determination that additional TK-5 literature titles were needed to ensure that representation across different cultural and linguistic backgrounds was an integral part of our curriculum. Included with the work from the CDE and American Library Association (ALA), we took a list of 700 books and narrowed the list down. The CDE has a comprehensive committee that works to recommend books appropriate for TK-5. We took those lists and used our Ruler System and our DEI Standards to compile our own list after reading, discussing, and collaborating over these books. We narrowed the 700 books down to 60 and then finalized our list to bring to the Board. Ms. Peoples shared a brief presentation about the books that were chosen per grade level. The other teachers present gave a brief overview of the other books chosen for this adoption.

On motion of Ms. Menges, seconded by Ms. Gaines, the Board of Education approved TK-5 Core Literature Adoption.

Board Motion Carried 4:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Board member Cutbill

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0

3. Resolution 29-22 - Declaring Salaries Indefinite to Authorize Retroactive Pay Changes was presented. Dr. Gleason shared that the County requires Board action prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year if any changes are anticipated in employee salaries as a result of negotiations. As a result of financial uncertainties, negotiations, legislation, and other factors, the governing board is requested through this resolution to declare that salaries of all employees including classified and certificated employee units, all management, superintendent, assistant superintendents, confidential, and unrepresented employees are declared indefinite for 2023-24

On motion of Ms. Gaines, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved Resolution 29-22 - Declaring Salaries Indefinite to Authorize Retroactive Pay Changes.

Board Motion Carried 4:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Board member Cutbill

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Educational Services Data Overview - Math and ELA CAASPP Scores was presented. Ms. Davenport shared that the LVUSD Pathways Committee, along with the District Data Team (led by Ed Services staff) have spent months analyzing student achievement data. The 2022 school year brought our first California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) data in years, following the pandemic. Last spring was the first chance we had to assess our students after the pandemic. When students returned after the pandemic, attendance and participation likely had a unique impact on our students and tests scores.

Ms. Patterson stated that this years ELA data did reveal that LVUSD students achieved above the state average. LVUSD scores were 25% higher than the state averages. This data was accurate in grades 3-12, except for the grade 11. These students were 10% above the state average.



Ms. Davenport shared that for students grade TK-5, they start their CAASPP testing in grade 3. Because of our strong investments in classroom literacy, our grade 3 students get off to a very strong start. We have processes in place for ELA students and English Language Learners. Because of the special processes we have in place, our students' scores have continued to improve before and even after the pandemic in grades 3 through 5.

Ms. Patterson stated that in analyzing our grade 6-12 students, our students show a slight dip in grades 6 and 7, with a bigger dip in grade 8, and then stay steady through grade 11. There is a need to focus and refocus on reading and writing across the district.

Ms. Davenport stated that our approach will focus on TK-12 moving forward. We are committed to support Tier I Strategies that will support all learners. We are committed for teachers to work in PLC collaboration to further help students. We also want to provide parent education on state testing to stress the importance.

Ms. Patterson stated that the Math scores show similar data. LVUSD students are achieving far above the state average in Math. Our student scores were about 30% higher than the state average for grades 3 and 4, 25% higher for grade 5, and 20% higher for grade 7. For grade 8 and grade 11, the scores went down, even though they are still higher than the state average.

Ms. Patterson stated that we are looking at new Math curriculum adoption for 2023-24. Plus, we will have revisions of high school course offerings. There were 122 students in higher grade levels that opted out of CAASPP testing in 2022. Some of the reasons are that IB and AP tests are given in the same month as CAASPP testing. Students feel those tests are more important than the state testing. At both AHS and CHS, there will be student incentives for participating in state testing such as discounted parking for their senior year. Ms. Patterson stated that we are continuing to pursue other incentives to increase participation.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

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Date Approved

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President, Board of Education