



BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
August 11, 2020

CALL TO ORDER/MEETING PLACE

The meeting was held in accordance with Governor Newsom's Executive Orders N-33-20 and N-25-20 in regard to the COVID-19 virus, which included provisions relating to the Brown Act in regard to local legislative bodies, such as school boards, holding meetings via teleconference. One of the stated reasons for issuing this Executive Order was to, "further efforts to control the spread of the virus and to reduce and minimize the risk of infection." Notice was given that the regular meeting of the Las Virgenes Unified School District Board of Education, scheduled for August 11, 2020, would be a video conference meeting where the members of the Board of Education would attend the meeting via video conference. Members of the public were able to observe the meeting using a live online stream and were further able to submit public comments via email.

Board President Lesli Stein 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 participated via video-conference
Dallas Lawrence participated via video-conference
Linda Menges
Lesli Stein
Mathy Wasserman participated via video-teleconference

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 4:40 p.m.

A discussion was held regarding Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release; Conference with Labor Negotiations - Agency Designated Representative - Mr. Steve Scifres; and Conference with Real Property Negotiator - Agency Designated Representative - Ms. Karen Kimmel.

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER OPEN SESSION

President Stein reconvened the Board meeting at 6:20 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Angela Cutbill participated via video-conference
Dallas Lawrence participated via video-conference
Linda Menges
Lesli Stein
Mathy Wasserman participated via video-teleconference

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Daniel Stepenosky, Superintendent
Karen Kimmel, Assistant Superintendent of Business
Steve Scifres, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
Dr. Clara Finneran, Assistant Superintendent of Education

Ryan Gleason, Director of Education and Leadership
Laura Kintz, Director of Elementary Education participated via video-conference
Robbie Amodio, Director of Human Resources participated via video-conference
Angie Falk, Director of Pupil Services, participated via video-conference
Jim Klein, Chief Technology Officer

STAFF ABSENT

None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Assistant Superintendent of Business Karen Kimmel.

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 Mr. Lawrence, the Board of Education approved the agenda of August 11, 2020.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

STAFF/BOARD COMMUNICATION

Ms. Wasserman expressed her appreciation of the District and thanked staff who worked so hard throughout the summer. She stated that she has heard many positive comments about the community webinars and acknowledged how hard everyone is working.

Ms. Menges echoed Ms. Wasserman's comments and noted that most teachers did not have a summer break as they have been working on the Virtual Academy, distance learning, and setting up their classrooms. She also expressed her appreciation to Mr. Gleason and Dr. Duncan for the Social Justice class they offered this summer that many employees and Board members participated in.

Mr. Lawrence forewent comments.

Ms. Cutbill forewent comments.

Ms. Stein echoed previous comments and expressed her appreciation to Mr. Gleason and Dr. Duncan for presenting the important Social Justice course. She added that employees and Board members were so appreciative of the time spent preparing and teaching the class. Ms. Stein stated that she participated in the graduation ceremony for the PASC IV Cohort on Monday and commended the students on their hard work. Lastly, Ms. Stein thanked Cabinet, principals, and teachers for their efforts this summer in preparing to educate our students this fall.

Dr. Stepenosky expressed his appreciation for the amazing team he has the opportunity to work with and acknowledged the efforts of staff who worked so hard during the summer to prepare for the fall. He shared that Sarah Gleason made homemade cookies with logos from each school which were presented to each principal on Friday. He explained that the Cabinet team welcomed principals back safely and responsibly with masks on, using social distancing. He announced that LVUSD has continued to provide food to families and reported that the Rotary Club of Calabasas has supported Las Virgenes efforts and will be hosting a benefit event on Thursday, August 13 with comedian Avi Liberman. He added that the funds will benefit LVUSD Child Nutrition Services.

Dr. Finneran reported that she is excited to welcome back Las Virgenes students. She shared that the Cabinet team held as an abbreviated principal retreat to provide effective leadership tools for the coming school year. Lastly, she thanked the principals for all they are doing.

Mr. Klein said his team has been very busy preparing laptops for students and reported that they started distributing laptops to the elementary school and high school students this week. He concluded that he attended the new student teacher event for elementary schools.

Ms. Kimmel thanked the Rotary Club of Calabasas for their continued generous support of the LVUSD Child Nutrition Services program. She explained that the District has been providing meals for families throughout the pandemic without financial support from the state as this program is extremely important to our community.

Mr. Gleason announced that Center EdX began its sixth cohort of the PASC program and added that this year is an accreditation year. He reported that the Counseling Center will be opening up in the coming days, and they

are working to bring back the tutoring program for the community in the next couple of weeks. These are free services which will be communicated to the parents.

Mr. Scifres shared that LVEA has reached a tentative agreement for the school year and expressed his appreciation of the efforts spent this summer to achieve this agreement. He explained that since the situation was so fluid and changing every day, it was wonderful to come to this agreement.

Ms. Falk reported that the Special Education teachers are officially back to work this week. The teachers are setting up their classrooms and collaborating with general education teachers to make sure their students have an amazing start of the school year.

Ms. Amodio commented on employee trainings and added that District Nurse Melissa Foster and Director of Maintenance/Operations/Facilities Julie Pescetto will be holding their own training specific to LVUSD for staff.

Ms. Kintz thanked Mr. Jim Klein and his team for their support of elementary teachers to help prepare them to teach in the new virtual and distance learning formats. She added that Mr. Gleason will be working with secondary teachers to ensure they are trained and prepared as well. Ms. Kintz noted that she has been working with Ms. Ashley Wenter on the Virtual Academy which is very exciting.

Ms. Stein expressed her appreciation to the LVEA, LVCA, and District bargaining teams for their collaboration and hard work. She added that the Board of Education truly appreciates all their efforts.

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. Menges, 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 Wasserman

NAYES: None

1. Approved the acceptance of gifts as listed on the attached document.
2. Approved warrants as presented.
3. Approved purchase orders as listed on the attached document.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - B

On motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Wasserman, 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 Wasserman

NAYES: None

1. Approved the Personnel Document dated August 11, 2020, enumerating employee changes as presented.

ACTION ITEMS

1. The approval of the 45-Day Budget Revision was now presented. Ms. Kimmel and Ms. Torres explained that the Governor signed the annual state budget act on June 29, 2020. In accordance with AB1200, school districts are required to post revisions to their budgets within 45 days of the Governor's signature on the state budget. Ms. Kimmel noted that when LVUSD created their budget in June 2020, the state had not adopted their budget at that time. The state-adopted budget eliminated the 10% decrease (loss of 2.3% COLA and reduction of 7.69% from prior year funding on the State Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) revenue and provided flat funding for schools. This resulted in no reduction to per-pupil funding levels, but also no cost of living increase to revenue that typically added 2.3% or \$2 million in revenue each year. The state budget also had certain employee groups that were protected from layoffs, including certificated, custodial, and child nutrition workers.

They reported that staff will continue to monitor the financial landscape as we are expecting quite a few deferrals where the state will not be providing funds in the spring, so we will have to borrow money. We are basing our enrollment on the 2019-20 school year. We have a 2.5% loss in our base funding because of our declining enrollment. This will hold us for next year for ADA. The state gave us some flexibility with our annual PE minutes and instructional minutes were loosened and waived, but they did not change the number of instructional days which was 180 days. The state-mandated minutes for kindergarten is 180 minutes and up to 240 minutes for upper grades. It can be a combination of in-person and independent learning. Ms. Torres added that there are many formulas which show \$1 million from the state and \$4.3 million federal funding which is very particular. There is \$1 million allocated for PPE for the 2019-20 school year and the \$4.3 million is adding to the 2020-21 budget. The budget revision is including the \$4.3 million of added support. This includes a portion of the PPE the District purchased this summer and the learning loss mitigation. Staff identified \$900,000 of COVID-unique expenses and \$3.4 refocusing and dedicating staff for learning loss mitigation. The 0% COLA is adding \$7.5 million. Due to the pandemic, the District is losing funds from the rental of district facilities. The District has also reduced staff expenses in an effort to meet the

growing loss of funding. We originally had a \$13.1 million deficit, and we are now down to a \$2.2 million deficit. There may be some operational costs that we can adjust after we close the books for the 2019-20 school year.

On Motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved the 45-Day Budget Revision.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

2. The revisions to Board Policy 6142.4 - Learning Through Service Learning was now presented. Mr. Gleason explained that the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 has again led to extended periods of social distancing and remote learning. The District is trying to ease the burden on its students for this school year by recommending a waiver of the service-learning requirement for the 2020-21 school year, similar to what was done in the 2019-20 school year. Mr. Gleason clarified that the revision would reduce the service-learning requirement in order to support current high school students in meeting their service learning hours for graduation. The classes of 2021, 2022, and 2023 will complete 30 hours, and the class of 2024 will complete 45 hours. The students are advised to complete their Service Learning requirement in 15-hour-per-year increments, with the exception of the 2020-2021 school year.

On Motion of Ms. Wasserman, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved the revisions to Board Policy 6142.4 - Learning Through Service Learning.

Board Motion Carried: 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Mr. Gleason presented the Summer 2020 Review. He explained that the summer of 2020 has proven to be one of the most challenging seasons for children, families, and staff as we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. In an effort to continue learning, maintain engagement, and continue to offer staff development, the District provided various opportunities throughout the summer. The following opportunities were offered during the summer:

- #LVReads - Reading lists, games, home activity videos, and weekly virtual author visits which included read-alouds and giveaways from the presenting author.
- Virtual Summer Camps - Student volunteers offered more than 50 virtual summer camp sessions which afforded students opportunities for connection, normalcy, learning and fun.
- Center EdX/UCSB Classes for Staff - More than 250 educators, administrators and Board members enrolled in one or more of the three dynamic courses.
- Summer School - A Virtual Summer School program was provided for students.

Staff discussed the above programs and elaborated upon details regarding the multifaceted efforts to support the community during these unprecedented times.

Ms. Wasserman and Mr. Lawrence inquired if the Virtual Summer Camp offerings could continue during the school year as afternoon activities for the students. Mr. Gleason confirmed that this is something LVUSD will try to implement this fall.

Ms. Stein expressed her concern regarding students that may be struggling. She inquired regarding additional supports that may be available for these students. Mr. Gleason discussed the available options and explained that both high schools offer the SHOP program and middle schools now offer SHOP through Title 1 funding. He added that elementary schools now have intervention specialists and counseling in place to help.

2. Dr. Stepenosky presented the Fall 2020 Planning Update. He explained that due to the Coronavirus pandemic and Governor Newsom's latest announcement made on July 17, the 2020-21 school year will begin in a distance learning format for all students. Las Virgenes families were given the choice between the LVUSD Virtual Learning Academy or the on-campus option and asked to make their selection by July 24 to allow staff the time to plan and prepare. Approximately, 20% of the students enrolled in the Virtual Academy and 80% enrolled in the on-campus option. The on-campus option will begin the school year virtually, with the hopes of returning to campus as soon as it is safe to do so.

Dr. Stepenosky reminded families and staff to please be patient, kind, flexibility. He stressed that students and parents should reach out to their teachers and/or site principals with any issues that may arise. The school sites are available to staff and teachers can provide virtual lessons from their classrooms.

Ms. Kimmel discussed the numbers which the county requires in order to allow schools to open. If the county has less than 100 cases per 100,000 people, the school can open. If the county is between 100 and 200 cases per 100,000, then they need to apply for a waiver, and if the county has over 200 cases per 100,000, the school may not open. Unfortunately, our county is over 355 cases.

Dr. Finneran commented on the upcoming school year and stressed the importance of clear communication between teachers

and students. She also asked for empathy and patience for all. Mr. Gleason thanked the principals, assistant principals, and counselors for building the master schedules. He also thanked Dr. Duncan for her thoughtful and accurate contributions. Mr. Scifres echoed previous comments and expressed his appreciation to the counseling team who complete their work in two weeks rather than the standard four months. He also commended the efforts of all who participated in the development of the Virtual Academy.

Ms. Stein thanked staff for their hard work and dedication to prepare the District for the 2020/21 school year. She also stressed the importance of communication as the key to the success of students during this fall semester.

3. Mr. Gleason presented an update on the District's Restorative Approaches. He reported that LVUSD has spent the last few years developing restorative systems for student discipline and behavior to ensure equity, access, and cultural proficiency. Restorative discipline is a high accountability, high support system that was developed in response to students of color being disproportionately suspended nationwide. He added that restorative models acknowledge that behavior is learned and is often a manifestation of factors beyond the school environment. He stated that traditional punitive discipline measures focus the attention on those who harmed others, whereas restorative models additionally focus on who was harmed and what their needs are to restore the relationship. Mr. Gleason shared the work currently being done and pointed out that it is in response to social justice. This is a national movement that has been misunderstood as low accountability, but that is not really the case. Students are held to high accountability. The restorative approach teaches the why to what was done. Restorative models work not only on the person who did the harming, but also the person who was harmed. The Choices program is a great example. Our counseling center offered a high accountability aspect to this. The families would have to attend a 6-8 week session to discover why the behavior happened and how to learn from the behavior and try to change it. He concluded that LVUSD is on a journey to help students and families.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

September 1, 2020
Date Approved

Lesli Stein (signature on file)
President, Board of Education