



BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
September 1, 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 4:37 p.m. at the Las Virgenes Unified School District, 4111 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Angela Cutbill
Dallas Lawrence participated via video-conference
Linda Menges participated via video-conference
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 4:39 p.m.

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
Dallas Lawrence participated via video-conference
Linda Menges participated via video-conference
Lesli Stein
Mathy Wasserman participated via video-teleconference
Agoura High School Student Board Member, Jake Goodman (participated via video-conference)
Calabasas High School Student Board Member, Noah Murray (watched the meeting online)

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 Director of Education and Leadership, Ryan Gleason.

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 Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved the agenda of September 1, 2020.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Ms. Menges, seconded by Ms. Wasserman, the Board of Education approved the Board Meeting Minutes of July 28, 2020, and August 11, 2020.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

STAFF/BOARD COMMUNICATION

Student Jake Goodman reported that Noah Murray, the Calabasas High School representative, and himself have just started the planning for the 2020 Virtual School Board Candidate Forum. The forum will most likely occur during a live stream. Agoura High school just had their annual Link Crew Freshman Orientation and Calabasas High School is having their first Spirit Week of the school year.

Ms. Menges attended several Back to School Nights, participated with the L.A. Rams backpack distribution and sat in on the Las Virgenes Classified Association negotiations. They were able to come to a tentative agreement. She also participated in the Superintendent Discussion Council. Lots of great information shared from the PFC and PFA presidents.

Ms. Wasserman participated in many Back to School Nights. She expressed her appreciation of the district and how everyone has shown flexibility, understanding and patience. She thanked the Mariposa team for their technology based learning and how honored she was to meet with the team and the parents. She recognized how hard it is for parents to work from home. She commented about district staff and cabinet and what an outstanding job everyone has continued to do, and how grateful she is. She is thankful that the classrooms are being cleaned for our staff that are teaching from their classrooms.

Mr. Lawrence thanked the Rams for being especially caring to our kids. As a parent of three kids across two schools, he has been so impressed with what he has seen. He expressed how concerned he was last spring when the district went to distance learning and how blown away he has been this year. He commented about Back to School Night at AE Wright. His daughter has chorus as an incoming 6th grader. He wondered how chorus would be taught virtually. Mr. Lawrence audited his daughters' class and saw how the teacher, Mr. Barker, led his class with such passion, excitement and energy. He led the class with breathing exercises, taught the students how to read musical notes, and showed so much enthusiasm. He is very proud of the incredible job our district has done. Our teachers are really stepping it up and building up these kids and making the best of this unfortunate situation. He is so grateful for all of our teachers and the amazing work they have done. He stated how his own first and second grade students were nervous about starting this year in distance learning and described how Sumac did such a fabulous job at helping these students ease into this school year.

Ms. Cutbill has been busy with Back to School Nights. She was a guest speaker at Pepperdine through their Davenport webinar which was participated by people from schools and local governments from around the country. She was concerned about the first day of school. She took a walk late that night around her neighborhood and saw this White Oak teacher through the window of her home and saw how happy this teacher was. At that point, she realized that our teachers have this situation under control. This is not what they would have wanted, but they are truly succeeding in this challenging time. She was taken over with emotion about how great she felt.

Ms. Stein thanked the Calabasas Rotary for holding their comedic virtual event to help raise money

for LVUSD Food Services. The event raised \$4600 from this event. Before the meeting tonight, Ms. Stein, Ms Cutbill, Dr. Stepenosky and Ms. Kimmel picked up the check. The Rotary was thrilled to present the check and help such a great cause. The Back to School Nights this year were very different from usual and turned out terrific. They were all held virtually with principals, counselors and teachers who have never done this before. They acted professionally and with such poise despite the glitches. Ms. Stein, along with a few cabinet members participated in the New Employee Orientation. She is concerned for the handful of new employees since they are not at the school sites forging relationships and collaborating together with others. She wants to make sure they are being watched and helped along the way since this is a very different situation than usual. Lots of cabinet members nodded so Ms. Stein was confident that the employees are being helped and set up for success. Ms. Stein, along with the entire board, welcomed everyone back; students, parents, teachers, counselors and all employees. Being virtual, everyone needs to step up, be adaptable and flexible. The board recognized how difficult this was for all. Las Virgenes Classified Association and Las Virgenes Educators Association came to a tentative agreement this summer. Ms. Stein gave a huge shout to all who participated in this bargaining agreement. They worked very hard and she is grateful to all.

Dr. Stepenosky commented that we have never before started the school year with distance learning. We didn't want this, but he is so overflowed with joy to see staff working together to support each other and lift each other up. He is seeing kindness district wide. We are working very hard to get our campuses ready to come back when it is safe to do so. Our meal service continued over the summer. Usually they close for the summer. He also thanked the Rotary and commented that the check was larger than Ms. Stein reported. It was actually \$6400.00. A new song was presented to the new student board member, Jake Goodman, who has just enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Congratulations to Mr. Goodman. The board and cabinet sang Happy Birthday to Ms. Wasserman.

Dr. Finneran congratulated Mr. Goodman and wished Happy Birthday to Ms. Wasserman. She thanked the staff for their outstanding success. She participated in the material pick up at some schools and many Back to School Nights. She appreciated their efforts for the fabulous start of this school year and sent a sincere shout out to every staff member.

Mr. Klein reported how proud he is of his team and all staff for starting this year off fabulously. The Educational Technology team has worked hard to update the distance learning resource center. It is constantly evolving for our teachers and students. They created a virtual classroom library where students can click on the bins and read books. Included in the resource center are things that students should complete every day, such as checking emails, logging into Zoom, etc.

Ms. Kimmel expressed how proud she is that every school was prepared with everything they needed to open. The grab and go meals are now available at the middle and high schools. The district has implemented an early morning pick up at A.C. Stelle and Lindero from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. daily. The government has extended the waiver; she is hopeful meals can be made available to all students. Next week is the annual virtual workshop for our booster groups. Covid testing is taking place tomorrow through a local laboratory at AE Wright Middle School. We have 56 staff members getting the test. The results should be available between 24-36 hours.

Mr. Gleason shared the professional development opportunities that the district is offering. Every Monday and Wednesday, the district is offering Distance Learning and the Level II Social Justice classes. The Center EdX has 24 new teachers; 18 aspiring administrators and 10 current administrators that will be going through the one and two programs this year. This spring will be the program accreditation. Mr. Gleason expressed hope for an eight year approval that will go through 2029.

Mr. Scifres shared gratitude and appreciation to our teachers for an incredible start to this school year. This summer was something we have never seen before. All staff have been so flexible and the collaborative approach has been phenomenal to witness. Our teachers have truly rocked it and done such an incredible job. They are building relationships with our students during these challenging conditions.

Ms. Falk acknowledged the hard work and dedication the special education staff (para educators, DIS providers, school psychologists and teachers) have shown to create a smooth start to this school year. They have continued to do Zoom meetings, IEPs and assessments during this challenging time and have done such an incredible job.

Ms. Kintz thanked teachers and classified staff that have supported the students in the classroom. The bit mojis have been wonderful to see. Teachers are being so creative with their teaching. One of the PFA co-presidents shared with Ms. Kintz how the students are adapting well to this distance learning. The transitions that the teachers are creating are working so well. The virtual kindergarten pick up of materials happened here at the district. It was wonderful to see the parents drive through with so much excitement. Kuddos to the teachers and staff.

Ms. Amodio reported that the district, along with the Las Virgenes Classified Association, have formed a tentative agreement. The tentative agreement is pending member ratification and will be presented to the board on September 15, 2020.

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

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0

1. Approved the Funding for Consolidated Categorical Aid Programs for 2020-2021 as listed on the attached document.
2. Approved Acceptance of Notice of Completion - Best Contracting Services, Inc. as listed on the attached document.
3. Approved Acceptance of Gifts as listed on the attached document.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - B

On motion of Ms. Cutbill, 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 September 1, 2020, as listed on the attached documents.

ACTION ITEMS

1. The approval of CalSTRS Exemption Request was now presented by Mr. Scifres. This exemption is for Linda Jacobsen for the position of Special Education Teacher - Itinerant Vision Impaired. This exemption requires an exemption of the 100 day calendar separation from the employment service period. The background is that this position was filled in March 2020 and the candidate resigned in August 2020. Linda has served in this position for the past 27 years before retiring. This position serves a very specific population and has been proven very hard to fill and is a critical need especially due to Covid-19. The position is currently posted.

Motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Cutbill, the Board of Education approved the CalSTRS Exemption Request.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

2. The Public Hearing - Tentative Agreement with the Las Virgenes Educators Association was now presented. Dr. Stepenosky explained that this tentative agreement was completed during the summer months. The Las Virgenes Educators Association consists of about half of our employees (550) which includes teachers, counselors, school psychologists, speech and language specialists, and nurses. The bargaining agreement was ratified with 338 in favor and 22 opposed.

On Motion of Ms. Cutbill, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved to Open the Public Hearing.

Board Motion Carried: 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

Ms. Stein stated that there were no comments from the public.

On Motion of Ms. Wasserman, seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the Board of Education Closed the Public Hearing.

Board Motion Carried: 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

3. Approval of Tentative Agreement with the Las Virgenes Educators Association was presented. Mr. Scifres thanked the bargaining teams. The tentative agreement and the public hearing review document (AB 1200) are attached. Key components included: certificated salary schedules were maintained; Professional Development (PD) days were maintained; Article 6 (comp time), Article 7 (leaves), and Article 16 (safety) were included; stipends were maintained; and a one time retirement plan was incorporated.

On Motion of Ms. Wasserman, seconded by Ms. Cutbill, the Board of Education approved the Tentative Agreement with the Las Virgenes Educators Association.

Board Motion Carried: 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

4. Public Hearing - Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan (LCAP) was presented. Dr. Stepenosky stated this is a new 2020 LCAP interim plan which represents our realities due to the pandemic. Mr. Gleason stated this plan outlines the supports offered during this period, all expenditures and the current safety plan to get students back on campus. This outline is important for district transparency.

On Motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved to Open the Public Hearing.

Board Motion Carried: 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0

Ms. Stein stated there were no received comments from the public.

On Motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Wasserman, the Board of Education approved to Close the Public Hearing. .

Board Motion Carried: 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Completion of Summer 2020 Maintenance Projects

Dr. Stepenosky discussed that despite our campuses being closed all summer, our Director of Maintenance Operations, Ms. Pescetto and Mr. Vudmaska were very busy. They continued to keep busy and had many accomplishments over the summer.

Ms. Kimmel turned over the presentation to Ms. Pescetto who discussed the summer projects. The maintenance crew were on campus making sure the campuses were clean and ready for the start of the new year. Projects included:

- Roof replacement at the district which houses our servers; the new roof will help with electricity bills
- Asphalt repairs; had some areas with large cracks
- Concrete repairs and grinding repairs to the concrete to avoid tripping hazards
- New exterior paint at AE Wright to refresh; facial repair for Maintenance Office at AE Wright
- Gas line repair at Agoura High School
- The transformer at Agoura High School blew out; new transformer was installed (all transformers need to be custom built)
- New stadium fencing around the football fields at both high schools; new fencing is 8 feet high and has 1 inch holes; it is considered non-climbable and looks better
- Book box project at Chaparral (from the PFC)
- Eagle Scout - a Calabasas High School student wanted to help this summer; he installed touchless bottle fillers to our water fountains; he completed 5 school sites so far
- Ordered UVC devices that go on our air conditioning units; they fight odors, bacteria, smoke, viruses, etc. which will provide great air quality in our classes (8-12 week time line)
- Classroom preparations; shout out to Kelly Beder and her team Phyllis Kenney, Deborah Loeb, Sherri Squires - they tracked down suppliers and got samples of the products; start up kits were put together for each site - sanitizer (20 ounce and 8 ounce), dividers (rolling, portable desktop), signage, cleaners, wipes, PPE, thermometers, etc (55+ items funded through the Covid Care Funds Act Grant). These items were delivered to the warehouse. The warehouse (Scott McAlister, Don Gilbert and Vince Marquez) had to receive, separate and deliver to the sites which happened by August 7. Provided portable sinks to the sites that didn't have sinks.
- Painted 6 feet yellow distancing dots around every school to make sure students know how to keep 6 feet distance. Dots painted outside classrooms, administration buildings, bathrooms, cafeteria and especially pick up zones
- Yerba Buena and Chaparral - took out old exterior drinking fountains and installed sinks which will include bottle fillers
- Desk set up for classrooms; for A (blue tape set up on desk) and B group (orange tape set up on desk); allows maintenance time to clean at night
- Cleaning sprayers were discussed; Sani sprayer with 50 foot and 100 foot hoses - 2 people can clean at one time; Clorox electrostatic machines; will receive backpack machines this month
- Security lock system at Calabasas High School (outside the gym); can use the keypad, app, key card or key FOB; this grants or denies access; tested at one school to see if this design worked well
- Lupin Hill MPR project

Ms. Pescetto gave a huge shout out to all essential workers who work so hard all the time! Our maintenance workers worked during the fires, pandemic, etc.

Ms. Stein asked about air conditioning to make sure the district is not running air conditioning in buildings that are not currently occupied. Ms. Pescetto confirmed. Ms. Stein asked if we can continue to do more projects during this time since students are not on campus. Ms. Pescetto commented that the painting is continuing. Concrete and asphalt have been completed. Maintenance will look into more projects as money becomes available.

2. Dr. Stepenosky presented the Fall planning 2020 Update. He thanked staff for the successful launch of distance learning to open the new school year. He commented about staff being flexible, kind, patient and nimble to our students and parents. Safety is always our priority. Approximately, 20% of the students enrolled in the Virtual Academy. The Virtual Academy consists of the largest LVUSD program to date and will continue permanently; 2100 students total which is larger than both high schools, 68 teachers (34 elementary, 34 secondary). This was a tough process but LVUSD succeeded in a very short amount of time. Dr. Stepenosky spoke about the waiver process. He shared the frustrations that LVUSD has had to go through. About 10 days ago, Dr. Ferrer announced that schools can apply for a waiver. The district worked with principals to get the waiver ready and then last week, Dr. Ferrer tweeted that waivers were not being accepted in LA County. There are 230 waivers submitted so far, none in LA County. Ventura County has submitted 18 waivers so far which have been mostly private schools (only 2 have been approved); Orange County has submitted 59 waivers, all that have been approved including Los Alamitos Unified School District, which is public. Dr. Stepenosky is in daily communication with their superintendent to review their waiver. Los Alamitos is planning on K-5 opening and having students in a distance and cohort model on campus on Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

Dr. Stepenosky reported that the LA County positivity rate fourteen days ago dropped below 8%. During July, the positivity rate was over 10%. Last Thursday, we were at 5.4%; now we are at 5%. Ms. Wasserman asked what was the positivity rate when we closed. The positivity rate was between 13-16%. He also reported the case rate for LA County is 186; Ventura is 125. To check the case rate, go to the website: cph.ca.gov. LVUSD is within LA County although our numbers are closer to Ventura County numbers.

Dr. Stepenosky spoke about the waiver specifically. Tk-5 is easier to structure as you keep the kids in separate cohorts. Our 6th graders will be included even though 6th grade is part of a middle school. There are three pieces of the waiver; reopening plan, letters of support (Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA, CEO of West Hills Hospital, PFC's and PFA's have been received to date), and local health metrics. If we apply for the waiver, we can still choose how we want to open. We might open Tk-3 at first as those are the smallest classes. LVUSD has spent \$1.4 million to purchase everything needed to re-open.

Dr. Finneran commented that the district is continuing to offer classes for professional development to our staff, including Social Justice, Cultural Proficiency and best practices for distance learning. Hundreds of staff members took courses over the summer and hundreds of staff members took classes before school began. We offer other professional development opportunities having sessions on Mondays, Wednesdays and some Saturdays.

Ms. Falk commented on the special education teachers. We are delivering the same amount of services that we offered before school closed. She acknowledged their hard work. She has received guidance from the California Department of Public Health which targeted our students with moderate to severe and DIS services (speech and language, occupational therapy). They advised we can bring them back on campus in stable cohorts, 1 adult per 7 students and no more than 2 adults per 14 students in a cohort. It was unclear whether instruction was included in that. She has meetings this week to discuss that. They are doing in person assessments at every school site. They are completing 50 out of our 400 pending assessments which is very impressive. They are continuing to hold all IEP's virtually which will continue until we are fully back on campus.

Ms. Stein asked about the special education students, English learners, students at high risk of further learning loss, students experiencing homelessness, foster youth, students who are not participating in distance learning. All of these students can come back to campus without having a waiver. Dr. Finneran commented that we are looking into that, however, we have to take it slow. To bring select staff members back, we have to navigate this very carefully. Ms. Wasserman asked about the homeless students. LVUSD has offered hotspots for those students.

Dr. Stepenosky commented that we were doing Covid testing tomorrow for employees at A.E. Wright. Mr. Lawrence asked why was this important. Ms. Kimmel advised that our district employees are still dealing with the public as well as our sites so this is important to offer testing once a month. Our district nurse, Melissa Foster, would do the contact tracing if necessary. We are doing the PRC Nasal Swab test.

Mr. Klein commented that we purchased several applications to aid in the distance learning efforts this fall. The majority of these are up and running. Parent Square is enabled at all school sites. Device connectivity is being done. We are doing some home visits to make sure our low income students and Spanish speaking families are able to connect to the internet. All students who need a device in our district have access to one. Our school site websites have troubleshooting tips on their sites and our phone contact if they need more assistance.

Ms. Kimmel reported that meal services are being distributed at all of our middle and high schools daily from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. AC Stelle and Lindero Canyon have early morning pick up. Starting next week, all students will be able to pick up meals without the waiver. Other districts are also offering meal service so our meal service has declined. Childcare is being offered at three of our school sites and one off site.

Mr. Gleason reported that our counseling office is booked with many appointments. They are working on full schedules. The high schools are recruiting students for our tutoring program. The district is getting ready to implement some after school activities through the same system that we used during the summer. These courses will be taught by high school students.

Dr, Stepenosky reported that sports conditioning is starting up again while maintaining distance and staying outside. Schools are all open with principals and office managers and some teachers teaching from their classrooms.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

September 15, 2020
Date Approved

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