



BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
January 12, 2021

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 January 12, 2021, 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 Angela Cutbill called the Board meeting to order at 5:02 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 participated via video-conference
Lesli Stein participated via video-conference
Kate Vadehra participated via video-conference

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 5:05 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session Adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER OPEN SESSION

President Cutbill reconvened the Board meeting at 6:25 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Angela Cutbill participated via video-conference
Dallas Lawrence participated via video-conference
Linda Menges participated via video-conference
Lesli Stein participated via video-conference
Kate Vadehra participated via video-conference
Calabasas High School Student Board Member, Noah Murray (watched the meeting online)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Agoura High School Student Board Member, Jake Goodman

STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Daniel Stepenosky, Superintendent participated via video-conference
Karen Kimmel, Assistant Superintendent of Business participated via video-conference
Steve Scifres, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources participated via video-conference
Dr. Clara Finneran, Assistant Superintendent of Education participated via video-conference
Ryan Gleason, Director of Education and Leadership participated via video-conference
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 participated via video-conference

STAFF ABSENT

None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Maria Bergstrom.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Ms. Menges, seconded by Ms. Stein, the Board of Education approved the agenda of January 12, 2021.
Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:
AYES: Board members Cutbill, Lawrence, Menges, Stein, and Vadehra
NAYES: None
Student Preferential Vote not present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Ms. Stein, seconded by Dr. Vadehra, the Board of Education approved the Reorganization and Regular Board Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2020.
Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:
AYES: Board members Cutbill, Lawrence, Menges, Stein, and Vadehra
NAYES: None
Student Preferential Vote not present

STAFF/BOARD COMMUNICATION

Ms. Stein wished everyone a Happy New Year. The future does look brighter even though we are back to remote learning. She realizes how challenging this is for our students, parents, and staff. We are back to remote learning because our hospitals are too crowded due to the surge from the holidays. She thanked everyone for still being kind and patient. Vaccines are on the way. We will get through this together.

Ms. Menges wished everyone a Happy New Year. She is hopeful about the vaccinations being rolled out very soon. She commented about the Agoura High School production of WHY Who Hears You. She said it was very well done and portrayed the angst that students are going through during this pandemic. She felt as though we are rounding the corner with respect to the pandemic.

Dr. Vadehra wished everyone a Happy New Year. She congratulated cabinet, teachers, and all staff for all that they have done to bring our students back to school. She is honored to be a part of the LVUSD family. She commented how disappointed everyone is about having to go back to distance learning, however, was convinced it would be short term. Vaccines are coming soon. She thanked our students, parents, and staff for their continued efforts.

Mr. Lawrence was very saddened by the news this past week when L.A. Department of Public Health and other elected officials urged LVUSD to shut down in person learning. He felt that their guidance has been consistently misled this past year. Covid 19 is real. It is serious and very dangerous. He felt the damage that this pause is having on our students is real and could last longer than the pandemic. Our students are really struggling. He is proud of the LVUSD leadership. He stated that we have done everything we can to mitigate the impacts on our students and staff. LVUSD was the first district to re-open in L.A. County and the only district to bring back third grade students. We developed a model program for the safety of opening schools. We invested heavily in PPE, cleaning systems, air purifiers, and physical barriers to make it safe for students and staff. Our developed model of in person learning was working. We didn't have any instances of reported transmission of Covid 19 cases in our schools. We have offered testing to our staff and as of

this week, we have tested over 600 staff members and have only produced one positive Covid 19 case. Our LVUSD number is one out of 600 tested positive in a county where the number is one of five which tested positive. That really needs to stand out. The county has looked at the pandemic as a one size fits all. That should not be the case. LVUSD does not look at Covid as a one size fits all. We offered virtual as well as in person so each family could choose what was best for them. He has received many emails from parents that are angry that we have had to close in person learning. He read an excerpt from one email. He thanked our teachers and have listened to their concerns. He reiterated staff and student safety is always our top priority. He stated that he believes our schools are safe. He urged parents to reach out to elected officials and ask them to look at each school district individually and not treat this as a one size fits all. He wants our schools to re-open on February 1, 2021 as scheduled.

Ms. Cutbill thanked Mr. Lawrence for his comments and passion. She agreed with his comments. She referred to a famous Friends episode where they were carrying a couch up the stairs and kept asking them to pivot. That's what we have asked our students, parents, and staff to do over and over. They must continue to pivot. She heard a story of a fifth grade student who went into a classroom to be tested for something. The student looked around and commented how long it had been since she had been in the classroom. It was very emotional. Friday was a tough day for Ms. Cutbill when she heard that we were going to have to stop our in person learning again.

Dr. Stepenosky thanked our entire staff for their flexibility during this very trying time. He wants to stress the positives. He showed a picture of our head nurse, Melissa Foster, getting the vaccine yesterday at Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles. All twenty-two of our health clerks either received the vaccine yesterday or will receive the vaccine this week. He expressed his appreciation towards the people he works with every day; our Board, staff, teachers, administrators, etc. He stated how proud he was about the efforts everyone has made getting our students back on campus. He stated how fortunate we are with respect to our location. We are in L.A. County, but we border Ventura County. Between these two counties, there are one hundred school districts and we are the first district to offer testing to our staff. Ms. Kimmel and her team purchased 650 extra filtration devices to further protect our students and staff. LVUSD has more students for in person learning than any of the other 79 school districts in L.A. County. This is truly something to celebrate. We are also leading in terms of vaccines. He has spoken to many other districts and no one has had their health clerks vaccinated. Ms. Swanson's class at Calabasas High School is sponsoring a book talk on Friday where everyone is welcome. The book, Salt in my Soul an Unfinished Life, written by Diane Shader Smith, was written about her daughter, Mallory Smith, who was a student of Dr. Stepenosky at Beverly Hills High School. She died of Cystic Fibrosis. The book shares the diary of Mallory Smith. Dr. Stepenosky said the book was a very moving tale.

Dr. Finneran thanked our parents and our staff for their patience and tenacity as we transition to distance learning. She understands the shifting back and forth is very difficult. We have many professional development opportunities for our staff. January 25, 2021 is another Staff Development Day. The choices will be spread across three categories; Equity and Social Justice, Distance Learning, and Literacy. We will continue to learn and get through this together.

Ms. Kimmel shared that when the Governor shared his budget last Friday, there was good news for schools. His proposal included sort of a double COLA; a 1.5% statutory cost of living increase and a loss of learning increase by 2.31%. This will give a new COLA of 3.8%. They are also expanding the TK birthday cutoff which will allow us so to enroll more students. The Governor has offered Safe School Reopening grants which we need to apply before February 1. This new program will allow TK-2 to be back on campus by February 16, 2021, and all of elementary to be back on campus by March 16, 2021. We will work with the state to implement this program.

Mr. Scifres shared that LVEA and LVCA worked this summer to put together an employee retirement program. He shared that we had 26 employees who wanted to take part in this program. He understands that this is a very tough decision to make and wished everyone who chose to retire good luck.

Ms. Kintz thanked our teachers, principals and specialists who are on our Elementary Summit Committee. We had a meeting last Thursday and the collaboration brought ideas from each of their sites. She congratulated them on a job well done.

Mr. Klein shared that spring is upon us which brings our author speaker series, #LVREADS. This spring we will have 16 authors hosting webinars every Tuesday and Thursday during February and March. This helps students learn about writing and literacy.

Ms. Falk acknowledged the hard work and dedication of the Special Education staff who started the in person learning on October 5, 2021. They have continued to teach both virtual and in person learning, and now will have to switch back

to virtual. Their efforts made these transitions easier for everyone involved, especially the students. The in person assessments have continued throughout this whole time. She is very thankful for their efforts.

Mr. Gleason wished everyone a Happy New Year. He also shared two important updates. We are continuing our Social Justice series by offering our Level 3 class in the spring and will continue with the Level 4 class in the summer. We also have continued our 6th cohort of PASC and our 5th cohort of CASC. Our accreditation will occur during the next couple of months.

Ms. Amodio shared that we will have our normal Staff Development Day on January 25, 2021. In the morning, our classified staff will be in position specific workshops and in the afternoon sessions, Mr. Gleason will present Social Justice to our classified staff. We look forward to continuing education on this very important topic.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

There was one statement submitted. President Cutbill read the email regarding sports conditioning suspension for Agoura High School Girls Water Polo.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - A

On motion of Ms. Stein, seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the Board of Education approved Consent Agenda A, Items 1-6.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

Student Preferential Vote not present

1. Approved Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints as listed on the attached document.
2. Approved Acceptance of Gifts as listed on the attached document.
3. Approved Warrants as listed on the attached document.
4. Approved Disposal of Surplus Property as listed on the attached document.
5. Approved Student Teacher Agreement - Cal Lutheran University as listed on the attached document.
6. Approved Independent Auditor Contract 2020/21 - 2022/23 as listed on the attached document.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - B

On motion of Ms. Menges, seconded by Ms. Stein, the Board of Education approved Consent Agenda B, Items 1.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

1. Approved Personnel Document dated January 12, 2021 as listed on the attached document.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Board Committee Appointments was presented by Ms. Cutbill. Every year, the Board assigns Board Members to the various committees. She shared how important these committee assignments are.

On Motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Stein, the Board of Education approved Board Committee Appointments.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

Student Preferential Vote not present

2. Public Hearing - Tentative Agreement with LVCA was presented by Ms. Amodio. She stated that the district recently negotiated with LVCA with respect to overtime. The contract language was revised and presented.

On Motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education opened the Public Hearing - Tentative Agreement with LVCA.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

On Motion of Ms. Stein, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education closed the Public Hearing - Tentative Agreement with LVCA.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

3. Tentative Agreement with LVCA was presented. Ms. Amodio stated that this agreement with LVCA will amend the language of Article 4 with respect to the assignment of overtime.

Ms. Stein thanked Cabinet and LVCA for their collaboration on this very important issue. This partnership is so very important to the success of our district.

Ms. Menges appreciated the fact that Ms. Amodio used a sub committee to come to this agreement. She thanked her for her efforts as this really moved the negotiation along.

On Motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved Tentative Agreement with LVCA.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Annual Report - Measure G Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee was presented. Ms. Kimmel introduced Mr. Carlos Cojulun, who is the Chairman of the Measure G Bond Oversight Committee. He has been an invaluable member. Unfortunately, his term is ending soon. Mr. Cojulun shared that this report is for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. The committee was originally formed in 2007 after voters passed the Measure G Bond in 2006. The committee was formed to help with the expenditures of the \$128 million bond. He stated that all of the required meetings did take place, even during Covid. Nigro and Nigro prepared an audit of the proceeds and the committee met with the auditors and worked through the audit and asked many questions. Mr. Cojulun reported that there were no outstanding findings of the audit. He stated how much the committee appreciated the efforts of the District to implement cost saving measures to maximize every tax dollar. He pointed out that the District always gave assurances to the committee when questions arose about any issues. This committee has been very transparent about giving public notices and posting all public meetings on the District website. All expenditures were spent only for the purposes set forth in the Measure G Bond, no proceeds were spent for any teacher or administrative salaries or operating expenses and the District is in compliance with the requirements of Article XIII A, Section I(b)(3) of the California Constitution.

Ms. Cutbill thanked Mr. Cojulun for his work with the committee. She stated that the committee is so important ensuring that the proceeds of the Bond have been spent for what they are intended for. It's important that the community sees that the committee ensured the District is in compliance.

Ms. Kimmel stated that there are three openings in the committee. The positions are very specific. There is an opening for a senior citizen, a member of a tax payer organization, and a community at large person. Mr. Cojulun has served his three term limit and the other two positions do not wish to continue on the committee.

Ms. Stein thanked Mr. Cojulun for his service. He served three terms, took a break, and served another three terms. He has done such a fabulous job chairing this committee.

Ms. Menges asked Ms. Kimmel how long the committee will remain in effect. Ms. Kimmel answered that the committee will stay until the last dollar is spent. Ms. Menges thanked Mr. Cojulun for his dedication and hard work with this committee.

2. 2020-21 School Year Update was presented. Dr Stepenosky reminded everyone again about how kindness matters. He thanked our amazing students, parents, and staff. He shared how persistence is critical. He continued on the importance of safety. He reminded everyone to make sure they wear a mask, continue to social distance, avoid gatherings, wash hands frequently, stay at home if symptomatic, and do not travel. He stressed the importance about avoiding gatherings. This is critical to keep everyone safe. He stated that LADPH strongly recommended a three week pause for in person instruction through the end of January. Conejo Unified School District has opened K through 8th grade in a hybrid model. They are contemplating opening their high schools January 25, 2021. Simi Valley Unified School District has now opened K through 5th grade. Oak Park, Santa Monica, Malibu, and L. A. County has remained closed. He spoke about sports conditioning and how that has been working very well. There have been no transmissions and it has been very successful. Sports conditioning has helped our students get outside and have some social interactions which is so critical during this time. We have had to pause the sports conditioning as well. Dr. Stepenosky explained that he is hopeful that our sports season will begin. CIF will make an announcement on January

25, 2021. If our sports seasons do occur, there will be no spectators. Some of the games might take place at our middle schools. He has continued to advocate for our athletes and he hoped that we can possibly move basketball and volleyball outside to reduce the risk of transmission.

Dr. Finneran spoke about the possibility of material pick up for some students. The decision to return to distance learning was made late last week so some students might have left materials in the classroom that they might need. We will make that available to our students. Meal Services will still continue as normal.

Dr. Stepenosky spoke about the nurses being vaccinated. We are the first district to have all of our nurses vaccinated under this current phase. We are looking forward to Phase 1B where we can get all of our staff vaccinated. This will include anyone who works for LVUSD. Governor Newsom announced December 30, 2020 a proposal to reopen schools.

Mr. Scifres shared the retirement program that was offered to employees. He stated that 26 LVEA employees took advantage of this program by submitting their letters of intent. He congratulated those employees. He stated that this program was contingent on a cost analysis to ensure it was cost effective for the district. They will be analyzing the data and present it to the Board at the next meeting. If the district determines that the program is not viable, employees will have seven days to rescind their letter of intent.

Dr. Stepenosky shared the Covid testing operation. The testing is currently a drive through process now which has streamlined the testing. Over 600 staff members have been tested through this program. He shared the upcoming testing dates; January 20, February 3, and February 17, 2021. He thanked Karen Kimmel, Jessie Sweeney, Melissa Foster and the rest of the staff that is responsible for the testing. The testing takes about 90 seconds per car per test which is amazing. We have only had one positive case.

Ms. Kimmel shared that we have now completed installing the UV Filtration devices in all of our schools. Each UV system now has the Halo -LED (REME-LED) device installed which has been certified by the California Air Resource Board. Our classrooms currently have the cleanest air possible.

Mr. Klein shared that the district took the air quality condition very seriously. We partnered with Purple Air to provide sensors to monitor the air quality at all of our sites. The sensors are live now so you can see the air quality at our locations. We worked with principals to set standards so we can measure the air quality and take action if necessary. Those standards will be released shortly to the public.

Ms. Kimmel shared information about the continued meal service. Elementary families can pick up their meals from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We have converted this pick up to drive thru to make it easier and safer. This is available at every elementary school in the district. For secondary families, they can pick up their meals at the secondary cafeterias from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. There are also early bird pick ups from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. at the middle schools.

Mr. Gleason shared that counseling is available at Community360.me. He urged people to take advantage of this service if needed. These services are available for all students, parents, and staff and are completely confidential.

Dr. Stepenosky concluded by thanking everyone. He stated that we will see our TK-3rd grade students back on campus February 1, 2021.

3. LVUSD Superintendent Committee Assignments and Areas of Focus was presented. Dr. Stepenosky shared that to ensure the success of the District, it is very important to have certain committees. He shared his committee assignments and the Board members that will be associated with each committee and the dates of the committee meetings.

4. Overview of Quarterly Assessment Plan and Rally Dashboard was presented. Mr. Gleason reminded everyone that we entered into a partnership in Spring of 2020 with the Consortium on Reaching Excellence in Education (CORE) to pilot their new data dashboard called Rally. Being one of the first districts to pilot Rally, LVUSD has expanded our assessment plans and data collection to inform instruction and better intervene to support students with both academic and social-emotional growth. LACOE has agreed to cover the costs. We are helping to customize the dashboard which is very exciting. In grades K-12, we are now doing a quarterly assessment through RENSTAR. The data can be received within a few days, rather than waiting months for CAASP testing data. Rally allows us to measure growth from year to year. We are seeing a slower growth during this pandemic which is expected. We are seeing slower growth in ELA by 20% from 2019, and slower growth in Math by 10%. With our lower SES students, we are seeing a 30-50% growth reduction. Reduction means that we are not growing as fast. Approximately 35% of the students in grades 6-

12 are showing an increase in chronic sadness and 45% of the students are exhibiting anxiety and/or sleep disruption. Rally compares the data in the same students from year to year. Mr. Gleason shared some student data as an example, but stated that this was not a real LVUSD student. When looking at a secondary D/F student, we often wonder why?

Mr. Lawrence and Ms. Stein questioned who is seeing this data? It seems like a lot of information for a teacher to go through.

RENSAR was given to K-5. This new data will be given to 6-12, which is brand new. This data allows us to see how students are doing. This is especially important now as we are not seeing our students physically due to the pandemic. This new RENSAR questionnaire is much shorter than our Healthy Kids Survey that we used prior. Parents are aware that we are testing the students social-emotional well being. We are only piloting this system at this point. We need to communicate it out to the parents better if we continue using this program. We want students to be honest so we can truly measure how they are doing. All teachers, administrators, and counselors will see this data. This data has been most important for the D/F students.

Ms. Logan, Sumac Elementary Principal, shared the information from an elementary standpoint. This data is quite overwhelming, however, we are able to see how students are really doing. This new Rally Dashboard is easier to look at than the data we had before. We are using this information for individual support and classroom improvement. This helps the teachers to see how they are doing as a whole and individually per student. The resources are very consistent across the various teams. The data allows us to look at a classroom at a glance or dig deeper if necessary. The information is used for goal setting and is also being used to help with IEP's. All teachers have been introduced to this program. They will look at the program again this spring.

Dr. Roberts, A.E. Wright Middle School Principal, shared the information from a middle school level. Their counselors have been using this data the most. It gives an early snapshot of the students' health. This has shown that kids are getting used to the distance learning models as well as identifying the troubled students. This data gives a baseline for us to use in the future. This data has helped us also choose elective classes for our students. They are looking at the key standards to see where the students are excelling and where they need additional support. The counselors met with all of the struggling students which was amazing because normally we would initially miss these kids until later in the year.

Ms. Exner, Calabasas High School Principal, shared the perspective from the high school level. Some of the teachers have used the data to see the well being of their students. If the students are struggling, they can be intentional with helping these students. This data shows the deficits as well which is extremely helpful to teachers. This is a quick, easy way to see their students. The results are given in real time to help support their students right away. She read some comments from a teacher who stated that this really helped her identify a struggling student. The teacher met immediately with the student and was able to lend the support needed. The teacher reported that the student is doing better.

Mr. Gleason shared that this is a great way to collect real time data. We are building a student profile growth assessment which is so informative moving forward. We will do another data study session after February. We are tracking data for our students' best interest.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Date Approved

President, Board of Education