



**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Minutes of Regular Board Meeting**  
**January 26, 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 26, 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 5:03 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 5:04 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION**

Closed Session Adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER OPEN SESSION**

President Cutbill reconvened the Board meeting at 6:23 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  
Agoura High School Student Board Member, Jake Goodman (watched the meeting online)  
Calabasas High School Student Board Member, Noah Murray (participated via video-conference)

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

None

**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 Calabasas High School Board Member, Noah Murray.

### **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 26, 2021.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion of Dr. Vadehra, seconded by Ms. Stein, the Board of Education approved the Regular Board Meeting Minutes 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 Carried 1:0

### **STAFF/BOARD COMMUNICATION**

Dr. Stepenosky stated that he was pleased to announce the two employees that are honored tonight as the Employees of the Month, Ms. Brenda Vazquez, and Mr. Bradley Boelman. Mr. Scifres shared how our January Employees of the Month truly exemplify the criteria for exceptional work. Mr. Scifres introduced Agoura High School Principal, Dr. Stephanie McClay. Dr. McClay stated how pleased she was to introduce the Classified Employee of the Month, Brenda Vazquez. Ms. Vazquez works in our cafeteria and is truly amazing. She has been covering for the cafeteria manager while she was out. She also works at Yerba Buena and the central kitchen. She travels to different school sites and does an amazing job. She is extremely humble. She is a wonderful employee who gets the job done while keeping her head down. Dr. McClay stated how excited she was to have her a part of her team.

Ms. Cutbill thanked Ms. Vazquez for all of her hard work and dedication. The cafeterias are the heart of our campuses. These are trying times. Our families need food more than ever due to the pandemic. She stated how pleased she was to have Ms. Vazquez here this evening so she could be honored. Ms. Cutbill stated that she doesn't have the gift yet, but the Board will present Ms. Vazquez with the Apple trophy.

Ms. Vazquez stated that she was very surprised with the recognition. She was honored to have been chosen as Employee of the Month. She thanked everyone for recognizing her hard work.

Mr. Scifres stated that Cabinet went to visit Mr. Boelman's class to announce his recognition and the students quoted, "Mr. Boelman is the GOAT; the Greatest Of All Time." He then introduced Ms. Sara Exner, Principal of Calabasas High School. Ms. Exner was pleased to recognize Mr. Bradley Boelman as the Certificated Employee of the Month. She stated that it has been a pleasure to work with him over the past four years. His ability to bring the love of learning to his students has been a pleasure to watch. He challenges his students and allows them to take risks. It shows that he truly cares for his students. He wrote the curriculum for Link Crew and managed the showcase last year. He has become the Social Science Department Chair and the Model UN Advisor. This award is truly deserved.

Ms. Cutbill thanked Mr. Boelman for his dedication to his students on behalf of the Board. She will present him with the Apple trophy once she receives it. She stated that before the pandemic, she and Ms. Stein would always visit his classroom and truly enjoyed watching the engagement of the students.

Mr. Boelman thanked the Board, Cabinet, and Ms. Exner. He was so pleased to have been honored tonight. He thanked his wife for being his eternal support. He also thanked his parents who are both educators as well. He believes that LVUSD is his home and he truly thanked everyone again for the honor.

Calabasas High School Student Board Member, Noah Murray, stated that CHS is preparing for Black History Month. They will be having Zoom assemblies. They hosted a See's Candy fundraiser for Valentine's Day which ends tomorrow. There is a Junior Class Night at Uba Tuba this Thursday. Agoura High School had more than 680 toys donated to their Toy Drive. They also had over 1700 pounds of food donated to their Food Drive. He congratulated AHS for their efforts.

Ms. Stein stated that she and Ms. Cutbill attended the California Association of Suburban School Districts virtual meeting where Patrick O'Donnell, who is a California State Assemblyman and the Chair of the Education Assembly, spoke about the budget and the constraints. More information to follow about the discussions taking place in Sacramento. Curriculum Council met and are bringing a new course for approval to the Board tonight. The Council discussed Social Justice and Cultural Proficiency. It is an exciting time to be within LVUSD where these important initiatives are taking place.

Ms. Menges stated that she and Dr. Vadehra attended a Government Training offered by Ventura County Office of Education on how to be a successful Board Member. She attended the Foundation's Committee Meeting where they discussed the importance of working with the PFA's/PFC's to get to a centralized fundraising effort to be more successful. The Foundation wants to be involved more closely to help with fundraising efforts that are so desperately needed. She also attended a Budget Perspective sponsored by a local Law Firm, AALRR, which discussed the ins and outs of budgets. This meeting covered the many layers of budgets and was very helpful.

Dr. Vadehra stated how important it is that she meet some of the Cabinet members to get acquainted since she is new to the Board. She visited Calabasas High School and toured their outdoor weight training area. She will visit Agoura High School next week to meet their team and see their area. She virtually attended a couple of School Board Association meetings. Last night, she attended the L.A. School Board Trustees Meeting where they discussed budgets. They had a Chancellor from one of the community colleges there to discuss their take on the state budget and what it might look like for them.

Mr. Lawrence stated that he and Ms. Cutbill attended the Governor's Office Briefing which discussed the budget. He believes we are in for some difficult historic times with respect to enrollment and challenging budgets. He thanked our teachers for constantly pivoting and keeping up with the changes. They are truly amazing. He also thanked our staff for keeping up with the changes as well. We have asked a lot of our TK-3 teachers. They have handled the changes gracefully and professionally keeping their focus on the students.

Ms. Cutbill echoed those comments as well. She thanked our families, students, teachers, administrators and District Office staff for continuing to pivot to meet the needs of our students. Our counselors are so important right now. She thanked everyone for their resilience.

Dr. Stepenosky shared that our testing is going very well. We are testing every other week. He commended Ms. Kimmel and Ms. Foster for their teams efforts. The testing is now a drive through which takes about 90 seconds per car. We are expecting our TK-3 students back on campus on February 1, 2021 for in person instruction. We have the most students attending in person that any other school district. Agoura High School Music has a Winter Showcase this Thursday, January 28, 2021. It is a free concert starting at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Finneran echoed the comments about looking forward to returning to in person learning. Yesterday was Staff Development Day. We had many staff participate. Last Friday marked the end of the first semester for our secondary students. We will analyze that data and share it with our staff. She thanked everyone for their perseverance.

Mr. Scifres shared that we are launching our Spring LVUSD Administrative Support Series. The focus will be instructional leadership and leadership in the area of Human Resources. We have eight different offerings for our leadership team. We hope to build capacity with a lens on ways to help support our staff and students.

Ms. Kimmel shared the Governor's 2021-22 Budget proposal included grants for in person instruction which has the ability to provide \$4 million to LVUSD. This is the most contentious plan especially with the deadline of February 1,

2021. There has been a lot of push back from this budget proposal. We have been working on the requirements so that LVUSD is ready. We are watching the re-opening plans and trying to stay nimble.

Mr. Klein shared a few awards that LVUSD have received. CHS received the 2020 AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award. Our team has been successful in bringing in more females to the Computer Science field. Both high schools are making tremendous strides in this area. Agoura High School student, Rachel Fox, received the Congressional APP Challenge award. She was recognized for creating an app called My Chemistry. The app is a reference tool for Chemistry students. This is a very impressive app.

Ms. Falk acknowledged the District's Transition Partnership Program which is located at both Agoura High School and Calabasas High School. To date, we have placed 15 students in permanent employment even during the pandemic. In addition, we have certified 30 students with their Food Handler License and next month will certify 30 students in CPR. Congratulations to the Transition Partnership Program.

Ms. Amodio stated that yesterday was Staff Development Day. Our Para Educators participated in a self paced SELPA training. Our Maintenance staff participated in a Defensive Driving training, and our Classified staff participated in a Social Justice training presented by Ryan Gleason. We look forward to continuing our professional development on March 19, 2021.

Mr. Gleason shared that LVUSD is continuing the plan for summer school. This will be the third year that LVUSD will continue running the summer school program. This is funded through the Low Performer Block Grant. We are excited to offer summer school this year. It will be held virtually.

Ms. Kintz recognized our English Learners Teachers and the Bilingual Assistants in the elementary, middle and high schools who teach and meet the needs of our English learner students. They are currently working on the annual English Proficiency Assessment of California. There is a lot to learn this year as there have been many adjustments made to the platform.

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

There were no comments from the audience on items not on the agenda.

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

On motion of Ms. Stein, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved Consent Agenda A, Items 1-5. Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0

1. Approved Disposal Surplus Property as listed on the attached document.
2. Approved Purpose Orders as listed on the attached document.
3. Approved Acceptance of Notice Completion - Controlled Elements as listed on the attached document.
4. Approved Student Teacher Agreement - Pacific Oaks College as listed on the attached document.
5. Approved Student Teacher Agreement - California State University Long Beach as listed on the attached document.

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

On motion of Ms. Menges, seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the Board of Education approved Consent Agenda B, Items 1-2. Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

1. Approved Resolution No. 14-20 - Classified Reduction in Force as listed on the attached document.
2. Approved Personnel Document dated January 26, 2021 as listed on the attached document.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

1. New Course: Social Justice Leadership in the United States was presented. Mr. Gleason shared that this course will be offered as a Junior/Senior G-Elective course. This course was brought about by listening to our students, They want to broaden their knowledge of Social Justice in the United States. Ms. Brennan, History teacher at Agoura High School, and Mr. Weinstein, History teacher at Calabasas High School, presented this course. Ms. Brennan stated that this course builds off of the foundations of U.S. History. This allows students to explore various groups' ideals and journeys. This will equip the students with ideals and how to navigate discussions. Mr. Weinstein added how this course adds to

the students' knowledge of U.S. History. He stated that they see student engagement within these topics so it is so nice to have a course which digs deeper into Social Justice, Injustice, Race, etc in American History. Mr. Gleason shared the two textbooks which will be used in this course; A Different Mirror, and Stamped. The class size will be in the 30's.

Ms. Stein shared her excitement for this class. She thanked the teachers for bringing this course to the Board's attention. She loves to see a course brought about by the collaboration of students and teachers alike.

Ms. Cutbill questioned about how this will impact the discussions within Freshman Seminar. Mr. Gleason added that these resources will help the conversations within Freshman Seminar. The course will be year long. The goal is to have one section at each high school.

Mr. Lawrence expressed some concern about Unit 6 and Unit 7 where students would organize some sort of activism. Ms. Brennan expressed that the students in this class will be analyzing the activism, not necessary organizing political activism. Mr. Lawrence is concerned that the curriculum could in effect organize a political movement.

Ms. Stein stated that we need to make clear that we are not misappropriating tax-payer funds. This is very important.

Mr. Gleason reiterated that we are not misappropriating tax-payer funds. He shared that this course is to promote leaders within Social Justice. This course will allow a very constructive dialog to take place with our students.

Ms. Brennan further clarified that any activity outside the classroom would need approval from administration. This is an important guard rail for Unit 7. Any activity would need to be run by the teacher and administration to ensure the safety of all included meaning that there would be parameters of involvement.

On Motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Dr. Vadehra, the Board of Education approved New Course: Social Justice Leadership in the United States.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0

2. Resolution 15-20: Reduction or Discontinuance of Particular Kinds of Service was presented. Mr. Scifres stated that this resolution is due to a number of factors but ultimately our declining enrollment is a major factor. The District needs to make an adjustment to personnel for the 2021-2022 school year. This change will affect nine elementary teachers and twenty-two secondary teachers.

On Motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved Resolution 15-20: Reduction or Discontinuance of Particular Kinds of Service.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0

3. 2021 Supplemental Early Retirement Program for the Certificated Bargaining Unit was presented. Mr. Scifres shared that staff is seeking approval for the SERP. This plan offers a \$40,000 incentive to each retiree over a five year period. We have twenty-six retirees this year. This would yield a savings to the district of \$692,196 over the five years.

Mr. Lawrence shared that this plan is a win-win for everyone. With twenty-six employees retiring, this will save twenty-six employees from losing their job this year. He thanked the bargaining teams for their efforts.

On Motion of Ms. Stein, seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the Board of Education approved 2021 Supplemental Early Retirement Program for the Certificated Bargaining Unit.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. 2020-21 School Year Update was presented. Dr. Stepenosky shared gratitude and appreciation for everyone's efforts. The staff has been so flexible and nimble. Persistence, advocacy, and grit are critical for all. Safety is so very

important. We must all avoid gatherings. This is super important.

Ms. Stein shared that she received the vaccine last week. She commended the people administering the vaccines saying they were so kind and they work so hard. She had a great experience. The vaccines are free to everyone. She encouraged everyone to stick to the process and be persistent.

Dr. Stepenosky shared that we are resuming in person instruction next week, February 1, 2021. Governor Newsom is working on re-opening schools. Our website has been updated to reflect our safety plan. We need to apply for additional funding from the state. He shared that the numbers are slowly improving. We are trying to roll out vaccines to our employees. We have had over 50 staff vaccinated so far. We are working with Kaiser. Our target date will be February 12 and 13, 2021 for staff to be vaccinated. We had 823 staff members respond to our questionnaire. Out of those, 89% of our staff say they wanted the vaccine.

Ms. Kimmel shared the testing procedures. It is currently a drive through process. Meal service is still in effect.

Mr. Gleason shared that counseling is available and confidential at Community360.me.

2. Overview of Social Justice Three Year Plan was presented. Mr. Gleason shared the three year plan for Social Justice. This will help shape our LCAP. This will also ensure that we have clarity on our road map for the actions in the various committees. This plan has been through three different committees; Curriculum Council, Pathways, and Safety and Wellness. There are three different domains; Curriculum and Instruction, Professional Development, and Policy and Systems.

Ms. Cutbill thanked Mr. Gleason for his efforts. Ms. Stein stressed the importance of this work. She asked what were the next steps moving forward.

Mr. Gleason said that they will continue to work with the sites to bring this information forward. They want to form small work groups. They also want to bring this topic to the Freshman Seminar class. The Curriculum and Wellness Committees will look at the policies outlined in the first year.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

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Date Approved

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President, Board of Education