



BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
March 9, 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 March 9, 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 5:04 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 5:06 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session Adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER OPEN SESSION

President Cutbill reconvened the Board meeting at 6:17 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 (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 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 Agoura High School Student Board Member, Jake Goodman.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

President Cutbill reported that the Board of Education by a 5:0 unanimous vote took action to enter into a Release & Settlement Agreement with MUSE SCHOOL, CA. In exchange of a release of any and all claims against MUSE SCHOOL, CA, arising out of the Lease of Property, the District agreed to accept \$150,000, plus the \$87,411 security deposit.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Ms. Stein, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved the agenda of March 9, 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 Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of February 23, 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

Agoura High School Student Board Member, Jake Goodman, announced that sports is back on campus at both high schools. Calabasas High School is recognizing their female teachers during Women's History Month. At Agoura High School, ASB elections will take place over the next few weeks. He additionally thanked the Board and Cabinet for their hard work in returning students to on campus learning. The students know how hard they have been working for this to take place and their efforts are really appreciated.

Ms. Stein thanked Dr. Stepenosky and all staff that were involved in putting on the vaccine clinic this past Saturday. The clinic was in partnership with Albertson's and Sav-on and it was held on the campus of A.E. Wright. It was such a huge celebration. She stated that Dr. Stepenosky worked on this for months with many different medical institutions. He has also been a forward thinker with regard to the pandemic. He has continued to fight and advocate for this District. Ms. Stein visited Willow Elementary last week to witness the protocols. She was excited to see the kids thriving. She spoke to parents and students who were so excited to be back on campus. Ms. Stein shared The Foundation had a virtual Wine Tasting Fundraiser over the weekend. The fundraiser was a large and fun event.

Ms. Menges stated the vaccination clinic was phenomenal. It was very well coordinated. It was nice to see District employees re-connecting with people they haven't seen in a while. She thanked Dr. Stepenosky for his efforts providing that clinic to staff. Ms. Menges, along with Dr. Stepenosky and Ms. Cutbill, attended White Oak Elementary's return to campus for 4th and 5th grade students. They were able to tour some classrooms after school started. It was heartwarming to see the students back on campus. On March 4, 2021, Ms. Menges along with Ms. Kimmel attended a meeting with Ted Lieu about the American Rescue Plan. This meeting was very informative. Ms. Menges also participated in The Foundation's Wine Tasting event this weekend which was a lot of fun.

Dr. Vadehra thanked Dr. Stepenosky, Cabinet, teachers and staff for their efforts. Since becoming a Board Member, she has attended many Zoom meetings with other districts. She has seen how far ahead LVUSD is compared to other districts. She thanked the District for their efforts in helping to shape kids lives. Last week, Dr. Vadehra visited five elementary schools; Chaparral, Round Meadow, Bay Laurel, Sumac and Lupin Hill. The caring and compassion shown to the kids was amazing. Dr. Vadehra was on a call with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) talking about the re-opening of schools, sports and the social emotional health of the children. The AAP is having a Mental Health Awareness campaign to help kids that are struggling. This dates back even before the pandemic. They will be looking to the Biden Administration for assistance. The AAP is looking how to help kids transition back to in person learning as many may have anxiety or stress returning to school.

Mr. Lawrence also thanked staff for their efforts. He was so proud of the on site vaccination clinic. The clinic vaccinated 1,100 people which was amazing. He personally thanked Dr. Stepenosky for his vision to vaccinate the employees. Dr. Stepenosky worked extremely hard to accomplish this great feat. It was also amazing that the extra doses were able to go to family members.

Mr. Lawrence attended a finance meeting which showed that the finances are not great right now. Decreasing enrollment trends are hurting us. He also attended a marketing meeting where the District launched a new sub-committee to help increase enrollment. Mr. Lawrence attended the Calabasas Chamber of Commerce Education Committee meeting today where the efforts were identified to help increase enrollment. They are excited to help. Mr. Lawrence gave a shout out to The Foundation for their Wine Tasting event this past weekend. He really enjoyed the wines.

Ms. Cutbill was so excited about the vaccination clinic. She received an email from someone who was so thankful to receive the vaccine and how much this helped her whole family by her being vaccinated. Ms. Cutbill shared a story about her friend in Manhattan, Kansas, who saw a story in their paper about LVUSD. She was excited to see that our efforts are being recognized in other places than just here in California.

Dr. Stepenosky shared that Mr. Eric Anhalt, Lindero Canyon Middle School Principal, has advanced as a finalist to the Association of California Administrators (ASCA) Administrator of the Year. He congratulated him and stated that we would know the results by the end of March. Next week, on March 15, 2021, there is an exciting event, Coming out of the Covid Pandemic. This amazing panel will discuss this very important topic. You can register at Community360.me. Dr. Stepenosky also shared how happy he was to have the vaccination clinic this past Saturday. He shared that he wasn't ready for the joy and emotion of the day.

Dr. Finneran shared that when the Board and Cabinet collaborate, they often achieve great success. She shared her appreciation for the support of the Board. Dr. Finneran stated the District has been planning on the return of secondary students for months. The planning is coming to fruition. We have staff working hard to bring back secondary students. We are allowing them some extra time next week to prepare. Cabinet is meeting with Principals to plan for the return.

Ms. Kimmel shared her excitement for the vaccination clinic. It was so wonderful to see 1,100 employees including family get their vaccine. There were so many wonderful volunteers. Ms Kimmel thanked Keith Thomas, Plant Manager at Agoura High School, and Cody Carden, acting Plant manager at A.E. Wright, for their hard work on the set-up and tear down of the clinic. She shared a quick video of the day that Tina Johnson and her kids put together.

Mr. Scifres shared the Elementary Safety Compliance Team has done a fabulous job for the elementary schools. We will have a new Safety Compliance Team for the secondary schools. They will conduct walkthroughs to ensure that each campus is ready for the students to return to campus.

Mr. Klein brought attention to World Water Day, which will be March 22, 2021. This is an annual U.N. Day where they highlight the importance of fresh water. This event has been held since 1993. This day highlights the 2.2 billion people that live without access to fresh water. This year, the U.N. theme will focus on valuing water. To celebrate this, we are hosting an event held by Salva Dut from Africa. His story was shared in a book written by Linda Sue Park titled, A Long Walk to Water. He is excited to converse with our students. This event will be held live on March 22, 2021 at 9 a.m.

Ms. Amodio thanked our classified staff who played such a pivotal role in the success of the vaccination clinic; from custodians, plant managers, maintenance, office managers, health clerks and campus supervisors. Their efforts really made a difference in the lives of thousands in our community.

Ms. Kintz applauded our staff, students, families and elementary principals for the successful return of our 4th and 5th grade students last week. Ms. Kintz spoke to many students last week who shared their excitement about returning to school. She read an email from a student from Bay Laurel who thanked Dr. Duncan and Dr. Stepenosky for the return to campus. He was so grateful for their efforts.

Mr. Gleason shared the Early College Academy information night is next Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. You can RSVP at www.earlycollegeacademylv.org. We have over 700 families who have RSVP'd for the event. The students can receive college credit when they graduate high school.

Ms. Falk shared that the special education teachers are excited about the students returning to campus after a year of being at home. They understand that some students will have anxiety and apprehension about the return. They have been doing projects to get ready. We are looking forward to their return.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Ms. Cutbill read a submitted comment from Erica Justis. The comment mentioned the Brown Act and Ms. Cutbill stated the district has also received a separate formal Brown Act complaint which will be responded to formally within the required 30 days. Ms. Cutbill stated that the Board and the District support the Brown Act and take compliance with it very seriously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - A

On motion of Ms. Stein, 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 Vadehra

NAYES: None

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0

1. Approved Revised 2020-21 Board Meeting Dates as listed on the attached document.

2. Approved Warrants as listed on the attached document.
3. Approved Award of Bid-Pacific Floor Company, Inc. 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, Item 1.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

1. Approved Personnel Document dated March 9, 2021 as listed on the attached document.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of Second Interim Budget Report was presented. Ms. Kimmel stated that AB 1200 requires that school districts provide ongoing updates relative to their fiscal integrity. The Second Interim Report is prepared midyear, and provides the opportunity to adjust the budget for actual enrollment and staffing, along with known changes to any grant funding. Ms. Kimmel introduced Mr. Kristine Torres who will present the interim budget.

Ms. Torres stated the budget is a living document. The budget is at a specific point in time and assumes certain assumptions. It is important to remember that the budget is constantly changing. We know for certain the assumptions used in the budget will definitely change over the next few weeks and months. She shared the important changes with respect to the Ebs and Flows of opening on-campus learning, evolving information regarding public health guidelines, possible second stimulus package (HEROES ACT), and state budget with revised revenue projections and grants. The Governor's budget for the 2021-22 school year shows an increase in COLA of 3.84%, a 1.5% COLA increase on Special Ed, expand TK to all 4 year-olds, to pay down a portion of Feb-May 2021 deferrals in July 2021, and one-time restrictive grants. The budget did not include any Covid-19 liabilities, the ADA hold harmless for 2022-23. no additional CalSTRS and CalPERS employee rate reduction, and no more discretionary dollars versus restrictive programs. LVUSD received \$5.2m of Covid-19 assistance. Ms. Torres shared that in December, there was a second stimulus (CRRSA) of \$6.8b awarded to California, in which LVUSD will receive \$2.2m in 2021-22. The \$2.2m has certain allocations such as summer school, intervention, Technology and Curriculum, supporting student health needs including mental health, facility repairs and Covid related supplies. With the March return of students, we hired additional custodians, campus supervisors, additional office support, instructional assistants and some added bus routes for Special Ed. In the 2020-21 budget, our revenues decreased by \$700k and our expenses decreased by \$3.4m.

Ms. Kimmel shared a slide showing the District's declining enrollment. The hold harmless ADA allows us to use our 2019-20 ADA for both 2020-21 and 2021-22 years. Overall, our revised deficit this year will be \$371k.

Ms. Torres shared information about the state re-opening grant, Assembly Bill 86 that awarded \$2b to school districts for in-person support. LVUSD will receive \$3m. The funds will be received in May and August 2021. In order to receive that money, in-person instruction must start before April 1, 2021. The allowable uses include Covid testing, salaries for in-person staff, social and mental health support, cleaning, disinfection, PPE and site upgrades for ventilation, health and safety. The other part of Assembly Bill 86 awarded \$4.6b to school districts for instructional support. LVUSD will receive \$6.6m. The spending must include 85% on in-person services. Of that 85%, 10% must be on paraprofessionals. The expenses are allowed through August 2022. There is also a Federal Grant called the American Rescue Plan which will potentially award \$6.2m to LVUSD. The deadline for this spending would be September 2023. The District must spend 20% on high risk students. Ms. Torres then asked the Board to approve this interim budget.

On Motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Stein, the Board of Education approved Second Interim Budget Report.

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 thanked Ms. Kintz and the entire Elementary Principal's team for their hard work in bringing back the 4th and 5th grade students successfully. He stressed for everyone to continue to be kind. LVUSD now has 3,600 students on campus with zero transmission which means some students have come down with Covid-19, however, they have not contracted it on campus. Dr. Stepenosky encouraged no travel and no gatherings. There is an out of state travel ban where if you travel out of state, you need to quarantine for 10 days. We are still in the purple tier and expected to be in the red tier by March 17, 2021.

Ms. Kimmel shared that we have moved to on site Covid-19 testing. Every school site can test. The athletes are tested every week. Last week, Melissa Foster, our District Nurse, tested our athletes.

Dr. Stepenosky shared the excitement about the vaccination clinic this past Saturday. We administered 1,100 doses. He shared a slide with Keith Thomas, Plant Manager at Agoura High School, and Cody Carden, acting Plant Manager at A.E. Wright Middle

School. They did a fabulous job setting up and tearing down the clinic. We had 35 LVUSD staff members and 22 Sav-on members administering shots. We had a coffee truck, provided by the PFC at A.E. Wright, water and heart shaped pretzels. It was an amazing day. This past Saturday, the country administered 3 million shots that day which is the most the country has done in one single day. The next dose will be April 3, 2021. Dr. Stepenosky shared the names of the decision makers on the opening of schools; the County of Los Angeles Public Health, California Department of Public Health, and Governor of California. LVUSD brought back Special Need students on October 5, 2020, TK-2 on November 9, 2020, 3rd grade on December 7, 2020, 4th and 5th grade on March 1, 2021, and 6th-12th grade will attend on March 22, 2021. Today the case rate dropped to 5.2 per 100,000. The positivity test rate is 3.0. The infection rate is .88. Covidact.org is the website for daily updates.

Dr. Finneran shared information about the secondary schedule. Staff reviewed various models over the past several months. The District must follow the L.A. County and CDPH guidelines. The current schedule maximizes safety and a blend student on-campus time and virtual instruction while allowing for students to remain virtual if families choose. The entire school population has been divided into three groups that attend class in-person, on a rotating basis, in the morning. Virtual instruction, for those who do not attend in-person, whether by choice, or by virtue of the rotating in-person schedule, occurs in the afternoons. While students' daily routines will change, their classes and teachers will not change.

Student Board Member, Jake Goodman, questioned why there are 85 minutes for the in-person students and only 70 minutes for the virtual students? Dr. Finneran shared that virtual instruction varies from in-person instruction. The virtual teaching doesn't allow for longer periods because of the nature of the teaching.

Ms. Darci Miller, middle school teacher, shared that while on campus, there are other procedures that take longer such as washing hands, cleaning desks, etc.

Student Board Member, Jake Goodman, questioned how the remaining material will be covered with shortened class times? Dr. Finneran shared that the teachers will deliver as much instruction as possible to cover the material. Teachers might require students to attend both in-person and virtual sessions. AP courses might need additional teaching.

Ms. Stein shared that there are too many students that chose in-person learning for two cohorts. That is why three cohorts were necessary. With two cohorts the students can attend in-person 2-3 days a week, but with three cohorts, the students will attend only 1-2 days a week.

Mr. Gleason clarified that for secondary students, they have 6 classes. The district examined every class and all student's schedules to ensure the cohorts met the county guidelines. Ms. Stein shared how powerful the statement is that the Ed Services department reviewed each and every student's schedule to maximize the return to campus schedule.

Ms. Stein asked about the cleaning? Ms. Kimmel stated that deep cleaning will exist every evening. During the day, there will be two different colored desks. First period will sit in the desks with blue tape and second period will sit in the desks with orange tape.

Mr. Lawrence questioned the two cohort versus the three cohort model. Dr. Finneran stated that the principals had to look at every class. While doing that, the two cohort model didn't work. There were too many students per class.

Mr. Gleason stated that no schedule is perfect. This was the best schedule for our students. Dr. Stepenosky stated that Conejo Valley was able to do two cohorts because they changed their whole master schedule and re-balanced every class. They returned their students back in September. At this point, it is not favorable for our students to change their classes. This was the most instruction we could achieve with the guidelines we must follow. This schedule also allows for extra instructional minutes if students attend in-person and virtual.

Mr. Hochhaus stated that this is huge for our students. We are bringing back our students. We must consider safety first. We need to look at the whole picture. This is the best and safest model for our students.

Ms. Cutbill shared that we should not diminish the virtual instruction. Our teachers have worked so hard to maximize their virtual instruction.

Ms. Falk stated special ed teachers will be teaching both in the morning and afternoon. In our traditional schedule, students were receiving 250 minutes of instruction a week. With this new model, there is a chance to teach more than the 250 minutes that was taught before. That is important to keep in mind. Students being taught in the morning and afternoon will receive more instruction time than in a traditional schedule.

Dr. Finneran shared a slide that showed the results of the survey. It was found that around 10-13% of middle school parents chose to stay virtual and around 25% of high school parents chose to stay virtual. The survey went to in-person families only, not the students who are in the Virtual Academy. The survey was returned by 75-80% of the parents.

Mr. Gleason shared that we have 2,300 students in the Virtual Academy. We created the master schedule for this school within three weeks. The VA schedule had some challenges with certain subjects such as music and the IB program. The VA schedule mirrors the on campus schedule. This has been fine as everyone has been virtual. Our Virtual Academy still has to

mirror the on campus schedule so these students can attend their special classes. The VA students will attend morning classes and then have afternoon support by their teachers.

Mr. Scifres shared information about the safety teams. Before our 4th and 5th grade students returned to campus, the Elementary Safety Compliance Team completed walkthroughs to ensure that the classrooms followed the safety protocols. The Secondary Safety Compliance Team will meet this Friday and will complete their walkthroughs on March 18, 2021.

Dr. Finneran shared there will be a video for families to watch before returning to campus. Sports are back on campus now which is very exciting.

Dr. Stepenosky stated that the county requires the high contact sports to be tested once a week. That includes Water Polo and Football.

Mr. Scifres shared that outdoor sports were allowed to return as of 2/26/21. The AHS Chargers are playing this Saturday night. It is the LA Times Game of the Week. Only immediate household members can attend the games. We are waiting on clarification for indoor sports; Volleyball, Basketball, Wrestling and Cheer.

Dr. Finneran shared that there are outdoor activities for 6th-12th grade students after school.

Mr. Gleason shared information about the Las Virgenes Independent School which will be launched in Fall 2021. This includes alternative and flexible learning with instruction and built in enrichment and labs. This supports students in many different contexts. For more information, go to www.LVUSDIS.org. We are offering counseling, tutoring and activities. Go to Community360.me. We are so thankful for the high school students offering their time to help other students.

Dr. Finneran shared the community events coming soon; Coming out of the Covid Pandemic on March 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., Equity Talks on March 26, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., and Julie Lythcott-Haims on May 3, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Register for all events at Community360.me/events.

Dr. Stepenosky thanked everyone for their efforts.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Date Approved

President, Board of Education