



BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
March 23, 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 23, 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 4:10 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 4:11 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session Adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER OPEN SESSION

President Cutbill reconvened the Board meeting at 5:02 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 Student Board Member, Noah Murray.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

President Cutbill reported that the Board of Education in a vote of 5:0, voted to affirm the Level II Complaint decision issued by the Superintendent without a hearing.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Ms. Stein, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved the agenda of March 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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Ms. Stein, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved the Regular Board Meeting Minutes 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

STAFF/BOARD COMMUNICATION

Calabasas High School Student Board Member, Noah Murray, shared that CHS had their Homecoming Football game this past weekend. This week they are having their first in-person Spirit Week and their first live video pep rally. At Agoura High School, they are having a Female Empowerment Art Competition. Both high schools decorated their schools for the return of students and both schools had two great first days of in-person learning.

Ms. Stein shared that she had the best day last week when Ms. Fenton, who is a VA Kindergarten teacher at Willow, invited her to attend a student's presentation about Oceans. This young student did a great job presenting. Ms. Stein was so impressed because this is a Kindergarten student. She commended the teacher and the student. She also shared information about the Virtual Greater Conejo Valley Student Award Juried Art Show put on by the Westlake Village Art Guild and Agoura Hills Council Cultural Arts Council. They do this every year. They take art work submissions from local high schools and display their work. The gallery will go live on March 26, 2021. For more information, go to www.agourahillsartshow.com. Ms. Stein shared that we have both AHS and CHS student art work in this gallery. This is a juried art show so there are prizes.

Ms. Menges thanked all LVUSD employees for their hard work during this pandemic. The Board and District worked very hard behind the scenes to achieve getting students back on campus. They reached out to other districts for advice from their openings and planned accordingly. We want to keep our families safe. She said she was so proud of the District and Board for their hard work on this great accomplishment.

Dr. Vadehra shared this is the first Board meeting of the spring. The vaccines are being distributed more. The numbers are going down. Things are looking very good right now. There is a lot of positivity. Last week, we had our panel on Coming Out of the Pandemic which was wonderful. She was so happy to be a part of it. She visited Mariposa, Willow and White Oak last week. This week she will visit Yerba Buena. This will wrap up her visits to all the elementary schools. She still has middle schools left to visit. She has enjoyed the enthusiasm of the schools from the moment the kids come on campus until they leave for the day. She has loved visiting these schools. The high school students are receiving their college acceptance letters. This is a very exciting time.

Mr. Lawrence thanked the City of Calabasas and the Chamber Of Commerce for their joint meeting last week. They hosted their annual fundraiser for scholarships for our students. It was fantastic. They had a Trivia Night. It was well attended. He also thanked The Foundation. Mr. Lawrence along with Ms. Menges met with them last week. They are planning for the long haul on how to support the District. He thanked the volunteers from The Foundation.

Ms. Cutbill shared she enjoyed participating in last week's panel, Coming Out of the Pandemic. She mentioned that her closing advice that night was – in emails or social media, to talk to people as though they are standing in your dining room – when people communicate through anger it is hard to help them and find out how best to help them. At one point, she thought we would not be able to reopen our secondary schools this year and is proud of how we have pivoted with the pandemic. She is very proud of how the district has worked hard and hopes that the focus in education shifts from the current emphasis on quantity/focus on minutes to quality and how best to meet student needs. Our teachers have done an amazing job with distance learning and reinventing what they are doing for students. Ms. Cutbill thanked the community, staff, and students for their patience.

Dr. Stepenosky shared the same sentiments of Ms. Cutbill. He shared that he is finishing Julie Lythcott-Haims book. Ms. Haims states that everyone has two super powers; kindness and gratitude. We can choose to use those at any time. We opened up our high schools before LAUSD even opened their elementary schools. Dr. Stepenosky is excited where we are. It is not perfect, but we have made great progress. He thanked the Board, Cabinet and all staff and shared that he is grateful to have them on his team. He shared a slide of Calabasas High School on the first day of in-person instruction. The staff and students showed lots of excitement. He shared Ms. Julie Birkett won Teacher of the Year from the YMCA. She teaches 4th grade at Sumac. She has been teaching in LVUSD for 20 years. A.C. Stelle Middle School was rewarded as a California Distinguished School this year. We are thrilled to celebrate with A.C. Stelle.

Dr. Finneran shared how grateful she was for Ms. Cutbill's words. She shared her excitement about secondary schools returning. She thanked the staff and leadership team for their work on reopening. She shared that the money we receive from the State and Government will be spent wisely. We will meet and make sure we expend those dollars appropriately.

Ms. Kimmel echoed gratitude and the words by Ms. Cutbill. She was on campus Monday. It was exciting to see the students return to campus. She shared that we are in a fortunate situation. We will receive around \$16.5m total from both the State and Government. We need to make sure we spend wisely to help our students. There are 4 different grants which run over a three year period. We want to put together a great plan to be impactful for our students.

Mr. Scifres shared that we had our Safety Compliance Team prepare for the return of our secondary campuses. There was a walkthrough at each site with the compliance team and the site administrators. He thanked the team for a successful reopening.

Mr. Gleason enjoyed the panel last week, Coming Out of the Pandemic. He thanked our panelists. We also had our Early College Academy presentation last week. There were 500 families that participated. It was a great presentation. It is online if anyone missed it and wants to view.

Mr. Klein shared in the excitement of the return of students. He has been at the middle schools helping them with their thermal cameras reading temperatures. It was great to see the excitement of the students and staff. This week marks our 8th week of LV Reads; the virtual author series. These events were fabulous. We had 16 visits over the 8-week period for our elementary students. Ms. Tina Johnson facilitated this. She did a great job. Mr. Klein stated that he is working on our discounted internet access for the future. We will have 10 times increased speed at a reduced cost of about \$900 per site. This will bring faster internet to each site to provide great access for our staff and students.

Ms. Falk shared she was on the campus of Calabasas High School Monday when the students returned. Ms. Exner assigned her to parking. She had the unique access to see parents and students when they arrived at school. She also welcomed staff as they drove up, including her husband who had a huge smile as he arrived. She visited some special education classrooms while she was there. She was excited to see the enthusiasm of the students. Most of the sentiments from the students were how much they missed being on campus and how much more they will learn in person. This was very heartwarming to see them back on campus. She was excited and privileged to be a part of that.

Ms. Kintz thanked the Board of Education and Curriculum Council for their adoption of the Social Justice standards. The next step created a Supplemental Materials Adoption Committee for Tk-12 grade. The committee was comprised of existing Curriculum Council members that chose to be on the committee and teachers from the elementary, middle and high schools. The materials will comprise the four domains; identity, diversity, justice and action. The books will be housed in the central site libraries and will be available for teacher read alouds, circle sessions and student private reading.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

President Cutbill read a comment from Ian Mercer.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - A

On motion of Ms. Menges, seconded by Ms. Stein, the Board of Education approved Consent Agenda A, Items 1-7.

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 Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaint as listed on the attached document.
2. Approved Acceptance of Gifts as listed on the attached document.
3. Approved Disposal of Surplus Property as listed on the attached document.
4. Approved Purchase Orders as listed on the attached document.
5. Approved Measure E Oversight Committee Appointments as listed on the attached document.
6. Approval of Award of Bid - JAM Corporation as listed on the attached document.
7. Approval of Award of Bid - Midstate Sheet Metal as listed on the attached document.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - B

On motion of Ms. Stein, seconded by Ms. Menges, 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 23, 2021 as listed on the attached document.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of Public Hearing: The Las Virgenes Unified School District and the Las Virgenes Educators' Association's Joint Initial Re-openers for the LVUSD/LVEA Contract of Agreement was presented. Mr. Scifres shared that it is time to open the reopener discussions between LVEA and the District. The reopener allows for public comment. This year, the focus will be on Article 6, which deals with employee hours, Article 7, which deals with employee leaves, Article 13, which deals with salaries and benefits, and Article 21, which deals with site based decision-making.

On Motion of Ms. Stein, seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the Board of Education opened the Public Hearing: The Las Virgenes Unified School District and the Las Virgenes Educators' Association's Joint Initial Re-openers for the LVUSD/LVEA Contract of Agreement.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

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

NAYES: None

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0

On Motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education closed the Public Hearing: The Las Virgenes Unified School District and the Las Virgenes Educators' Association's Joint Initial Re-openers for the LVUSD/LVEA Contract of Agreement.

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. Approval of Presentation of Joint Initial Reopeners for the Certificated Contract by LVUSD and LVEA was presented. Mr. Scifres thanked the LVEA team for their partnership and collaboration with the District. He additionally thanked the administrators and teachers.

On Motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved Presentation of Joint Initial Reopeners for the Certificated Contract by LVUSD and LVEA.

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 the excitement to have our students back on campus. He stated that we can't share enough gratitude and appreciation for our staff, students and parents. He asked everyone to spread kindness. We now have 8,200 (TK-12 grade) students on our campuses. There have been 91 days of instruction with zero transmission on campus. There are three sports seasons going on at the same time. Our high impact sports have weekly testing. He asked families not to travel during Spring Break. If you travel out of state, you need to quarantine at home for 10 days, no exceptions. Dr. Stepenosky stated that over 700 employees were vaccinated during our clinic in March. The second dose will be on April 3, 2021. He commended Ms. Kimmel and her team for the success of the clinic. There were a total of 1,100 vaccines administered that day; not one shot was wasted. The agencies involved in the decisions are County of L.A. Public Health, California Department of Public Health, and the Governor of the State of California. Dr. Stepenosky shared the success of LVUSD bringing students back by showing the dates that each group returned to campus; Special Need students returned on October 5, 2020, TK-2 returned November 9, 2020, 3rd grade returned on December 7, 2020, 4th-5th grade returned March 1, 2021, and 6th-12th grade returned March 22, 2021. He was so proud that we brought back all of our students this year. Case rate is now 3.7 per 100,000 as of today. Positivity rate is now below 2.0. Infection rate is .67. The numbers are great. L.A. County has vaccinated 24% of the population with at least one dose. New CDPH guidelines are allowing 3 feet separation, cheer and dance, and band and choir.

Ms. Kimmel reminded everyone about the grab-n-go meals. Students on campus can grab a meal when they leave school. Distance Learners can go to any secondary campus to pick up a meal. LVUSD has a special grant that allows for us to provide meals.

Mr. Gleason shared there are activities available at Community360.me. Our high school students have offered to teach younger students. There is also tutoring available at Community360.me. We have two events coming up; Equity Talks on April 26, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. and Julie Lythcott-Haims will speak on May 3, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. about her new book, Your Turn to Be an Adult.

2. Community College Access Pathways Agreement with Los Angeles Community College District was presented. Mr. Gleason shared that LVUSD has a partnership with Moorpark Community College. We now have our Early College Academy range from 6th-12th grade students. The agreement needs to be signed again. This will be brought to the Board in April for formal approval. The agreement will include stipulations that only LVUSD students will be in the classes and that the professors come to our schools. The contract will be the same as we had previously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Date Approved

President, Board of Education