

LAS VIRGENES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**LAS VIRGENES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM COUNCIL MEETING
October 12, 2022**

Present: Sophie Bassari, Ashanti Blaize, Chad Bloom, Kirby Brock, Amy Strachman Borsell, Adam Corriea, Jana Davenport, Carina Diana, Dana Dickson, Marlene Didierjean, Diane Ensey, Dr. Clara Finneran, Lauren Freedman, Kelli Garcia, Sherri Given, Christine Heredia, Tina Johnson, Kevin Kane, Thomas Liu, Krista Lucas, Mason Markell, Linda Menges, Ann Murray, Kim Patterson, Justin Pistotnik, Madhuri Raum, Emma Richardson, Emily Ritchey, Sandra Ritvo, Dr. Michael Roberts, Michael Robkin, Amy Rosen, Kamran Salem, Allison Stein, Lesli Stein, Michael Yeung

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm by Dr. Finneran.

NOTE: Minutes are not required for committee meetings per the Brown Act. This has been confirmed with legal counsel. In an effort to be transparent LVUSD goes above and beyond the legal requirements by providing minutes.

Bylaws and Role of Curriculum Council Member Review

Dr. Finneran gave a brief overview of the role of the Curriculum Council. She stated that the role of the Curriculum Council is to act as an advisory group on curriculum matters for the school Board of Education and administration of the Las Virgenes Unified School District. Council members discuss and provide input regarding curriculum matters and make recommendations to the Board regarding existing curriculum, proposed curriculum, and pilot programs.

UTK Implementation and Curriculum Pilot Update

Staff provided a summary of the multiple efforts which will need to be implemented as LVUSD rolls out UTK for all four-year-olds by 2025-26. During this school year, each LVUSD school has one class of TK students. Board of Education member Ms. Stein shared that the implementation requirement takes place over a few years, as directed by the state, because to add an entire grade takes time and thought around staffing, facilities, curriculum and more. Multiple

committees have been meeting regularly to address these issues within LVUSD. Dr. Finneran explained that having younger students on campus is exciting and is a shift for everyone, and she explained that all is moving forward smoothly. She said that staff are looking at facilities by site, and are preparing for additional TK students, reviewing the mandated requirements such as playground and restroom access. The District may have to move some classrooms, however, they'll do so with sensitivity and consideration for the impact to existing programs and facilities for all students.

Ms. Stein asked that some background information be provided to the Council on the *Creative Curriculum* and *Three Cheers for PreK* curriculum review and approval process. Ms. Davenport reported that sites had just finished their unboxing process and the remaining time will be utilized having students use the curricula, allowing teachers time to review them and to work with their assessment platforms for several more months. The committee hopes to have their recommendations brought to the Curriculum Council early in Spring, 2023. Council Member Bassari asked if the District will be taking data from this new grade level into our SPSA (School Plan for Student Achievement), and Dr. Finneran said it would.

Board of Education member Ms. Menges shared that the LVUSD credentialing body, CenterEdX, has been partnering with 17 other school Districts to provide the training for the teacher certification required for teachers to be able to teach UTK.

World Languages Materials Pilot Update

Ms. Patterson shared that high school Spanish teachers are piloting two new programs, Vista and Carnegie Learning, which are aligned to state standards. The next planning meeting is in early November to review the process and to begin evaluating staff and student experiences with the curricula. A review and recommendation will likely be brought back to the Curriculum Council in late spring.

Ms. Johnson added that our state board of education approved new curriculum for world languages in 2021, and the teachers are enjoying using the new materials so far. They will evaluate items such as program organization, assessment tools, and access. There are also auditory and verbal learning (listening and speaking) components. Both platforms are available to our teachers during the piloting period. Council Member Givens asked whether Lindero Canyon could get access to the online component of their curriculum for their dual enrollment program. Dr. Finneran said we could and asked Ms. Givens to reach out to Ms. Johnson, Ms. Patterson and herself to help facilitate this request.

Council Member Liu asked about the process and criteria being used. Dr. Finneran responded the most important criteria is ensuring that all of the standards are covered and the delivery mechanism and the activities that are connected to them are the most appropriate. The combination of student and teacher experience are reviewed carefully. Council Member Didierjean shared that when she piloted programs in the past, she incorporated student surveys to incorporate student voice on the functionality of both

systems. She said that these were very insightful.

Ms. Johnson shared that they are providing open access to the digital resources for both programs for the entire year to all teachers and textbook level access to certain lead teachers who've agreed to pilot specific material. This will enable universal familiarity and provide an expert lens for different parts of the curriculum, including the rubric, and ensure we have the accessibility features and the instructional planning and support.

Dr. Finneran introduced Ms. Patterson, our director of secondary education, Ms. Davenport, our director of elementary education, and Ms. Johnson, who handles District communications, is our district librarian, and technology expert.

Seal of Civic Engagement Update

Ms. Patterson thanked the Council and the Board members for the prior work done to put the Seal of Civic Engagement in place. Communication will be shared this week to our high school communities explaining how current seniors can earn this seal, which will support the value we place on our students being involved with and serving in our communities. There is an advisor for this program in place at both high schools. Information will be available on each school's website including current opportunities available for our students. There are two options for earning this seal:

1. A civic engagement project. Students would need to develop a proposal and submit it to their advisor with a timeline for completion. In future school years, this will need to be a minimum of a 60-hour time requirement. Current seniors will be required to provide a 20- hour minimum.
2. Student tutoring/mentoring
 - a. Students will be able to provide peer tutoring during support periods. They'll need to be pre-approved and exhibit strength within that specific subject area. They'll be provided support from their advisor and the content teacher on how to best support the students they are tutoring, and they will need to write a reflection.
 - b. Students can participate as a counselor in our outdoor education program.

Upon completion, students will earn a Seal of Civic Engagement on their diploma and also receive a special sash for graduation.

Dr. Finneran offered gratitude to the team of people who've worked to evolve our policies and practices to align to the state seal of civic engagement.

Student Board Member Richardson asked if the hours that current seniors had previously contributed when working toward a Golden State Seal Merit Diploma would be considered or recognized in any way. Ms. Patterson confirmed those students will be recognized.

Council Member Liu asked if only seniors would be eligible to earn the State Seal of Civic Engagement? Ms. Patterson shared that the projects can be started as early as sophomore year.

To earn the Seal, students must demonstrate an understanding of the California Constitution, that means completing US History and US Government/Econ. At both sites, the application process will occur during students' junior year.

Mr. Liu asked if the District had projections on the number of students that might be interested. Ms. Patterson responded that the District is hopeful the response will be robust as there are many pathways to embody this type of community service. There will also be a large number of students supporting our outdoor education program.

Council Member Mr. Correia asked if there was any communication to students about participating in the Sources of Strength program to earn the Seal? Ms. Patterson confirmed there would and this would fit into the 2nd option.

Ms. Menges thanked everyone for their work on the Seal and stressed that this is a state recognized seal and how excited the Board is for this opportunity for LVUSD students.

English Language Development Materials Update

Dr. Finneran provided an update to the committee. Last year the District began a process of looking more closely at how we are doing with our materials related to our multilingual students that are learning English. Our intervention/ELD (English Language Development) teachers piloted an effective program called *Lexia English*. This is a supplementary program which does not require approval through the Council, however, the District wanted to apprise the Council of this and let the committee know it went well. Both students and teachers had a good experience and the District has purchased licenses to utilize it as a supplementary material for our K-5 ELD students. Ms. Davenport added that the District is looking forward to the progress that students will be able to make around engaging in academic conversation content as the program promotes integration in speaking, listening and writing, into subject areas so students can be really successful.

Council Member Dickson asked if there might be plans to bring this up to the middle school level? Ms. Patterson shared that this program is not available at the secondary level. She shared that she met with the secondary ELD team the week prior, and they are considering if the supplementary supports already available, such as *Achieve 3000* and *Read 180*, are sufficient. Some teachers, including committee member Ms. Givens, will be offering to spend time with the other ELD teachers to examine *Achieve 3000*. Some time in the future, they will be coming back to the Council to share their progress.

Council Member Ms. Rosen introduced herself as a kindergarten teacher at Chaparral who uses and loves *Lexia*. She mentioned that it's a computer program, which can be limiting especially in relation to English Language learners, using language. She asked how this might be different from the other Lexia program they're already using? Ms. Davenport highlighted the ability of the adaptive elements of the program to target and adjust to student's needs. She agreed with Ms.

Rosen's point regarding the need for in person conversational skill development.

Staff Professional Development (PD) 2022-23

Dr. Finneran updated the committee on the support that the District is providing to our staff. We are continually striving to grow our practices aligned to our District goals which are supporting students academically, social emotionally and ensuring they are safe. She provided some examples of professional development offerings to both classified and certificated staff to the Committee. Dr. Finneran shared that Center EdX has created a micro credential program which is a way for staff to earn a certificate for being trained in a certain area.

Ms. Davenport added that training options are continuing to be added. The microcredentialing around SEL and professional development related to it, is very exciting. The District is implementing RULER in our classrooms. She encouraged all staff members to learn more about it and to encourage others to take this PD. The more we can support students in social emotional areas, the more academic progress they will be making in the classrooms. As principals speak with their site staff they are discussing new training opportunities to target and learn.

Dr. Finneran thanked the Committee and shared some images highlighting some of our schools and programs.

Other Business

Council Member Robkin asked for clarification on how meeting minutes are/have been approved and whether voting committee members have the opportunity to approve them? Dr. Finneran said she would investigate the requirements related to committee meeting minutes and report back to the Council.

Council Member Markell, science teacher at Calabasas High School, shared that there were not a lot of professional development opportunities for specialized secondary teachers. He completed an AmGen training with biotech equipment and as a result, is now able to bring his learning into his classroom. He was not able to receive District credit for this and feels it is an appropriate PD opportunity to be recognized. He asked if there were plans to bring in outside people to offer that for secondary teachers.

Ms. Patterson replied saying she would love Mr. Markell to offer a PD to train other teachers. She explained that we do have multiple partnerships, such as with several University of California (UC) centers and experts. She also said that there are more options being placed in our PD portal, such as some related to WASC goals for the high schools. She said that she would like to follow up with Mr. Markell to discuss offering more.

In closing, Ms. Menges thanked everyone for their time and apologized for her technical issues. Ms. Stein echoed Ms. Menges' sentiments thanking all.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.