

LAS VIRGENES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**LAS VIRGENES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING**

February 8, 2023

Present: Eric Anhalt, Amy Aviv, Sophie Basseri, Ashanti Blaize Hopkins, Chad Bloom, Amy Strachman Borsell, Kirby Brock, Colin Buchanan, Adam Corriea, Angela Cutbill, Jana Davenport, Carina Diana, Dana Dickson, Marlene Didierjean, Brian Edelman, Sheri Given, Tina Johnson, Thomas Liu, Liberty Logan, Kevin Kane, Dallas Lawrence (via teleconference), Krista Lucas, Mason Markell, Darci Miller, Ann Murray, Kim Patterson, Courtney Peoples, Shelly Pimstone, Justin Pistotnik, Madhuri Raum, Emma Richardson, Emily Ritchey, Sandra Ritvo, Dr. Michael Roberts, Michael Robkin, Pam Rudy, Kamran Salem, Vanessa Savich, Jenny Sobczyk, Allison Stein, Carrie Trupp, Michael Yeung

The meeting came to order at 4:00 pm.

Board Member Ms. Cutbill introduced herself to the committee and shared gratitude for the time, energy, and effort the committee members continue to contribute to our District by serving on the Curriculum Council.

Dr. Scifres introduced himself, thanked the Council as well, and presented an overview of the three agenda items which will be addressed in the remaining meetings of the year. These will evolve into course and/or curriculum proposals. He added that before these are brought to the Council for their approval, they've gone through an extensive vetting process with district staff and stakeholders.

TK-12 Math Update

Dr. Scifres shared an update on math materials. The last year the District adopted math materials was 2014. A lot has changed since then and new state frameworks are forthcoming. The District has formed two committees to inform the new math curriculum process: a TK-5 Math Committee and a 6-12 Math Committee. These committees will work through the areas of curriculum, assessments, professional development and course sequencing/development.

Ms. Davenport provided an update on the TK-5 Math Committee. Members are still being finalized to ensure a wide variety of representation across the district. The first TK-5 Math Committee meeting is scheduled for March 15th. The pilot process will be introduced to the team and they will dive into math standards and practices.

The past few months have been spent conducting an audit of our current math programs and practices. Great discussions have ensued with school site grade level lead teams and elementary summits around the following:

- What does math look like in our classrooms?
- What do our math assessments look like?
- What is our current level of facilitation addressing the math standards?
- Are we mapping the standards?
- Are we using math practices that we know solidify conceptual understanding of math?

Ms. Patterson provided a secondary update and explained that instructional materials adoptions are teacher driven processes which require a great deal of work for teachers in addition to the District's investment in providing the time for teachers to work together. She thanked the teachers participating in this work and shared an optimistic timeline for when the Council might anticipate materials coming forward for their approval. Course sequencing is being consolidated to provide clearer pathways in math progression. This will prompt new course recommendations, a recommendation potentially in spring for materials to pilot beginning in Fall 2023, and if the pilot process goes well, an instructional materials adoption recommendation may be presented to the Council in Spring 2024.

Principal Aviv from Calabasas High School and Dr. Roberts from A.E. Wright Middle School presented overviews of the work they've been engaging in with secondary staff. Principal Aviv shared details about the PD (professional development) which covers rigor, coherence and focus, and she shared a preview of possible new courses and updated course sequencing. Dr. Roberts introduced IABs (Interim Assessment Blocks) which are free standards-aligned assessments provided by CAASPP quarterly. The committees will also utilize EdReports, which is a website put together by educators and offers comprehensive information about instructional materials and their alignment to the standards and other indicators of quality in ELA, math and science. The Committees will only consider publishers whose curriculum and usability meets the expectations in EdReports.

Principal Aviv and Dr. Roberts will continue to lead three full days of PD with all of our secondary teachers to ascertain common understanding of the shifts in the anticipated frameworks, state standards and the expectations for a proposed curriculum adoption. "Math has not changed, but how we are expected to teach math has."

Ms. Patterson closed by offering that long after the curriculum has gone through this committee, the District will need to support teachers through implementation. Normally, there is a pilot year, materials are chosen, and then there is a two to three year implementation process for teachers to plan together, discuss results, fine tune, discuss scaffolding, and determine if any supplemental curriculum may be needed for specific subgroups of students.

A council member posed a question about the implementation of the state framework and whether or not adopting it could put a district (ours) at a disadvantage. Ms Patterson shared that the framework is expected in March. Ms. Aviv added that standards are not changing. What we

are teaching in which year is, thereby changing the recommendation of the flow. However, LVUSD as a district, will make a choice for what is best for our students and will be focusing on the pedagogical shifts and the opportunities these can open up for our students.

Another Council Member asked if there is a way a parent can be more involved in the up front process of the selection and provide feedback from a parent point of view? Ms. Patterson asked the council member to reach out to her to discuss.

Spanish Curriculum Pilot

A Spanish curriculum will likely be brought to the Council for review in March. The last adoption was in 2015. In 2019, the state updated standards and reviewed and approved instructional materials in 2021.

Ms. Tina Johnson shared that it has been a pleasant process working with our language teachers on this adoption. Eleven publishers were submitted to the State Board of Education for review under five different levels including alignment, program organization, adaptability, assessment, and teacher support. Three were selected by the state and out of those three, our teachers chose to look at two:

- Vista Publishing
- Carnegie Learning (a continuation of what had been adopted by LVUSD in 2015)

Dr. Scifres reported that the team met in spring of 2022, and launched a pilot for the 2022-23 school year. They will meet as a team on February 22nd to determine their recommendation to bring forth to the March Council meeting, for approval.

TK-5 DEI Texts

Ms. Davenport reported that the first DEI textbook adoption committee meeting was held in December to get to know each other and to review the DEI Standards, which incorporate four domains: Identity, Diversity, Justice and Actions, and include empathy, kindness and understanding of others, for grades TK-5. The group represented all the elementary schools and levels in the District. They convened to evaluate and select literature that would support our DEI students. This process mimics the process that our secondary schools went through last year in order to bring forth great literature for our students to engage with, whether this is in our libraries or in classrooms with our teachers.

Ms. Courtney Peoples expressed what a pleasure it had been to work with all the teachers. The recommended book lists came from the California Department of Education (CDE) and were cross referenced with the American Libraries Association (ALA) to narrow the list down. Currently, the group is looking at about 50 different texts broken down by grade level. Each grade level has books they are reviewing as a team. On March 8th, the committee will meet again to determine book selection, review scoring, and finalize which texts will be brought to the Curriculum Council in March.

A council member asked if there will be an audit of the books that are currently in our libraries to make sure they are culturally sensitive. Ms. Johnson encouraged parents and staff to bring any questionable books to her attention for review. She shared that we have completed a diversity audit of our catalog, but there could be titles that have slipped through the cracks.

A council member inquired about the origin of our DEI standards. These standards were both approved by the Curriculum Council and adopted by the Board of Education in February 2021, to provide a framework to facilitate discussions around identity, diversity, justice and actions.

Another Council member asked if the committee members could see the list prior to the next meeting. Dr. Scifres explained that any time information is being presented for the Council's approval, it will be sent with the agenda for the next meeting, so there will be time for review. Ms. Davenport added that a brief summary of each book on the list will be provided.

Dr. Scifres shared that the entire meeting in March will be spent on these two adoptions and committee members will be present to answer any questions.

Other Business

The March 29th meeting will be held in the Drama Room on the campus of AE Wright.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.