

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

February 16, 2021

Present: Jenny Angel, Emily Austin, Susana Baird, Melissa Brennan, Kirby Brock, Hazelle Cato, Marnie Davis, Karrie DeMarco, Dana Dickson, Sara Exner, Dr. Clara Finneran, Rochelle Gagliardi, Ryan Gleason, Nicole Goldstein, Jake Goodman, Ashley Goulet, Lisa Hatfield, Mary Hazlett, Christina Heredia, Craig Hochhaus, Tina Johnson, Paula Johnson, Laura Kintz, Kiyomi, Doug Kohno, Kowalski, Kelly Lampert, Thomas Liu, Noah Murray, Courtney Peoples, Nadia Rizk, Amy Rosen, Vanessa Savich, Austin Schwartz, Lesli Stein, Monette Thomas, Dr. Kate Vadehra, Adam Weinstein, Emily Wigger, Melanie Wright

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Mr. Gleason.

Mr. Gleason opened the meeting by thanking the committee members for their time and the LVUSD teachers on the Committee for all they do for students, every day.

Approval of Social Justice Standards and Next Steps

Mr. Gleason reiterated the importance of having district wide Social Justice Standards and how these will move the district and the community members it serves, forward. He walked the Committee through the pieces of the LVUSD Social Justice Three Year Plan that have already been addressed and shared that the large pieces of remaining work will hinge on the actions taking place during this meeting and the adoption of a set of district Social Justice Standards. The group was asked to talk through the standards to confirm they will thoroughly inform work in the classroom and the District process level work in the areas of curriculum and instruction. Many teachers, administrators and classified staff have gone through, or are going through, level two social justice training, and about 60 teachers and staff have signed up to begin a level three course. Over summer, LVUSD will offer a level four course, and those who complete level four can qualify as leaders for future professional development which will incorporate the broader concepts of social justice as well as the implementation using the standards and resources, the process for purchasing supplemental curriculum, informing professional development, and clarifying by grade level how to engage in this work incrementally, with a three to five year trajectory.

The proposed standards are adopted from *Teaching Tolerance*, which is now called *Learning for Justice*. They provide well vetted lessons that are not only aligned to these standards but also show the alignment to state standards. There are open source materials and recommended texts linked by grade, social justice domain, subject and topic.

Mr. Gleason had the committee break into rooms to engage in candid conversations to review them, to see how the resources are linked to the standards, what the group notices about the structure, benefits, connections, and what obstacles they see as well as what's possible as the next steps.

Mr. Gleason brought the group back to the meeting and introduced teachers Karrie DeMarco, Amy Rosen, Paula Johnson and Lisa Hatfield whom each eloquently and bravely shared their personal stories, how they see themselves using and implementing these standards in their classrooms, and their inherent hopes and fears about the facilitation of this work ahead.

Approval of the LVUSD Social Justice Standards

Motion to Approve: Kiyomi Kowalski

Second: Melissa Brennan

Passed Unanimously

Freshman Seminar Discussion

Due to time constraints, the Freshman Seminar Ethnic Studies update was tabled to the next meeting.

Board of Education Members Lesli Stein and Kate Vadehra both expressed their appreciation for the speakers, the committee members, and the importance and impact of the work being done by the Curriculum Council Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.