



LAS VIRGENES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCE COMMITTEE

April 23, 2021

Present: Angela Cutbill, Board Representative
Dallas Lawrence, Board Representative
Dan Stepenosky, Superintendent
Karen Kimmel, Assistant Superintendent, Business
Steve Scifres, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Clara Finneran, Assistant Superintendent, Education
Jim Klein, Chief Technology Officer
Kristine Torres, Director of Accounting
Ryan Gleason, Director of Education and Leadership
Angie Falk, Director of Pupil Services
Craig Hochhaus, LVEA President

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. via teleconference/video conference.

Strategic Planning, State and Federal Grants

Ms. Torres began by sharing information on one-time funds. Originally, one-time funds expected to provide \$5.4M to LVUSD. These would be provided by State SB 117, Cares Act (ESSER), Cares Act (GEER) and Cares Act (LLM). Planned uses for these funds were for PPE and Accelerated learning. Ms. Torres shared that there are new one-time grants which the district is expected to receive \$16.5M from. The district is expected to receive \$3.1M from AB 86 – In-person Instruction, \$6.6M from AB 86 - Expanded Learning, \$2.1M from CRRSA (ESSER II) and \$4.7M from the American Rescue Plan (ESSER III).

Ms. Torres explained the grants in further detail. AB 86/SB 86, the in-person learning grant which provides \$3.1M to LVUSD based on 2019-2020 attendance. Funds will be received in May and August 2021 and allows for expenses through August 31, 2022. A contingency of this grant is that districts must offer in-person instruction for all grade levels by April 1, 2021, a stipulation the district already met.

Allowable uses for these funds include:

- COVID Testing
- Salaries for in-person instructional staff
- Social and Mental Health Support
- Cleaning, disinfection and PPE
- Site upgrades for ventilation, health and safety

AB 86, the state expanded learning grant, requires an expenditure plan with parent and staff input that must be adopted at a public meeting by June 1, 2021. It requires 85% of the funds to be directed for in-person services. A minimum of 10% must be used to hire paraprofessionals. Funds will be received in May and August 2021 and expenses are allowed through August 31, 2022.

Allowable uses for these funds include:

- Supplemental instruction and support (summer school, extended instructional time, tutoring)
- Counseling
- Staff training on socio-emotional health and academic needs

Mr. Lawrence asked if the expanded learning grant is the biggest. Ms. Torres confirmed that it was at \$6.6M. Mr. Lawrence understands that the funds can be used to hire staff but asked if it can be used to compensate existing employees. Ms. Kimmel stated that it requires proof of doing more which Mr. Lawrence responded that the funds could be used for professional growth.

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) allocates \$6B in funds (ESSER II) to the State of California for education, with \$2.1M going to LVUSD.

Allowable uses for these funds include:

- Summer and Intervention Instruction
- Educational Technology and Curriculum
- Support for student health needs
- Facility repairs and COVID-related supplies

The American Rescue Plan (ESSER III) intends to speed up the economic and health recovery due to COVID. The grant allocates \$13.6B to the State of California and it is estimated that \$4.7M will go to LVUSD.

Allowable uses for these funds include:

- Same as ESSER I and ESSER II
- Public health protocols including reopening & operation of school facilities to maintain health and safety of students and staff.

Mr. Lawrence asked if all of the funds need to be spent in 2021-2022 and Ms. Kimmel replied that they have various deadlines:

- AB 86 – August 31, 2022
- ESSER II – September 30, 2023
- ESSER III – September 30, 2024

Mr. Gleason shared information pertaining to the Strategic Plan. He noted that the Pathways Committee, Curriculum Council, Safety and Planning Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee have all had input in this plan.

Current plans include:

- Targeted Class Size Reduction
- Expanded Counseling Support-Full Time at all elementary schools
- Beginning of Year “Boost Camp”
- Summer School Expansion
- Technology and Wireless upgrades
- Full-Time Intervention Teachers (K-12)
- Full-Day Library Support
- Elementary Art, Music, Theater, Dance Teachers

Mr. Gleason noted that the Boost Camp at the beginning of the year would involve adding three days to the academic year, something that would need to be negotiated. Mr. Gleason explained that this could involve rolling off professional development days. Mr. Hochhaus emphasized the need to make sure communication is clear to staff. Mr. Gleason agrees.

Ms. Falk spoke about a proposal for summer school expansion. She explained that the proposal is for a summer enrichment program that would address issues that were not provided last year due to the pandemic. Ms. Cutbill believes this would be wonderful.

Mr. Klein spoke about technology and wireless upgrades. Mr. Klein spoke of the need to update and improve internet speeds across the district. He spoke of upgrades to the infrastructure, boosting student laptop inventory, installing projector mounts in all K-2 classrooms and adding voice reinforcement noting that it has been found that students who hear better, comprehend better. Mr. Klein also spoke about teacher laptop upgrades.

Mr. Lawrence asked if the district should rethink the type of device that is being used and Mr. Klein feels it best to remain with laptops. Mr. Hochhaus asked what percentage of the funds would be used for technology and Ms. Kimmel stated that it could change, but the initial plan budgets approximately 20% of one-time funds in technology investments.

Mr. Gleason also spoke of a proposal for full-time intervention teachers as well as full-day library support. There would also be Art, Music, Theater, and Dance teachers at each elementary site.

Mr. Lawrence asked what full-time library support looked like and Mr. Gleason replied that currently it is in the form of the classified media coordinator. Mr. Klein commented that this role would now provide curriculum and tech support. Ms. Cutbill is thrilled at the prospect of Art, Music, Theater and Dance Teachers at each site stating that the district has not had all of these in the past 25 years. Mr. Lawrence commented that a benefit is that the PFC will no longer need to raise money for these positions. Dr. Stepenosky noted that there are other ways the PFC's can support the schools. Ms. Kimmel noted they could fund PE instruction and add campus supervision and classroom aides.

Ms. Kimmel also shared a draft for how the price of the proposals would be split between the grants.

Unemployment Rate for 2021/22

Ms. Torres shared a change to the unemployment rate for the 2021/22 school year. As of December 2020, there were three statewide programs for extending unemployment (from 26-99 weeks) and expanding unemployment benefits. Effective July 1, 2021, the CA Unemployment Insurance contribution rate will increase from .05% of total wages to 1.23% of total wages which impacts LVUSD's annual budget by \$900K.

Mr. Lawrence asked if all rates are going up or just LVUSD. Ms. Torres stated that rates are increasing statewide.

Multi-Use Projection

Ms. Torres shared multi-year projections including one-time revenue. She shared that in the 22/23 year, the LCFF will realize the reduced enrollment over the past few years. Ms. Torres stated that the grants and unemployment increase have been folded in to the budget. She also noted that CalSTRS/ CalPERS will increase in June.

Dr. Scifres asked what the LCFF for 22/23 is based off of and Ms. Kimmel replied that it is based on the students we have now with another 1.1% loss projected. Ms. Kimmel also noted that every student brought back will add \$10K to the LCFF. Mr. Lawrence asked when the district will have a sense of what parents will decide to do pertaining to enrollment for the fall. Ms. Kimmel shared that they have been sending out communication and Mr. Gleason stated that once the Strategic Plan is approved, it will be pushed out to all families. Mr. Hochhaus added the LVEA will be putting an ad in the ACORN to advertise the district.

Proposed new Fund/Commitments

Ms. Torres shared information about a new fund commitment – Other Post Employment Benefit Liability or (OPEB). This applies to employers that provide other retiree benefits. An actuary calculates Total OPEB Liability and Annual Required Contribution. Total liability equals project future benefit payments, discounted to present value. Valuation will be required annually. Ms. Torres also noted that LVUSD’s total OPEB Liability as of 6/20/20 is \$32.9M.

Ms. Torres shared options for recognizing the OPEB Liability:

- Option 1: The Board hereby commits a portion of the district’s ending fund balance towards the OPEB liability. The intent is to set aside a minimum of 10% of the actuarial determined valuation, based on available funds.
- Option 2: The Board hereby opens Fund 71, Retiree Benefit Fund, to set aside funds for the OPEB liability. The intent is to set aside of minimum of 10% of the actuarial determined evaluation, based on available funds.

Ms. Cutbill would like further information before making a decision. Ms. Torres noted that our goal would be to have this in place by the end of the 21/22 fiscal year.

Ms. Torres shared information on Fund 08 – ASB, recommended to be established due to GASB 84. Ms. Torres stated that ASB financial information must be reported either in the general fund or Fund 08, Student Activity Revenue Fund. The committee recommended opening Fund 08 for annual reporting.

Property Update – 4345 Las Virgenes Road

Ms. Kimmel shared an update on the property at 4345 Las Virgenes Road. Negotiations are currently ongoing with a potential new tenant and are moving in the right direction. Hopefully, an agreement can be reached and finalized soon and will then be brought to the Board of Education for approval.

Lastly, Ms. Kimmel shared a timeline of upcoming events:

- May 2021 – Governor announces 21-22 Budget
- June 8, 2021 – Public Hearing – 21/22 Budget
- June 22, 2021 – Adoption – 21/22 Budget
- June 30, 2021 – Governor’s deadline – signed budget
- August 10, 2021 – 45 Day Budget Revision

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.