

LAS VIRGENES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

ANGELA CUTBILL

DALLAS LAWRENCE

LINDA MENGES

LESLI STEIN

KATE VADEHRA, M.D.

DANIEL STEPENOSKY, Ed.D.  
SUPERINTENDENT

## THE FOUNDATION COMMITTEE MEETING

May 20, 2021

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**Present:** Dallas Lawrence, Board Representative  
Linda Menges, Board Representative  
Daniel Stepenosky, Ed.D., Superintendent  
Karen Kimmel, Assistant Superintendent of Business  
Jim Klein - Chief Technology Officer  
Jeannie Abraham, The Foundation President  
Mark Madnick, The Foundation Vice President  
Allison Geld, The Foundation Administrator

**Absent:** None

The Foundation President Jeannie Abraham called the video-conference meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Ms. Abraham discussed fundraising efforts for the 2021/22 school year and asked for the committee's feedback and suggestions. She stated that The Foundation Board meeting will be held on Friday, May 21, at which time she would like to share the feedback with their Board Members.

Mark Madnick commented on the limitations to fundraising efforts during the 2020/21 school year due to the pandemic, but shared that their Save Our Schools campaign was still successful in light of the restrictions. He noted that things will be much different in the coming school year with COVID restrictions being lifted and stated that they would like to begin discussions with the District early to determine funding priorities for the coming years.

Karen Kimmel asked if the The Foundation has decided upon the timing and funding sources for their contribution to the District. Mr. Madnick stated that they have discussed various options and would like to make their contribution before the end of the year. He noted that their fiscal year coincides with the standard calendar year.

The committee discussed various funding sources and programs which The Foundation could work to support in the coming years that would provide the greatest benefit to all students..

Dallas Lawrence commented on one-time funds received from the state and federal government which are scheduled to phase out in the next 2-3 years. He stated that in light of these unprecedented funds, The Foundation should take the opportunity to focus on planning for the long term. He said he hopes more one-time funds are available in three years, but if not, we need to plan and be prepared to continue funding any programs/items that may be funded with these current funds. He suggested that The Foundation investigate further the option of engaging someone to focus on fundraising efforts.

Linda Menges commented on current fundraising efforts and the amount of time needed to initiate new practices or procedures. She highlighted the importance of proper communications and collaboration with all volunteers and suggested that The Foundation should have a parent volunteer, a liaison from each parent group, to work hand in hand to communicate more effectively and ensure events do not overlap.

Mr. Madnick shared that PFA/C/PTSA presidents are welcome to attend any The Foundation Board meetings. He noted that Board Member Amanda Poulos will be in charge of outreach to the parent groups.

Ms Abraham asked for clarification regarding needs the District can foresee that The Foundation can assist with in order to start the school year. She shared that some parents have expressed interest in additional funding towards academic needs, while others have expressed interest in funding towards additional counseling support. She shared that The Foundation tries to focus on areas that would benefit all district school sites.

Dr. Stepenosky shared district-wide options that would provide the greatest benefit to the students and school sites. The committee discussed various options such as class size reduction, supplies and equipment for art or music classes.

Mr. Lawrence commented on the reduced funds raised during the past pandemic year and suggested that The Foundation focus on their future growth and the prospect of hiring a Director of Endowment who is currently working for 2-3 other agencies in other areas of the state.

Mr. Madnick stated that they will discuss with their Board areas of focus for the future and sustainability of district programs. He summarized that any changes that are made will be done appropriately and with proper communication.

Ms. Abraham commented on some of the 2020/21 fundraising events and shared that The Stand Fundraiser raised \$300, the Photo Fundraiser raised more than \$3,000 after all expenses, and the Shop Till You Drop Westfield event only generated \$250, which was drastically reduced due to the COVID restrictions.

Mr. Madnick thanked the District for their help and support in coordinating the recent panel discussion. He shared that the panelists were professional, positive, and great to work with. Ms. Abraham added that the feedback received regarding the panel discussion has been excellent and noted that they will be posting video excerpts from the panel discussion on their website to continue to share the valuable information provided.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm