



Las Virgenes Unified School District

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<http://lvusd.org>

THE FOUNDATION COMMITTEE MEETING

September 11, 2020

Present: Angela Cutbill, Board Representative
Mathy Wasserman, Board Representative
Daniel Stepenosky, Superintendent
Karen Kimmel, Assistant Superintendent - Business
Ryan Gleason, Director of Education & Leadership
Laura Kintz, Director of Elementary Education
Jeannie Abraham, The Foundation President
Mark Madnick, The Foundation Vice President
Craig Berman, The Foundation Secretary
Daniel Schwartz, The Foundation Treasurer
Felice Becker, The Foundation Board Member
Allison Geld, The Foundation Administrator

Absent: None

The video-conference meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m.

The Foundation President Jeannie Abraham announced that the 2020 Annual Appeal has been doing very well. She thanked Felise Becker for her hard work on the Appeal which led to the success of the program in raising \$75,000 to date. She expressed her sincere appreciation to everyone who contributed and added how wonderful it is to be able to provide funds to the District during a time when there is so much need. Ms. Abraham also thanked Mr. Ryan Gleason for his email reminder which prompted \$1,300 in mask sales.

Ms. Abraham asked what specific needs the District may have so that the future fundraising efforts of The Foundation can be aligned with district needs. The committee discussed current and future needs/goals of the District. Mark Madnick commented on communications and expressed that The Foundation would like to make a donation to the District soon, pending their Board approval. He also stated that once approved, the community should be notified what program the funds will support.

Discussion followed regarding effectiveness of communications, messaging, and the importance to inform the community which programs their donations will support. Dr. Stepenosky shared district priorities for the various educational levels and areas that could benefit from support of

The Foundation. The committee reviewed district goals, sponsorship events, community partners, and associated city constraints. Ms. Becker expressed that The Foundation hopes to fill in the gaps that the schools cannot reach. She added that due to the current crisis, a potential earning of \$4 million from fundraising has been lost, therefore it is important for everyone to work together and create synergy to support all the schools.

Angela Cutbill and Mathy Wasserman commented on past fundraising efforts of The Foundation and offered suggestions for future events and potential partnerships in the business community.

Ryan Gleason discussed various counseling supports provided by the District, even in light of complex budget times. He elaborated upon staffing, programs, and future events which The Foundation could consider sponsoring or contributing towards.

Ms. Abraham and Mr. Madnick discussed an initial contribution to the District to provide immediate help and support in the amount of \$75,000, pending their Board approval. They also noted that they would like to share with donors what their donations will fund. The committee discussed potential sources for The Foundation's contribution which would provide the most support to the most important areas.

Ms. Cutbill and Ms. Wasserman shared suggestions which would provide support to the schools and alleviate pressure on PFA/C/PTSAs and their communities in a manner that would be the most beneficial for students - and could possibly continue to grow. Ms. Kimmel commented on the mental and physical health of students and uniformity across the District. Ms. Kintz shared information regarding centralized specialist programs such as Art, Music, and PE.

Discussion followed regarding the ability to provide PE for all levels, including associated scheduling, costs, hours, and staffing requirements. Ms. Kintz explained that a potential PE teacher has already been identified and added that social/emotional issues can also be addressed as well as goal setting.

Dr. Stepenosky provided a brief update regarding waivers (TK-2) and reopening of schools for students with special needs on October 5.

The committee reviewed future areas of need and options for The Foundation to support. Ms. Kimmel suggested that The Foundation should prioritize needs and suggest options they would like to fund which the Board of Education and Cabinet members could then review to determine which would be the most important and beneficial for students. Dr. Stepenosky and Ms. Kimmel summarized district expenditures towards PPE supplies and equipment and commented on safety protocols. They noted that the District has been working since March purchasing necessary supplies and is fully prepared for when schools can reopen.

Ms. Cutbill and Ms. Wasserman echoed previous comments regarding preparations and thanked the District for providing all PPE and working so hard to keep children and staff safe. Ms. Abraham added that The Foundation would also like to thank the Board of Education and district staff for their hard work throughout the entire summer and shared that they are eager to

help provide additional support to augment district efforts.

Lastly, Ms. Abraham shared information regarding an upcoming series of events titled, The Foundation Room, the first one to be held in October which will be a live comedy event. She said they are still working on details for the October event and are looking into coordinating with a local restaurant to provide boxed meals. Mr. Madnick added that the comedy event is geared toward an adult audience. Dr. Stepenosky cautioned that communications for the event must be clear that it is geared toward an adult audience. Ms. Abraham highlighted tentative future fundraising events. Ms. Wasserman and Dr. Stepenosky suggested additional options that would work well with a virtual format and be enjoyable for the entire family. Discussion followed regarding future fundraising options and partnerships.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.