



**LAS VIRGENES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
PATHWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING**

October 6, 2021

Present: Ms. Angela Cutbill, Board President
Ms. Lesli Stein, Board Member
Dr. Clara Finneran, Assistant Superintendent, Education
Dr. Ryan Gleason, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services
Ms. Laura Kintz, Director, Elementary Education
Ms. Angie Falk, Director, Pupil Services
Ms. Val Louthian,
Ms. Laila Jorns, Principal, White Oak
Ms. Leslie Martinez, Principal, Mariposa

The meeting came to order at 1:05 PM

Elementary Art Specialists Update

Ms. Kintz, Ms. Jorns, and Ms. Martinez gave an update regarding the Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) teachers at each elementary school. The VAPA teachers are a new team this year, and Ms. Kintz and the elementary principals are supporting them with opportunities to collaborate on items such as lesson plans and integration of social-emotional learning concepts. Ms. Jorns and Ms. Martinez explained that the VAPA teachers are a very positive addition, and gave examples of the teachers guiding students through excellent, standards-based lessons. Ms. Kintz added that there are three secondary VAPA teacher leaders serving to connect and grow the efforts throughout K-12.

Counseling Update

Ms. Kintz, Ms. Jorns, and Ms. Martinez explained that the addition of one counselor per elementary school has been very beneficial, especially during this time. The consistent presence of a counselor for students, staff, and families has provided support for a range of social-emotional needs. The counselors are also supporting the implementation of RULER, a

systemic social-emotional wellness approach from the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence. Additionally, the revised secondary structure and ability to sign up for appointments via the website and app have been received well, and are being documented.

Universal Transitional Kindergarten Timeline/Planning

Dr. Gleason, Ms. Kintz, Ms. Falk, and Ms. Louthian provided information regarding California's new universal Transitional Kindergarten (TK) requirement, signed into law through SB 130 several months ago. This new law ensures that all 4-year-olds will have access to TK by the 2025-26 school year. The cutoff date for entry into TK shifts by two months each year until 2025-26. In the 2022-23 school year, students who turn 5 between September 2 and February 2 will be eligible for TK, and in the 2023-2024 school year, students who turn 5 between September 2 and April 2 will be eligible for TK. The team and Ms. Cutbill and Ms. Stein discussed various considerations for the implementation of this change, including: impacts to "Senior Buttercup" students, credentialing requirements (teachers will be required to have both an Early Childhood Education Permit/24 Early Childhood Units, as well as a Multiple Subjects credential), multiple facilities questions, and communication strategies. The work to implement these changes will continue and evolve over the next several years, and will include multiple committees: Pathways, Finance, Curriculum, and Facilities.

Service Learning

Dr. Gleason, Ms. Cutbill, and Ms. Stein discussed the next steps related to service learning, given that the requirements have essentially been removed during the pandemic. The state's new Seal of Civic Engagement was mentioned and discussed as a possible comprehensive alternative to service learning. Service learning and The Seal of Civic Engagement will continue to be discussed in upcoming committee meetings.

Grant Programs

The Ventura Special Education Local Providing Agency (SELPA), of which LVUSD is a part, will be forwarding a portion of its federal dollars (given as a result of the pandemic's impact on special education students) to LVUSD. LVUSD has drafted a creative, practical plan to spend this three-year allocation. Ms. Falk explained that there have been multiple situations in which students are not identified early in their school career for special education services. She also explained that teachers are requesting increased support for handling various student needs. In the interest of meeting these needs, she proposed a plan that includes adding an expanded behavior team for TK-2 to monitor all SSTs and support teachers to handle the needs of all students as well as increased training for all staff.

Buttercup

Ms. Louthian updated the Committee regarding Buttercup and discussed reviewing other models of preschool given the new Universal TK requirement going into effect. Universal TK will have an impact on four year old participation in preschool, thus the need to develop a plan by 2025-26.

Elementary Science

Ms. Kintz shared with the Committee that the fourth and fifth grade science team is teaching dynamic, standards-aligned lessons to fourth and fifth grade students, and she works with them regularly. The team discussed the possibility of phasing the teaching of fourth and fifth grade science to fourth and fifth grade teachers (rather than the separate science team), and agreed that at this time, making this move poses numerous challenges, especially given our current staff bandwidth. This will be revisited in future meetings.

PAECs: VAPA and Engineering

Dr. Gleason discussed the Committee's consideration of an Engineering pathway that would utilize the PAECs and would include courses such as The Physics of Theatre. This pathway would also capitalize upon an already established relationship with Pierce College. The Committee has agreed that this would be an excellent expansion of the use of the PAECs, and would provide another avenue for significant state CTE funding. The work to build this pathway will be the focus of the CTEAC Committee this year.

High School Bell Schedule

In compliance with state law, the high school bell schedules now begin at 8:30. Staff will be revisiting these schedules, as staff desires, in collaboration with LVEA and high school staff, during this school year for potential implementation next school year. Ms. Cutbill and Ms. Stein suggested that the challenges of teaching for two hours per class, per the current bell schedule, are difficult for teachers, and requested that various schedules be considered, with several caveats, such as alignment between the AHS and CHS schedules.

Center EdX Credential Program Updates

Dr. Gleason shared that Center EdX will be adding a special education credentialing program. Dr. Gleason will keep the Committee and the Board of Education apprised as to the evolution of this program.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.