

LAS VIRGENES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

November 3, 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
Ms. Angie Falk, Director, Pupil Services
Ms. Megan Glynn, YMCA

The meeting came to order at 1:05 p.m.

Update on New Graduation Requirements

Dr. Gleason shared that the graduation requirements approved by the Board over two years ago, increasing the mathematics requirement from 2 years to 3 years, while supporting increased math instruction for students, has resulted in some realizations. These realizations are not solely attributable to the 3-year requirement, however, the requirement has supported staff in recognizing some needs. The need for growth in Algebra skills for some students makes the 3-year requirement a more difficult challenge, and staff is currently exploring root causes of these growth areas as well as discussing ways to support students. Ms. Cutbill and Ms. Stein noted that there was a significant amount of work and energy invested in the transition away from 3-semester Algebra, and encouraged the team to be thorough in its consideration of options for student success. High school leaders will return to a future Pathways meeting to discuss proposed solutions.

Find my Genius Data

Ms. Megan Glynn, of the YMCA, shared some data regarding students who attended Find My Genius, a summer school enrichment program on the campuses of Sumac and Mariposa during the summer of 2021, and shared that over 100 students made over three months of growth in five

weeks time, with some students demonstrating more growth. Staff was encouraged by the data and Ms. Glynn indicated that she would like to continue to work with the YMCA donors and LVUSD to continue the program in the coming years. LVUSD staff and Board members were supportive of sustaining the partnership.

Academic Data Snapshot and Response

Dr. Finneran shared an overview of academic data in preparation for a presentation to the Board of Education. The overview included: RenSTAR (interim assessment), attendance, D/F, and general intervention strategies data. Overall, RenSTAR scores have remained steady and or slightly dipped throughout the pandemic, with the larger dips occurring in primary grades. Staff continues to carefully monitor interim performance and intervenes as quickly as possible. The lack of significant drops in scores can be largely attributed to the relentless work of staff. Attendance data continues to be carefully monitored, and approximately 7% of students were absent more than 9 days in the 2020-21 school year. Strategies for addressing chronic absenteeism, including SARB, were reviewed. Additionally, secondary D/F data was discussed, with particular conversation about means to address the higher D/F rate among socioeconomically disadvantaged students. Investments made in full time intervention specialists and in adaptive intervention programs, including Symphony Math and Lexia, help staff to meet the needs of each student.

5th Grade Daytime Outdoor Education Option

An option for a non-overnight, 5-day outdoor education program for 5th graders was discussed, and the program was supported by those in attendance. The week would include 3 days off campus, with a high ropes adventure one day, as well as instruction about the Native persons and groups of the area. Next steps include discussing the details with staff, and finalizing the contract with Fulcrum, the provider.

Parent Support / Student Discipline

Dr. Finneran and Dr. Gleason discussed the student social emotional needs that are being seen as students return to in-person school full time, and discussed multiple plans to address these needs, including staff training, and parent education. A webinar with Dr. Jen Silvers, an engaging neuroscientist, has been scheduled for November 16, and will include a brief presentation by Dr. Silvers regarding how best to support adolescents through this challenging time. It will also include a panel discussion and Q and A segment. Staff strive to support one another and parents in order to respond most appropriately to student needs.

Service Learning

As a result of the pandemic, the service learning graduation requirement has been paused. The Seal of Civic Engagement, issued by the state, which includes a service requirement, and an educational requirement, was proposed by Dr. Gleason as an alternative, and will continue to be explored. Ms. Stein asked for further data regarding service learning hours, and exactly how

many and which students are not completing the hours. Dr. Gleason said that he would bring this data to a future meeting.

Universal TK

Given that Universal TK is required to be implemented by the 2025-26 school year, staff has gathered a TK Taskforce that will outline the steps to be taken as the District accomplishes this task. Staff is exploring the answers to numerous questions, such as facilities, programing, assessments, report cards and staffing requirements. TK and SPED teachers will also meet in a Curriculum Adoption Committee to pilot two comprehensive curriculum options with a recommendation to bring to the Curriculum Council on May 17.

High School Bell Schedule Update

Given the challenges of the mandated 8:30 start time and the interest in improving the current bell schedule, a bell schedule committee was formed, and is planning to bring several options for schedules to committees, and ultimately to high school staff members in January. Ms. Cutbill and Ms. Stein reiterated their support of the work, acknowledged the challenges, and outlined expectations for staff collaboration time, student support time, and the need for the two schools to share the same schedule, especially for staffing purposes.

Grant Programs Update

Dr. Gleason shared that he and staff continue to monitor grant opportunities and continue to evolve plans related to grants that we have in hand. Dr. Gleason explained that, in the way the state is currently allocating grant funding, it seems that the state is returning to the concept of categorical funding, a model of earmarked funding that was utilized for a span of time through the early 2000s. LVUSD is utilizing funds received from the Expanded Learning Opportunities Grant, dollars earmarked for students who need additional academic support, and the Educator Effectiveness Grant, for staff professional development. Additionally, LVUSD will be receiving grant funding from the Ventura County SELPA and will be utilizing part of these funds to hire a person who can support primary grades teachers in addressing behavior needs of students. Ms. Cutbill and Ms. Stein thanked Dr. Gleason for his diligent, thoughtful approach to the grant acquisition and expenditure process.

Center EdX Update

Center EdX continues to expand, with 19 students from across the state enrolled in the next cohort, cohort 9, of the preliminary administrative services credential program. Additionally, Dr. Gleason and team are authoring a Special Education Credential program as well as a Child Development Permit (certificate) program.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.