



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

January 12, 2022

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 of Elementary Education
Ms. Hallie Chambers, Director of Human Resources
Dr. Stephanie McClay, Agoura High School Principal
Ms. Ashley Wenter, Agoura High School Assistant Principal
Ms. Sara Exner, Calabasas High School Principal
Ms. Courtney Johnson, Calabasas High School Assistant Principal
Ms. Darci Miller, President, LVEA
Ms. Elaine Gottfried-Ullman, LVCA
Mr. Adrian Noack, PAEC Technical Director
Ms. Liz Cangelosi, PAEC Facilities Coordinator

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

Service Learning Update

Dr. Gleason reported on an update relating to the Service Learning high school graduation requirement. Staff is currently looking at replacing the requirement with an opt-in pathway for students to earn a Seal of Civic Engagement from the state. Ms. Cutbill shared that she felt it was appropriate to remove this as a graduation requirement because it presents an equity concern, however, that does not remove service as a value. Ms. Cutbill and Ms. Stein shared their belief that our District values service and they would like this to be shared with the Curriculum Council by highlighting the programs, clubs, and service already taking place at all of our schools. Ms. Stein suggested bringing the redlined board policy for review to the Curriculum Council. Dr. Gleason stated it would be helpful to move this forward soon. That will ensure there will be time worked into master schedules for a staff member to have a section to oversee the process, and for mentoring/coaching and inspiring creativity. Dr. Gleason said that he would likely plan to bring the update to the policy to the Board of Education in late February or early March.

High School Bell Schedule Update

Dr. Gleason invited Principal Exner and Dr. McClay to share an update on their sites' progress with the development of new bell schedule options which will provide students access to support from staff, provide time for staff collaboration, and will align schedules at both high schools for fall of 2022. Dr. Gleason reported that both high schools have worked to create 3 different schedules: an 8 period, a 7 period and a 6 period. Sites have been trying to follow the same timeline and have been sharing information in lockstep so that both communities are in the same place. The consensus seems to be that they will land on either the 7 or 6 period schedule. Both schedules are fiscally neutral. Every attempt has been made to involve as many voices as possible. There has been a tremendous amount of collaboration and thoughtfulness around this effort. When the site reaches a threshold for approval, this will be brought to the Board for their information and if contractually obligated, their approval.

PAEC and VAPA Updates

Dr. Gleason introduced Adrian Noack and Liz Cangelosi and commended them for their work getting the PAECs back up and running. They have worked with Dr. Gleason in streamlining the operations process and building out a 3-year calendar. However, there is not sufficient overhire staff or skilled workforce available to staff these scheduled events. The need is for both front and back of house staff. Dr. Gleason shared that if we do not adapt our staffing model, we will need to cancel these events.

Staff would like to hire more permanent staff for the PAECs. Currently, there is enough work to hire one sound and one lighting engineer, full time. There is a greater fiscal risk to not doing this. These will require job descriptions and will go through the District human resource department. The PAECs also need a third full time employee who understands the industry and can market the buildings to maximize their potential and revenue.

Dr. Gleason stated that the financials of this are related to growing the Production Engineering Academy because when we have that CTE Pathway in, we can fund $\frac{1}{3}$ of every employee out of a CTIG Grant. So every employee will be mitigated by $\frac{1}{3}$. This is a way to synergize the AME Academy into a sound and lighting academy. They will need a CTE credential. Dr. Gleason shared that this is going to take a few years. Dr. Gleason said: "We are going to have to invest before we see the return. It's all about the team and the team we have now is amazing."

Dr. Gleason said in a future meeting, he would like to share a draft of a three-year-plan the team is working to develop around education, fiscal solvency, maintenance and operations.

Grants Update

Prop 56

The District will be working with the Los Angeles School Police Department on this grant. Funding has been received for approximately \$700,000. The funding will pay for two full-time officers from the Los Angeles Schools Police Department to provide support with substance use mitigation and safety efforts.

Educator Effectiveness and Transitional Kindergarten

Dr. Gleason reported that Dr. Stepenosky has reached out to other districts who are navigating the TK requirement. Five other districts have expressed interest in partnering with Center EdX on the ECE Permit Program launching. We can use these funds for

training, professional development, and a TK Curriculum adoption. This grant will address the need for Transitional Kindergarten permits as well as the classified workforce shortage through permit/micro-credential programs.

ELOP

(Covered in Summer School Update)

Classified Staff Professional Growth Update

Ms. Hallie Chambers and Ms. Gottfried-Ullman shared an update on Classified Staff Professional Growth. Ms. Gottfried-Ullman explained how this will be a win-win for not only our employees but also the District. It will provide our classified staff the opportunity to further their learning and to build their personal and leadership capacity. Dr Gleason shared that higher education is moving towards micro-credentialing. Ms. Chambers expanded further that a micro-credential is a Certificate of Completion. Instead of attending a 2 or 4 year university, candidates will have the opportunity to focus on specific skills that will help them grow as an individual. With the grant funding, it will be free for them to participate and this can help the district by providing a workforce to fill some of the positions which are presenting challenges to fill. The areas the micro-credentials will be focusing on first are:

- Leadership Coaching
- Social Emotional Learning and Mindfulness
- Accounting
- Data and Information Systems (CALpads, etc.)
- Administrative Support

A micro-credential would be made up of two or three levels. They will be about 90 hours total (10 weeks) and there will be in-seat time and asynchronous work. The goal is to serve 300 employees annually. In February, staff hopes to recruit faculty in these areas and in March, the faculty that have been identified and hired through that process will be creating courses and syllabi related to those courses. Staff will begin recruiting other staff to participate in these programs with the goal of starting in June. Dr. Gleason shared that the fiscal side in terms of the grant is that those that complete the microcredential will receive a stipend. This may need to go to negotiations of both bargaining units.

Professional Development Update

Dr. Finneran shared that we have some wonderful Center EdX options, thanks to Dr. Gleason, in addition to ELA for grades 6-12, and pending some final conversations with UCLA, we will finalize some math PD options. Ms. Kintz has expanded some options for elementary. Staff have been updated on some of these. Staff will continue to communicate these out, as new offerings are made available.

Universal TK Planning Update

Ms. Kintz reported that she hosted two universal TK think tank meetings in December. They shared the rollout of universal TK. They do not have an adopted curriculum list yet, but are exploring options. They would like to pilot two comprehensive programs which include literacy, math, science, social studies, manipulatives and align with the preschool standards. They've developed a timeline that includes 5 adoption committee meetings (with varied stakeholders) and hope to have a recommendation to bring to Curriculum Council on May 17. They've also developed a task force committee (comprised of principals, cabinet, Val Louthian, and teachers) to discuss program development, standards, facilities requirements, as well as curriculum. There

will be communication between these committees and they'll discuss student assessments and report cards. They aim to be ready for implementation for fall 22-23.

Elementary Instructional Minutes Planning

Ms. Kintz reminded the committee that we had shifted some of our elementary's sites instructional minutes last year with Board approval. Our principals are starting to analyze their minutes and in the case where they do not have the extra three days next year, they would like to continue the alignment of minutes. Three of the sites did not increase their minutes in the grade bands that they needed to. Most were short in grades 1-3 because the district is asking them to go 2 days over the state minimum. This is for auditing purposes. Staff will be scheduling dates for principals to present these to their site staff. They are looking at extending the kindergarten day also in order to have equity across the district and to appeal to most parents who prefer full day programs. LVEA has been involved in every step of this process.

GATE Update

Dr. Finneran shared that we are nearing the end of the official testing period and we have more students who have tested for GATE at this point, than ever before. This is a testament to the success of the program and to Dr. Roberts and Assistant Principal Jantz's leadership. 267 students have been tested, and 86 have qualified. Dr. Finneran mentioned wanting to move to a universal screener, but this is something that will be revisited at a future date. The retention of students in the program has been excellent.

Summer School Planning

Dr. Finneran shared that what we have offered in the past has worked and Find My Genius has been successful, so we would like to continue and perhaps expand that.

Dr. Gleason shared that Carina Diana and Miriam Worth will be acting as co-principals for summer school this year. He has asked them to go onto campuses to ask the sites what they need. Dr. Gleason stated that we are the recipient of another grant until 2026, called the Extended Learning Opportunities Pathway Grant (ELOP). It targets TK-6 students with at least 50% of them being supplemental. It requires that we provide them with 9 hours a day of supplemental instruction and emotional support. That can come by subsidizing their day for 3 hours a day before and after care or by providing a summer program offering 9 hours of support. We are fortunate because we already have a relationship with the Y and Find My Genius. Dr. Gleason has talked with Megan Glynn about building a second campus of Find My Genius as well as providing some students scholarships for before and after care for this first round of the grant which equals \$500,000. Dr. Gleason explained that the challenge he anticipates is finding teachers who are willing to teach in the summer. He will bring a categorical plan to the Board. Ms. Stein asked for some follow up information on the students who have participated in Find My Genius in the past, to see how they are continuing to do over the course of the year.

Discipline and Wellness: Master Scheduling

Dr. Gleason shared that while staff have been looking at preparing master schedules for next year for secondary schools, they are noticing two things happening. With declining enrollment, it's likely the District will have more staff than will be needed for the number of students. Staff are experiencing more student behavior issues and recognizing the academic achievement needs to be addressed. One of the things Dr. Gleason shared that they are looking at is how much teachers and administration are getting bogged down by these issues and how the learning process is being impacted. In thinking about how to mitigate some of these challenges - one idea would be to place a teacher at each of the secondary sites to support other teachers

with behavior, and act as more of a coach. This would likely be temporary, for a year or two, that could be funded partially with supplemental grants.

Dr. Gleason stated that if we don't teach behavior we cannot expect a different result and now with the grant-funded work that's happening at the elementary level, secondary school teachers and administration/staff are in need of support. Dr. Gleason stated that they would like to bring this idea to our different stakeholder groups to get their input, the first being the Safety and Wellness Committee, and depending on consensus, bring this back to the Board, at a later date.

ASB/Leadership Planning

Dr. Gleason reported that assistant principals, Ms. Johnson and Ms. Wenter, have been looking at a number of the high school programs including ASB. Looking at the number of events, our commissioners, what bylaws are followed, and how we are teaching leadership? They are looking at bringing a curriculum forward, as well as aligning practices at both high schools.

Ms. Johnson reported that they have been talking about how to better align expectations of what it is to be a student leader. They are working with their student advisors to determine goals and streamline commissionerships, so they can shift away from event planners to helping them to be leaders and agents of change on their campuses. Both schools are meeting together along with their advisors at the end of the month to start this process. Dr. Gleason reiterated that we could be bringing this curriculum forward as early as this spring, or the beginning of next year with the goal of students learning what leadership involves, the hard choices and the circle of viewpoints as well as the political ramifications so that we can coach students through those processes.

Other Business

Math Intervention

Algebra 1 class size reduction. There has been a lot of work done at sites to create a strong PLC model. Our D/F rate is suggesting that kids are behind and struggling. Instead of waiting until next semester, both high schools would like to implement a strategy for the 2nd semester. Dr. McClay, Ms. Exner and Dr. Gleason met multiple times over the past few weeks to discuss this. They are going to try two different approaches at each site and track the data.

Principal McClay shared that there are significant issues with learning loss in math. AHS' data is a little different from CHS. AHS students are already in credit recovery mode and $\frac{1}{3}$ of these students are in 10th grade, so this is their 2nd or 3rd time failing Algebra. They need to go into remediation mode now. In the fall semester, they started a 0 period math tutoring program. It has gained a lot of traction - there are about 30 students attending each morning. It is a voluntary program. They are looking at hiring an IA or substitute teacher to pull students into The Center to do a self-paced recovery model that is mastery driven. This is really skills recovery, so they can be successful in the future. Dr. Gleason explained that for this cohort, they are experimenting with getting the right teacher for the 2nd year to cover the Algebra II requirement through the Financial Algebra curriculum that was adopted a few years ago and then they can do Geometry in year three. Dr. McClay reported that they will do weekly check-ins and more full reports at 5, 10, and 15 weeks.

Ms. Exner explained that CHS has a current math teacher who teaches Algebra II Finance currently. At the end of the 1st semester, they are going to take the students who have an F and move them into a double block math class with this teacher. These students will be doing a zero period intensive to relearn skills and then move into the first period to continue on. Then they will loop into the Algebra II Finance class the next year.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00.