

LAS VIRGENES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

March 2, 2022

Present: Ms. Angela Cutbill, Board Member
Ms. Lesli Stein, Board Member
Dr. Clara Finneran, Assistant Superintendent, Education
Dr. Ryan Gleason, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services
Ms. Darci Miller, President, LVEA
Ms. Miriam Worth, Summer School Co-Principal
Ms. Carina Diana, Summer School Co-Principal

The meeting came to order at 1:05pm.

Civic Engagement

The committee discussed the Civic Engagement board policies that were brought to the board on March 1st. The suggestion of the Committee was to include progressive increase in the requirements of hours in subsequent years until we get to the class of 2025. The Committee directed staff to update those policies and bring them back to the Board on March 15, under Consent A.

Dual Immersion Update and Grant

The Committee reviewed our data around the dual immersion pathway that begins at Sumac, goes to Lindero Canyon Middle School and culminates at Agoura High School. The first group of dual immersion graduates is moving through the high school program. As students move through the elementary school program continues to show positive growth with its highest numbers since transitioning to a dual immersion school in TK, K and 1st grade. Additionally, the staff discussed potentially applying for the Dual Immersion Expansion Grant that is being provided by the CDE. Given the bandwidth of staff and the nature of the grant, the Committee recommended not proceeding and pursuing those funds.

Early College Academy (ECA)

Staff presented data to the committee regarding the Early College Academy. The numbers of the Academy, which has existed for four years, reflect strong growth at the high schools with relatively stable enrollment at the middle schools. Middle school enrollment has flatlined due to a number of elective offerings and also the absence of field trips that can normally be offered through the Program and have been offset during the pandemic. The ECA offers over ten dual enrollment classes annually to students in the Program, of which, there are several hundred students enrolled across the District. The Program will continue to grow next year as staff also incorporates a seminar component that is led by the ECA Coordinator. The Coordinator will work with the cohort of ECA students to provide enrichment, college visits and field trips to make the experience even more robust.

Summer School

Staff presented the summer school plan to the Pathways Committee. The Plan involves several aspects. First and foremost, Freshman Seminar will be provided virtually to all students who enroll in the program. Additionally, credit recovery will be provided virtually to an assortment of students who need to close the gap in terms of their credits. There will be an on-campus component of the program that will support students in growing their skills in mathematics with a focus on students who have a high D or F rate in 8th and 9th grade. The Math Boost Program will have high amounts of teacher and tutor support, will be provided to up to 90 students this summer, and will include very small teacher to student ratios in ways that assess the students in an ongoing fashion to measure their growth over time.

High School Bell Schedule Update

The Committee discussed the bell schedule process as the district works to comply with new laws regarding the late start. The District is working with a committee of teacher and administrator representatives to identify a new schedule that has the following elements:

- Period length for the block that is around 90 minutes
- Has embedded support built into the academic day for students who are struggling
- Maintains and sustains collaboration

At this point, there are two plans in place for the bell schedule. The first involves a seventh period, support period that could provide tiered and targeted support to students depending on their areas of academic need. The second is to continue on with the existing bell schedule but then have a ceremonial shift 30 minutes before the end of every period, to a structured support model where tutors would push into classrooms and work with students who have academic needs and help support their growth.

Theater Engineering Academy

The theater engineering academy is being designed at both high school campuses to leverage the amazing PAEC infrastructures, specifically in the Black Boxes. The ideas behind it are that often modern entrepreneurship involves the ability to tell your story through digital media and understand all of the elements of it through lighting, sound and production, and also how to broadcast who you are. Starting next year, the academy will have its first series of courses where the black boxes at both high schools are transformed into production studios for students to offer ongoing updates and broadcast to their high schools. Over time, the academy will grow to include feeder middle schools and have them understand that it is a four-year progression, and this will involve classes like the Physics of Engineering or the Physics of Theater, where students understand physics in the context of the light and the sound and the acoustics and the production using our PAEC spaces.

Over time, the academy will expand into developing a streaming infrastructure to support not only advertising efforts but also streaming of the amazing events that we have in our District. This will be a win-win for students in terms of paid internships and opportunities to learn technical skills that also help them produce, broadcast and sell themselves in the future economy.

Center EdX Credential Programs Update

The ECE Permit program was launched this week. The Program to date has 13 districts who have signed on to the consortia. The Imperial County Office of Education signed on to be a part of the program. The program will be robust in terms of being able to serve the region in developing early childhood education instructors. This will benefit Las Virgenes both in terms of human resources and incoming revenue to support our general fund.

Grants

Reading Instruction and Intervention Grant

The winners of the competitive grant for 1.3 million will be announced this week. If this grant is received, Las Virgenes will grow in its capacity to develop instructors and teachers in the areas of reading and intervention.

Universal TK Planning Update/Universal TK Implementation Grant

The Committee discussed the Universal Transitional Kindergarten movement across the state in line with the new statute that affords all 4-year-olds access to transitional kindergarten effective school year 2025-2026. The Committee discussed that many regional districts are not waiting until the school year 2025-2026 to afford all 4-year-olds the opportunity to take TK. The Committee discussed the feasibility of Las Virgenes joining this same movement in terms of enrolling all 4-year-olds within our district

boundaries beginning school year 2022-2023. Challenges of supporting students with disabilities and facilities were discussed. The Committee directed staff to unpack and research the requirement in greater depth and different possibilities for potentially allowing all 4-year-olds in district boundaries to participate in Transitional Kindergarten as early as 2022-2023.

First Read: BP/AR 5145.9

Staff brought a new Board Policy and Administrative Regulation to the Pathways Committee for a first read. The Committee was very positive and supportive of the new policy which not only provides clarity as to what to do if hate speech is used within our schools, and provides direction about how to navigate historically hateful and targeted language that appears in literature. The suggestion of staff, upon research in this area, is to have any recognized hate speech not be said or read aloud if it appears in literature and to ensure that the omission is coupled with a lesson for the students as to why that word or language will not be used in the classroom and enlighten them in terms of the historical context and also the traumatic impact of the language we use. The plan is to ensure there is education regarding the impact of language on our students. The policy will now be brought to a team of educators to review how this will look in practice, and then after that will be brought back to the Pathways Committee and then to Curriculum Council.

Other Updates:

The following items were not discussed at this meeting but will be agendaized at a future Pathways meeting:

Agoura/YMCA Athletics Partnership
Educator Effectiveness Grant
Expanded Learning Opportunities Program
Elementary Instructional Minutes Update
Curriculum Update
DEI Books and Policy, Staffing

Other Business

No other business was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02pm.