BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
January 28, 2020

CALL TO ORDER/MEETING PLACE
Board President Lesli Stein called the Board meeting to order at 4:45 PM at the Las Virgenes Unified School District, 4111 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT
Angela Cutbill
Dallas Lawrence
Linda Menges
Lesli Stein
Mathy Wasserman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT
None

BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION REGARDING CALENDARING ASSIGNMENTS AND GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING ITEMS ON THE CLOSED SESSION AGENDA
There were no comments from the audience regarding items on the Closed Session Agenda.

ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION
The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 4:46 PM

A discussion was held regarding Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release, Conference with Labor Negotiator - Agency Designated Representative - Dr. Rose Dunn, and Safety Procedures and Precautionary Measures.

CALL TO ORDER/OPEN SESSION
President Stein reconvened the Board meeting at 6:05 PM

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT
Angela Cutbill
Dallas Lawrence
Linda Menges
Lesli Stein
Mathy Wasserman
Agoura High School student board member Ethan Castillo (at the dais)
Calabasas High School student board member Bella Echols (in the audience)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT
None

STAFF PRESENT
Dr. Daniel Stepenosky, Superintendent
Dr. Rose Dunn, Assistant Superintendent of Personnel
Karen Kimmel, Assistant Superintendent of Business
Dr. Clara Finneran, Assistant Superintendent of Education
Robbie Amodio, Director of Classified Personnel
Ryan Gleason, Director of Education and Leadership  
Steve Scifres, Director of Curriculum and Athletics  
Jim Klein, Chief Technology Officer  
Angie Falk, Director of Pupil Services

**STAFF ABSENT**  
None

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**  
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Christopher, Abby, and Emma Lawrence.

**REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**  
President Stein reported that the Board of Education took no specific action in Closed Session.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
On motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved the agenda of January 28, 2020.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:  
AYES: Board members Cutbill, Lawrence, Menges, Stein, and Wasserman  
NAYES: None

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0 as follows:  
AYES: Student board member Castillo

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
On motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Cutbill, the Board of Education approved the Regular Board Meeting minutes of January 14, 2020.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:  
AYES: Board members Cutbill, Lawrence, Menges, Stein, and Wasserman  
NAYES: None

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0 as follows:  
AYES: Student board member Castillo

**STAFF/BOARD COMMUNICATION**  
Sumac Elementary School kindergarten students and their third grade "Reading Buddies", led by their teachers Ms. Eliana Castillo and Ms. Veronica Rasmussen, sang "Hola Hola" demonstrating their bilingualism. The Board of Education congratulated the Agoura High School Cheer Team and principal Dr. Stephanie McClay for being named 2020 CIF State Champions.

Mr. Castillo said it is Spirit Week at Calabasas High School (CHS) with a talent show on January 30 and a rally on January 31. He said Agoura High School (AHS) student council had a successful Leadership retreat this past weekend in Big Bear, CA. Finally he said today, students from AHS and CHS wore purple and yellow in honor of the tragedy that occurred on Sunday.

Ms. Wasserman said that the District's Community 360 website, www.community360.me has tremendous counseling resources for parents. She said last night she attended the Hidden Hills City Council meeting where incoming Mayor Bret Katz was welcomed and outgoing Mayor Larry Weber was recognized for his year of service. She said the City of Hidden Hills has been an instrumental partner of the District and the Round Meadow Elementary School community.

Ms. Cutbill forewent comments.

Ms. Menges said she and Ms. Wasserman participated in Curriculum Council on January 16, and she said she is looking forward to Sumac Elementary School's student showcase.

Mr. Lawrence said he and Ms. Stein visited a number of schools throughout the District over the past few weeks. He said it was a pleasure to see Lupin Hill Elementary School's student intervention program, Chaparral Elementary School's music program, and A.E. Wright Middle School's GATE program. Mr. Lawrence said the Board has been phone banking for "Measure V" and he encouraged parents and the community to register and vote. He said the District has put in extensive work to develop a Facilities Master Plan to identify close to $600 million worth of needs
throughout the District for facilities that are over 50 years old. He said LVUSD needs to raise funds locally due to the fact that it does not receive any state funding for facilities and receives $30 million less than LAUSD for students.

Ms. Stein forewent comments.

**COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**
There were no comments from the audience regarding items, not on the agenda.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - A**
On motion of Ms. Cutbill, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved Consent Agenda A, Items 1 through 5.
1. Approved Overnight Field Trip Request No. 19-20.40 for the Calabasas High School 9th through 12th and A.C. Stelle Middle School 6th through 8th grade Jazz music students to travel to the Reno Jazz Festival in Reno, NV.
2. Approved Overnight Field Trip Request No. 19-20.41 for the Calabasas High School 10th through 12th grade track students to travel to the University of Washington Invitational Track and Field Meet in Seattle, WA.
3. Approved the 2020-2021 Board Meeting Dates.
4. Approval Disposal of Surplus Personal Property, as presented.
5. Approval Purchase Orders, as presented.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:
- **AYES:** Board members Cutbill, Lawrence, Menges, Stein, and Wasserman
- **NAYES:** None

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0 as follows:
- **AYES:** Student board member Castillo

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - B**
On motion of Ms. Wasserman, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved Consent Agenda - B, Item 1.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:
- **AYES:** Board members Cutbill, Lawrence, Menges, Stein, and Wasserman
- **NAYES:** None


**APPROVAL OF ACTION ITEMS**
1. Members of the K-5 science pilot team, Mary Bloom, Kim Gerber, Suzanne Kirkhope, and Stephanie Skidmore presented the proposed curriculum for the new K-5 science curriculum. They said the science pilot team consisted of 20 teachers which represented each grade level, including special education teachers and principals. The pilot team presented the science curriculum adoption for the 2020-2021 school year which will provide students with relevant and up to date instructional materials which are aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). They said Mystery Science program is proposed for grades kindergarten through second grade and will cost $79,952, the Twig program is proposed for third grade and will cost $116,688, and that the fourth and fifth grade program is a no-cost homegrown 5E NGSS curriculum.

Ms. Stein asked if Mr. Scifres stays in touch with the pilot team and lead science teachers to assure they have continuous support. Mr. Scifres said the Educational Services Department provides Professional Development for the teachers and that the 4/5 science team has been a great resource.

Ms. Kirkhope said NGSS has a three-dimensional approach where students not only learn scientific information, but they engage through practice, making predictions and conclusions, and developing models.

Ms. Bloom and Ms. Gerber shared information on the Mystery Science adoption for grades K-2. They said the students are engaged by the digital component of the program and the hands on activities that are included with every lesson. They said the Mystery Science curriculum is familiar to teachers and includes meaningful real life material.

Ms. Skidmore added that the third grade TWIG curriculum provides understanding of the California Science Test (CAST) standards as well as the integration of reading and writing within each lesson.

Ms. Kirkhope said LVUSD is ahead of other school districts because when it started to align to NGSS five years ago there was not a lot available so the District developed its own 4/5 science program. She said given that fourth and fifth grade students use Acer computers they are able to fully utilize the online program while participating in hands
on active learning and that the lessons use the 5E model of learning (engage, explore, explain, elaborate, evaluate). She said over 15 curricula were evaluated and only 3-4 were considered by the pilot team. She added that the lessons are modified for Mariposa School of Global Education's style of teaching. Finally, Ms. Kirkhope said the science program provides summative assessments which are designed to prepared students for the rigorous California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) test.

Mr. Lawrence asked how typical it is to have three separate curriculum for the same subject in elementary school. Mr. Scifres said it is atypical and added that the TWIG program aligns with the 4/5 science curriculum.

Mr. Lawrence asked how the students are adapting to three different curricula in elementary school. Ms. Cutbill stated that the students are adaptable to the changes and find it challenging in an engaging way. She said she appreciates the flexibility that is offered at LVUSD.

The Board thanked the science pilot team for their time and careful consideration as they developed the curriculum.

On motion of Ms. Cutbill, seconded by Ms. Wasserman, the Board of Education approved the Elementary School Science Adoption.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

AYES: Board members Cutbill, Lawrence, Menges, Stein, and Wasserman
NAYES: None

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0 as follows:

AYES: Student board member Castillo

2. Members of the middle school science team, Leah Jenner, Karl Beutel, and Dave Fazio presented information on their recommendation of Teacher's Curriculum Institute (TCI) for the middle school science adoption for a total cost of $291,000. Mr. Scifres said four science teachers from each of the three middle schools made up a twelve person pilot committee and that the process mirrored the elementary science adoption. He added that the pilot team is interested in obtaining funding support for lab supplies at a cost of $5,000 per 1,000 students, which has been factored into the cost of the adoption.

Ms. Jenner said the middle school standards have been in placed since 2013 during which time the District has reviewed various publishers. She added that the History/Social Studies curriculum also uses TCI which allows for cross-curricular opportunities.

Mr. Beutel said middle school science is broken down into three levels, Earth Science in sixth grade, Life Science in seventh grade, and Physical Science in eight grade. He said the lessons are hands on and engaging and TCI’s rigor is up to LVUSD’s high standards. He said TCI also offers embedded translation for any language that Google supports as well as reading the text for students thereby providing flexibility based on reading level.

Ms. Menges asked whether touch screens are available to all middle school students allowing them to utilize the digital program. Mr. Klein confirmed that all middle school students have been issued touch screen computers. Mr. Lawrence asked how the fourth middle school at Mariposa School of Global Education will utilize the curriculum. Mr. Scifres asked the District's practice is to always consult with the school in order to gauge their level of interest in the curriculum. He said in this case, similar to the elementary school adoption, Mariposa has activities within their Waldorf inspired curriculum that meet the science standards in a modified format, whereas their 4/5 science is mainstream curriculum.

The Board further discussed internet accessibility at home, the ability of students to download the entire content on district issued Acers while on campus, textbooks in the classroom, and educational screen time.

The Board thanked the science pilot team for their time and consideration in developing the curriculum.

On motion of Ms. Menges, seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the Board of Education approved the Middle School Science Adoption.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

AYES: Board members Cutbill, Lawrence, Menges, Stein, and Wasserman
NAYES: None

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0 as follows:

AYES: Student board member Castillo

3. High school science department chairs, Nancy Jobsz and Jonathan Oakman presented information on the revised course descriptions and revised course names for ninth and tenth grade science. They said the changes to the existing course names are required prior to making them available to students for course selection within the next couple weeks.
Ms. Stein asked if there will be any changes to the course name and description for Chemistry. Mr. Scifres replied that there are no changes for Chemistry and that these changes are only applicable to ninth and tenth grade science. He emphasized that these are not new courses, rather name changes and revisions to descriptions of existing courses. He said the changes are as follows: Conceptual Physics to be named Physics In the Universe, Physics to be named Honors Physics in the Universe, Biology to be named Biology: The Living Earth, and Honors Biology to be named Honors Biology: The Living Earth. He said students in the ninth grade will choose to take either Physics in the Universe or Biology: The Living Earth. Students in the tenth grade will take either Physics in the Universe or Biology: The Living Earth, whichever option they did not take during their freshman year. Finally, Mr. Scifres said students in the eleventh and twelfth grade will take Chemistry, Environmental Science, Forensics, or AP coursework.

Ms. Jobsz and Mr. Oakman shared information on the science pathways and the choices provided to incoming freshman based on their middle school experience and level of interest. The Board further discussed the science pathways and courses.

Ms. Wasserman asked how counselors are assisting freshman in making their selection. Mr. Gleason replied that students in eighth grade are given an assessment to help guide them based on their level of interest.

On motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Cutbill, the Board of Education approved Biology: The Living Earth.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

AYES: Board members Cutbill, Lawrence, Menges, Stein, and Wasserman
NAYES: None

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0 as follows:

AYES: Student board member Castillo

4. Ms. Jobs presented information on Honors Biology: The Living Earth course which she said presents the same content as Biology: The Living Earth but offers students the opportunity to delve deeper into the California framework.

On motion of Ms. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Wasserman, the Board of Education approved Honors Biology: The Living Earth.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

AYES: Board members Cutbill, Lawrence, Menges, Stein, and Wasserman
NAYES: None

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0 as follows:

AYES: Student board member Castillo

5. Mr. Oakman presented the Physics in the Universe course and restated that this is only a change in the course name and description.

On motion of Ms. Menges, seconded by Ms. Wasserman, the Board of Education approved Physics in the Universe.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

AYES: Board members Cutbill, Lawrence, Menges, Stein, and Wasserman
NAYES: None

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0 as follows:

AYES: Student board member Castillo

6. Mr. Oakman presented the Honors Physics in the Universe course and restated that this is only a change in the course name and description.

On motion of Ms. Cutbill, seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the Board of Education approved Honors Physics in the Universe.

Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:

AYES: Board members Cutbill, Lawrence, Menges, Stein, and Wasserman
NAYES: None

Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0 as follows:

AYES: Student board member Castillo

7. Dr. Dunn presented a Variable Term Waiver Permit which is required for a special education teacher at Lupin Hill Elementary School. She said the waiver allows the District to fill the current assignment while searching for a fully
credentialed teacher in the subject area of the assignment and gives the waiver holder additional time to complete the requirements.

On motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Cutbill, the Board of Education approved the Variable Term Waiver Permit.
Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:
  AYES: Board members Cutbill, Lawrence, Menges, Stein, and Wasserman
  NAYES: None
Student Preferential Vote Carried 1:0 as follows:
  AYES: Student board member Castillo

INFORMATION
1. Ms. Kimmel said the Measure G Bond Citizens’ Oversight Committee oversees all transactions charged against the District’s existing Measure G bond, and they provide an annual report to the Board of Education.
Chairperson Carlos Cojulun presented the annual report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2019. He stated that the District is in compliance and continues to provide assurances to the Committee of being good financial stewards and maximizing Measure G proceeds. He said all required meetings were help with a quorum of the Committee members, open to the public, and within the boundaries of the District. Mr. Cojulun stated that the Measure G Bond proceeds were expended only for the purposes set forth in Measure G and that the District is in compliance with the requirements of Article XIII A, Section 1(b)(3) of the California Constitution.
The Board thanked Mr. Cojulun and the Measure G Committee for the work that they do to assure to the public that the District is financially responsible with public funds.

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Date Approved

Clerk, Board of Education