BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
May 12, 2020

CALL TO ORDER/MEETING PLACE
The meeting was held in accordance with Governor Newsom’s Executive Orders N-33-20 and N-25-20 in regard to the COVID-19 virus, which included provisions relating to the Brown Act in regard to local legislative bodies, such as school boards, holding meetings via teleconference. One of the stated reasons for issuing this Executive Order was to, “further efforts to control the spread of the virus and to reduce and minimize the risk of infection.” Notice was given that the regular meeting of the Las Virgenes Unified School District Board of Education, scheduled for May 12, 2020, would be a video conference meeting where the members of the Board of Education would attend the meeting via video conference. Members of the public were able to observe the meeting using a live online stream and were further able to submit public comments via email.

Board President Lesli Stein called the Board meeting to order at 5:00 PM at the Las Virgenes Unified School District, 4111 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT
Angela Cutbill
Dallas Lawrence participated via video-conference
Linda Menges participated via video-teleconference
Lesli Stein
Mathy Wasserman participated via video-teleconference

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 5:02 PM
A discussion was held regarding Student Discipline, Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release, Conference with Labor Negotiator - Agency Designated Representative - Dr. Rose Dunn.

CALL TO ORDER/OPEN SESSION
President Stein reconvened the Board meeting at 6:43 PM

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT
Angela Cutbill
Dallas Lawrence participated via video-conference
Linda Menges participated via video-conference
Lesli Stein
Mathy Wasserman participated via video-conference
Calabasas High School student board member Bella Echols participated via video-conference
Agoura High School student board member Ethan Castillo participated via video-conference

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT
None

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STAFF PRESENT
Dr. Daniel Stepenosky, Superintendent
Dr. Rose Dunn, Assistant Superintendent of Personnel
Karen Kimmel, Assistant Superintendent of Business participated via video-conference
Dr. Clara Finneran, Assistant Superintendent of Education participated via video-conference
Robbie Amodio, Director of Classified Personnel participated via video-conference
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 participated via video-conference

STAFF ABSENT
None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Director of Education and Leadership, Ryan Gleason.

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 Ms. Menges, seconded by Ms. Cutbill, the Board of Education approved the agenda of May 12, 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 Echols

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
On motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Wasserman, the Board of Education approved the Regular Board Meeting minutes of April 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 Echols

STAFF/BOARD COMMUNICATION
Ms. Cutbill thanked all LVUSD staff for their continued hard work and dedication with distance learning. She said the Yerba Buena Elementary School parade was fantastic and was greatly appreciated by the community. Ms. Cutbill said she looks forward to more socially distanced school parades in the coming days.

Mr. Lawrence thanked all teachers and staff for their hard work and long hours of preparation. He reminded everyone that "Safer at Home" and distance learning is a community-wide effort and asked parents for their continued support.

Ms. Menges thanked all teachers and staff for their hard work. She said she participated in a Flipgrid classroom presentation last week which was educational and enjoyable and she was proud of the LVUSD students who took part in the online premier of "You Are My Refuge", composed by Michael Trotta.

Ms. Wasserman congratulated the LVUSD students who participated in the inspiring online performance of "You Are My Refuge". She said the City of Calabasas Chamber of Commerce will be working with local restaurants to provide fresh produce for the community. She expressed her appreciation of LVUSD college and career advisors who have been spending a lot of time with students and parents providing one-on-one online college counseling and additional support to our teachers.

Ms. Stein thanked all teachers and staff for their continued hard work during these difficult times and encouraged persistence as it was announced that the "Safer at Home" order will continue through the end of July 2020. She said she participated in the California Association of Suburban School District (CALSSSD) meeting last week where
they discussed budget advocacy and California’s astronomical budget deficit as a result of the global pandemic. She said the state of California is determined to adopt a new budget by June 15 which will likely reflect a 20% cut in spending. She said school districts are lobbying for no cuts in education and are in regular communication with each other. She said there is no mandate for schools to reopen in July and LVUSD is hoping for a fall start date in August.

Dr. Stepenosky said he misses seeing staff and students at LVUSD school sites. He shared a photograph of the Yerba Buena community parade with over 60 cars cheered on by the supportive community. He said there will be more parades in the upcoming days. Dr. Stepenosky shared a video of “You Are My Refuge” virtual choir project and thanked music directors Josh Barroll and Caroline Beal.

Ms. Echols spoke on behalf of all graduating seniors and said they are all very appreciative and excited about the virtual graduation being organized by the District.

Dr. Dunn stated it has been a privilege coaching Buttercup Preschool principal, Valerie Louthian who has exhibited great growth in her role.

Dr. Finneran stated she greatly misses students, staff, and families, and she thanked all staff for their continued hard work. She reported that student engagement in distance learning is 90-95% for grades K-12 of which 92% of students are participating in continuous online learning. Dr. Finneran said teachers and staff are regularly checking in with students who are not engaged in distance learning.

Ms. Kimmel said the latest financial news out of Sacramento is very dire with the state projecting a $54 billion loss in the state budget which could result in an estimated $17.5 billion (25%) cut in education funding. She said the District will not really know the financial effect until late July or early August when tax receipts are due to the state. Ms. Kimmel said on a positive note the child nutrition meal services have continued and there has been great community outreach and generosity.

Mr. Gleason said the counseling staff has been doing a fantastic job and has seen an increase in the need for counseling this week. He said the District has launched wellness classes for the entire community at Community360.me which have been accessed over 5,000 times. He said the D/F rate has decreased overall by 3-5% which is a testament of the faculty’s flexibility in allowing students to retake assignments and exams however there are those students in high risk sub-population where the D/F rate has increased.

Mr. Klein said the technology team has been extremely busy with distance learning and has begun planning for the logistics of the return of school materials. He said the District has continued to provide virtual author visits and this week author Kathleen Young presented to Chaparral Elementary School. He thanked the District’s Media Coordinator, Tina Johnson, who has done a wonderful job with transitioning this program and scheduling more authors in the upcoming weeks.

Mr. Scifres said there will be three more socially distanced community parades this week including Chaparral Elementary School on May 14, Sumac Elementary School on May 14 and Lupin Hill Elementary School on May 15. He thanked both the Las Virgenes Educational Association and the District Office negotiating teams for their cooperative work and said it has been an honor and privilege to work with Dr. Dunn in the negotiation process.

Ms. Falk acknowledge the hard work of all the special education staff who have seamlessly transitioned special education students to distance learning.

Ms. Amodio thank all classified staff for their diligent work during this difficult time.

**COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Ms. Stein read the following statement.

To whom it may concern, Yesterday, Round Meadow Parent Faculty Association Executive Board and Board of Directors met and voted on additional RIF hours for staffing at Round Meadow Elementary. In absence of clear information on how and when school will resume, we are unable and unwilling to approve the costs presented from the School District. Last night we sent this information to several members of the district including Rose Dunn, Assistant Superintendent of Personnel, Karen Kimmel, Assistant Superintendent of Business, Robbie Amodio, Director of Classified Personnel, Kristine Torres, Director of Finance/Accounting as well as our Round Meadow Principal, Kirby Brock. We respectfully request these additional RIF’s and staffing modifications be included in your
discussions this evening for consideration as we are unable and unwilling to provide the funding from RMPFA for the requested positions of the 2020-2021 school year. Only after we have and we have reviewed further specific and proven / implemented information such as, when are students returning to campus, new educational and social changes and how fundraising programs and events will be impacted, will we revisit RIF and Staffing modifications. We have included a copy of our approved positions, additional RIF Hours needed (some minimal hours were previously requested) and the letter sent last night for your consideration. In the event you are unable to address our concerns and changes tonight, we request these RIF's be incorporated prior to the May 15 cutoff window later this week as required by the state/unions and alternatively, in any "Summer/August layoff window" (as per Education Code: 44955.5 - http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=EDC&sectionNum=44955.5.) that may be permitted by the state in this unprecedented time. Thank you for your time and consideration. Respectfully, Greg Meneshian RMPFA- Parliamentarian, RMPFA Executive Board and Board of Directors: Michelle Travinski & Felisa Noble - RMPFA Co-Presidents, Adriana Leiss & Nicole Harris - RMPFA Co Vice-Presidents, Jody Green - RMPFA Vice-President elect, Candice Goldberg & Emily Austin - RMPFA Co-Secretaries, Nicole Sheth - RMPFA Treasurer, Francoise Cohen - RMPFA Assistant Treasurer, Greg Meneshian - RMPFA Parliamentarian, Jennifer Vandenberg - RMPFA Parliamentarian elect, Elena Brooks, Christine Faktor - Board of Directors
Attachments: Letter sent on 5.11.2020 - Modified RIF orders per district chart

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - A
On motion of Ms. Menges, seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the Board of Education approved Consent Agenda A, Items 1 through 5.
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 Echols

1. Approved to Utilize the California Multiple Award Schedules (CMAS) Contract #4-20-56-0006B, for Approval to Purchase Roofing Materials From the Garland Company for the Roofing Project at the District Office, Per Project Bid #01.0-801-2020-001
2. Approved Award of Bid to Best Contracting Services - Roofing Project at District Office, and Rejection of all Bids for Roofing Projects at Calabasas High School, Round Meadow Elementary School and Willow Elementary School
3. Approved School Representatives to the Athletic Leagues in the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Southern Section for 2020-2021
4. Approved Warrants
5. Approved Gifts

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - B
On motion of Ms. Wasserman, seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the Board of Education approved Consent Agenda B, Items 1 and 2.
Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:
   AYES: Board members Cutbill, Lawrence, Menges, Stein, and Wasserman
   NAYES: None
1. Approved Resolution No. 29-19 - Classified Layoff/Reduction in Hours
2. Approved the Personnel Document dated May 12, 2020, enumerating employee changes as listed in the attached document.

APPROVAL OF ACTION ITEMS
1. Ms. Amodio presented the Joint Initial Re-openers for the Classified Contract by the Las Virgenes Unified School District and the Las Virgenes Classified Association for public discussion of Articles 3, 18, 4, and 8.

Open Public Hearing
On motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education opened the public hearing of Joint Initial Re-openers for the Classified Contract by the Las Virgenes Unified School District and the Las Virgenes Classified Association.
Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:
   AYES: Board members Cutbill, Lawrence, Menges, Stein, and Wasserman
   NAYES: None

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Close Public Hearing
On motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education closed the public hearing of Joint Initial Re-openers for the Classified Contract by the Las Virgenes Unified School District and the Las Virgenes Classified Association.
Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:
AYES: Board members Cutbill, Lawrence, Menges, Stein, and Wasserman
NAYES: None

2. Ms. Amodio said as part of the formal negotiations process, the proposed Joint Initial Re-openers between the Las Virgenes Unified School District and the Las Virgenes Classified Association must be presented ("sunshined") to the Board for approval.

On motion of Ms. Cutbill, seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the Board of Education approved the Presentation of Joint Initial Re-openers for the Classified Contract by the Las Virgenes Unified School District and the Las Virgenes Classified Association.
Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:
AYES: Board members Cutbill, Lawrence, Menges, Stein, and Wasserman
NAYES: None

3. Dr. Finneran said students will not be returning to school for the balance of the 2019-2020 school year however the District has implemented a robust distance learning program. She said the District has a shared value of learning and one way we assess and evaluate work is by grading. She said the District has been speaking with colleges and universities in developing Resolution 30-19 in order to accommodate our students and families’ diverse needs. She said Resolution 30-19 has been discussed in both the Pathways Committee and the Community 360 Committee. She said with approval of Resolution 30-19 the District will provide narrative feedback for elementary students (grades JK-5), and the use of letter grades with a "Credit"/"No Credit" option for secondary students (grades 6-12). She said this temporary adjustment to the grading systems will offer students and their families sufficient feedback as well as flexibility for the spring 2020 trimester and semester. She said students will have until June 30 to submit their request for the "Credit"/"No Credit" option.

Las Virgenes Educators Association (LVEA) president, Craig Hochhaus said there has been great discussion and collaboration among the teachers. He said the elementary school teachers were able to reach a unanimous agreement fairly easily while the secondary school teachers faced more challenging questions. He said LVUSD teachers have been working very hard and want their students to continue to work hard.

Board members expressed that they have full faith in our educators and professionals in making sure all students are represented fairly with the grading options.

Mr. Hochhaus stated that teachers have unanimously agreed that they are against a Hold Harmless clause for the grading options.

On motion of Ms. Cutbill, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved the Board Resolution 30-19 on Grading During Emergency School Physical Closures.
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 Echols

Ms. Stein thanked teachers, parents, and students for their continued commitment and said she is proud to be a part of the Las Virgenes Unified School District community.

RETURN TO CLOSED SESSION
The Board returned to Closed Session at 8:03 PM

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Date Approved

5-21-20

President, Board of Education

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