BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of Special Board Meeting - Study Session: Preparing for 2020-2021 Virtual School Model
June 4, 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 special meeting of the Las Virgenes Unified School District Board of Education, scheduled for June 4, 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 3:31 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

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
Robbie Amadio, 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.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
On motion of Ms. Cutbill, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved the agenda of June 4, 2020.
Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:
  AYES: Board members Cutbill, Lawrence, Menges, Stein, and Wasserman
  NAYES: None

https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/lyusd/Board.nsf/Private?open&login#
Ms. Stein stated that there were many comments submitted by the public and that she would summarize the questions in the interest of time. She asked if parents have further questions at the end of today’s meeting to direct them to Assistant Superintendent of Education, Dr. Clara Finneran at cfinneran@lvusd.org or to members of the Board of Education.

Ms. Stein made the following statement, "before we begin with our study session, I want to take a moment to address the protests going on in our nation, state and in our communities, racial inequality and injustice is an issue that touches all of us. It requires each of us to look deep within our souls, hearts and minds to find responsible solutions and to act upon them. As leaders and educators we are privileged to be in a position to make a difference with our youth. We all must continue to speak out for justice and teach the importance of equality."

Dr. Stepensonsky expressed his appreciation to staff who with very short notice organized the closure of schools and were prepared for distance learning within two days. He said with change can manifest anxiety but also new opportunities and LVUSD teachers have been leading with great patience and professionalism. He thanked the Board for encouraging staff to be bold while maintaining a high level of excellence and focusing on supporting the whole child. He also thanked parents and students for their continued flexibility and kindness throughout the process.

Dr. Stepensonsky said the District is developing two options with the hopes of reopening schools on August 19. He said staff is developing details for both the Virtual Learning Academy option and the on campus option and will share information by late July. He said the District has learned a lot and plans are underway, however things can change over the summer depending on the health department and county guidelines in order to mitigate risk for students and staff.

Dr. Stepensonsky said the District will begin accepting applications for the Virtual Learning Academy as early as June 5 with a deadline of July 31. He said the District has received over 4,500 responses to the survey sent out to LVUSD families with 65% expressing a desire to return to the on campus model, 30% preferring the virtual model, and 5% who desire an alternative model or are undecided.

Finally, Dr. Stepensonsky thanked both the Las Virgenes Educators Association (LVEA) and the Las Virgenes Classified Association (LVCA) who have been wonderful partners and collaborators during these challenging times.

LVEA president, Craig Hochhaus agreed that it has been a collaborative process. He said 82% of LVEA members responded with feedback to LVEA’s survey. He said some teachers are very interested in the online learning model while others are interested in the on campus learning model, and most teachers do not want to teach both online and on campus. He said teachers are concerned about their health and their students’ health and understand that the District will create the safest work environment possible. Mr. Hochhaus said a working group from various grade levels and school sites is being assembled to discuss what a virtual learning environment will look like in the fall.

Dr. Stepensonsky said the District is taking into consideration state and local ordinances, guidance from the LA County Office of Education (LACOE), Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE), the California Association of School Business Officials (CASBO), the California Department of Education (CDE), and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). He said the District is also consulting with infectious disease specialists, speaking with experts at Kaiser Permanente, and learning and sharing information with other counties and districts. Finally, Dr. Stepensonsky reviewed what the return to school will look like in the fall and the planned rigorous cleaning and redesign of school sites to ensure student and staff health and safety.

Dr. Finneran said the District will be focusing on developing the virtual model and modifying the on campus model for the return of students in the fall. She said the District has received positive feedback on how it responded to the abrupt closure of schools and its swift transition to distance learning. Dr. Finneran said the fall academic year will be different from what the community is accustomed to however the District will emphasis the following three concepts; maintaining consistent expectations, academic excellence, and delivering a well-rounded education. Dr. Finneran said the Las Virgenes Unified School District is known for being creative, innovative, and bold while upholding its values and will continue to partner with families for the most successful outcome.

Mr. Gleason provided information on the virtual model and stated that it will offer the same curriculum as the on campus model and continue to evolve. He said there will be frequent and rigorous assessments which are necessary to implement student academic, social, and emotional needs. Mr. Gleason said the District is also taking into consideration families who depend on meals and on campus support. He said the virtual program will have central administration but maintain each school site’s individual identity. He said two deadlines have been established to help the District balance both the virtual and in class models in order to develop the master calendar.
He said families who are certain they will select the virtual model have been asked to notify the District by June 30 with a final deadline of July 31 to allow undecided families to make their decision.

Dr. Stepenosky added that it is quite likely that there will be split classes for both the virtual model and in person model.

Ms. Stein stated that LVUSD is being creative and creating an opportunity out of this global crisis and although it will not be perfect when school resumes in the fall the two models will serve all families.

Dr. Finneran said the District will work through the summer to develop content and add detail and structure. She said there will be daily whole group check-ins and the schedule will be consistent and predictable. She said we know students learn best when they are able to collaborate together and go deep into the material, and we want to make sure this experience matches the rigor of in person learning.

Teachers Ms. Joanne Kress, Ms. Kristen Marsilio, and Ms. Darci Miller provided information on what both the elementary and secondary experiences.

The Board thanked the staff for their time and ongoing collaboration and that it is impressive and reassuring to know we have such thoughtful and talented teachers. They reiterated that parents are an important part of this process and the District will continue to utilize technology and maintain the rigor of the current curriculum.

Dr. Stepenosky said the goal of the virtual model is to replicate the cadence, tempo and rhythm of our on campus classrooms and in order to be successful we will need parents to be engaged in this partnership.

**ADJOURNMENT**
The meeting was adjourned at 5:19 PM.

[Signature]

Date Approved: 6-23-2020

President, Board of Education