BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
June 9, 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 June 9, 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 4:30 PM at the Las Virgenes Unified School District, 4111 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT
Angela Cuthill
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 4:31 PM

A discussion was held regarding Student Discipline, Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release, Conference with Labor Negotiator - Agency Designated Representative - Dr. Rose Dunn, and Conference with Legal Counsel, Jack Parham.

CALL TO ORDER/OPEN SESSION
President Stein reconvened the Board meeting at 6:17 PM

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT
Angela Cuthill
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

STAFF PRESENT
Dr. Daniel Stepensky, 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 Curriculum and Athletics, Steve Scifres.

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. Cutbill, seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the Board of Education approved the agenda of June 9, 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. Stein made the following statement, "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".

The Board of Education recognized and thanked 2019-2020 Student Board Representatives, Ethan Castillo (AHS) and Bella Echols (CHS) and introduced 2020-2021 Student Board Representatives, Jake Goodman (AHS) and Noah Murray (CHS). Ms. Stein thanked Mr. Castillo and Ms. Echols for their leadership, thoughtful engagement in board meetings.

Ms. Cutbill said as we come to last days of the school year she is proud of how teachers and students did their best under these difficult circumstances and wished everyone a restful summer.

Mr. Lawrence said he is thankful for the staff's extra efforts and is proud of how everyone ended the school year strong. He said the District will be working hard over the summer to develop the fall virtual and on campus models.

Ms. Menges stated she is pleased with how the District has worked together during the crisis.

Ms. Wasserman said LVUSD counselors and staff have showed great strength, resilience, and fortitude to carry out distance learning, and she has received great feedback from parents and community members. Ms. Wasserman said she looks forward to continuing discussions regarding diversity and is proud of how our community had conducted peaceful protests.

Ms. Echols said Calabasas High School and Agoura High School seniors eagerly look forward to diploma celebrations scheduled for June 11. She said the consensus of student body is that the end of year recognitions have been an overall positive experience.
Mr. Castillo thanked the Board for the experience of serving as a student board representative.

Ms. Stein congratulated fifth grade, eight grade, and graduating seniors and thanked them for their patience, resilience, and flexibility during these challenging times. She thanked all LVUSD teachers and staff for their hard work and creativity.

Dr. Stepenosky congratulated students who are matriculating and graduating. He also congratulated Greater Conejo Valley 40 Under 40 award recipients from LVUSD, Deanne Bostrom and Steve Scifres. Dr. Stepenosky said he is heartbroken over struggles our community and country are going through and that racism is unacceptable in LVUSD and our community. He assured that the District will continue to listen, grow, and support all of its students.

Dr. Finneran expressed her sincere appreciation of LVUSD teachers, staff, principals, and the parent community for their efforts in executing distance learning. She stated that the District will be emphasizing and increasing anti-racism efforts. She said the Virtual Learning Academy has 130 students enrolled to date. Finally, Dr. Finneran said that middle school culmination videos will be available June 10 on the respective middle school websites and have turned out beautifully with every student being recognized. She thanked the Board for their participation and support in the production of the videos.

Mr. Scifres congratulated Kristen Dizon and the Agoura High School Sports Medicine students for winning the national competition and receiving All American honors. He thanked the Board for their support of the Sports Medicine pathway.

Mr. Klein stated that the #LVUSDReads campaign will launch June 10 on Community360.me.

Mr. Gleason said students are completing their credentialing programs and thanked coaches, teachers, and administrators for supporting our newest educators. He said it has been a pleasure working with classified staff during this time of working “Safer at Home” and that the final classified staff check in will take place June 10.

Dr. Dunn thanked the student board representatives, Ms. Echols and Mr. Castillo, for their hard work and said they will be great leaders. Said thanked Mr. Hochhaus for his continued work as an advocate for teachers.

Ms. Kimmel said she greatly appreciates all the work from all district teams, including the Child Nutrition Department and the Technology Department. She stated that as of next week the summer meal services will be available for pick up on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Ms. Amodio expressed her appreciation of Las Virgenes Classified Association president, Cindy Lundsford for her leadership and collaboration during these difficult times. She also thanked all classified staff for their teamwork and dedication and being flexible and supportive including custodians and cafeteria workers who have kept our campuses clean and safe.

Ms. Falk thanked the hard-working special education staff who have had a monumental task with distance learning. She said students have already signed up for the Extended School Year (ESY) summer program which will begin June 15.

Ms. Kintz stated that she is excited to transition into her new role as Director of Elementary Education and will miss the students, staff, and families at Willow Elementary.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA
There were no comments from the audience on 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.
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 Authorization to Make Appropriate Transfers for Year End
4. Approved Acceptance of Gifts
5. Approved Warrants

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - B
On motion of Ms. Menges, seconded by Ms. Cutbill, 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. 33-19 - Layoff of Early Child Education Teachers Reduction in Hours

APPROVAL OF ACTION ITEMS
1. Ms. Kimmel and Ms. Torres presented information for the 2020-2021 Budget Adoption. Ms. Kimmel said this is the most unusual budget ever presented for the Las Virgenes Unified School District as a result of the health crisis which put the district into a financial crisis. She said the assumptions being presented will change over the next two weeks as the state works to reach an agreement by June 15 and the Governor signing the budget by June 30. She said the May revision and assumptions are being used to develop the 2020-2021 budget. Ms. Kimmel said the loss of revenue compounded by declining enrollment and the Governor cutting and reducing program funding have had a negative effect on the District's budget.

Ms. Stein stated that board members and district administrators have been advocating to state and local representatives because this crisis is unprecedented and the District will need the federal and state governments to provide financial assistance.

Ms. Wasserman requested further clarification of the return to school survey completed by parents and the assistance being provided to our students in need.

Ms. Kimmel replied that applications for the free and reduced meals program become available in July of every school year with families required to reapply online each year. She said in order for the District to receive reimbursement for those enrolled in the program, applications need to be turned in by October, however students may request assistance any time of the year. Ms. Kimmel added that funding for Title I is based on the US Census Bureau estimates for children ages 5-17 who live within our boundaries. She said the District has also applied for financial assistance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Alliance of Schools for Cooperative Insurance Programs (ASCP). She said the District is hoping that the remaining balance of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds are allocated more equitably among school districts. Ms. Kimmel reviewed the recent history of loss in revenue and resources and that prior to the COVID health crisis the District was faced with a decrease in enrollment and an increase in pension costs. Finally, Ms. Kimmel said the initial 2020-2021 budget is based on reductions identified prior to staff layoffs.

Ms. Torres reviewed over $11 million of reduced revenue and the projected fund balance. She said the District's reserves will be used to keep the District afloat for the next school year. She said the Education Code requires districts to maintain a minimum 3% in reserves and if they are unable to they must submit reasons for the reduction. Finally, Ms. Torres reviewed the next two years' budget projections.

Ms. Stein stated that all school districts are facing a hardship and most will have a difficult time covering their payroll. Ms. Kimmel added that the District will be requesting to receive short term borrowing to cover payroll and will use reserves to cover expenses for the fall, however the District will need financial assistance in the spring. Ms. Kimmel stated that a resolution will be presented to the Board at the June 23 Board meeting which will state its fiduciary responsibility over the next few years and that the District will need to reduce expenses significantly.

The Board expressed their dismay at the sobering reality of the financial crisis and thanked Ms. Kimmel and Ms. Torres for their diligent work.

On motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Cutbill, the Board of Education opened the Public Hearing for the 2020-2021 Budget 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 Echols

There were no comments from the audience; therefore, on motion of Ms. Cutbill, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education closed the Public Hearing for the 2020-2021 Budget 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 Echols

2. Dr. Stepenosky stated that it is with a heavy heart to have Resolution 32-19 presented to the Board. He said classified employees who will be laid-off have been individually contacted and given a 60-day notice to make alternate arrangements. He said the District greatly values its classified staff and the board and administration will continue to advocate and fight for the possible return of staff. Dr. Stepenosky said the Governor’s budget is unacceptable, however we must work with the reality with which we are faced. He said the upcoming summer months will be fluid and dynamic and as more information becomes available the District will act accordingly.

Ms. Amodio stated that this has been a very difficult time but the District is working hard to provide resources and answer questions for those who have been affected.

The Board expressed their sincere regret and said that this is a sad day for valued members of LVUSD. They said given the District’s fiduciary responsibilities there was no other choice given the current budgetary challenges. They are hopeful that many staff members will be hired back once there is greater clarity with regard to financial assistance. They want staff to know they will continue to work hard advocating and communicating with state and national representative to fight for all employees.

On motion of Ms. Cutbill, seconded by Ms. Menges, the Board of Education approved Resolution No. 32-19 - Classified Reduction in Force
Board Motion Carried 5:0 as follows:
AYES: Board members Cutbill, Lawrence, Menges, Stein, and Wasserman
NAYES: None

INFORMATION
1. Mr. Gleason provided information on how the District will continue to engage staff and students over the summer in order to maintain connections and goals. He said the District wants to have opportunities for enrichment, fun, and joy for students and support staff. He said resources will be available to the community to assist with mental health. Mr. Gleason said there are over 50 free offerings for virtual summer camp and students can begin registering as of June 10 at Community 360.me. He emphasized that the sessions will be taught by high school students who will be volunteering their time. Mr. Gleason said the District is also launching its fifth year of #LVUSDReads where each Wednesday there will be virtual assemblies and author visits. He encouraged families to share #LVUSDReads on their social media accounts.

Dr. Finneran said that virtual summer school is on track and over 500 students will begin summer school on June 15 with Mr. Eli Kashman as the principal, and the Extended School Year (ESY) program will service 350 students virtually.

Mr. Gleason said over 100 staff members have already signed up for three professional development courses offered over the summer and that this is a great opportunity for staff to stay connected and learn important initiatives. He said the District’s new Community360.me app will provide families free and immediate mental health support including podcasts and videos.

Ms. Stein thanked everyone for the hard work during these challenging times.

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 PM.

[Signature]
President, Board of Education

Date Approved: 6-23-2020