

**LA CAÑADA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD**

October 17, 2017

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of La Cañada Unified School District was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Dan Jeffries on October 17, 2017, in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Cañada, California. Present were Governing Board Members Dan Jeffries, Kaitzer Puglia, Brent Kuszyk, Ellen Multari and David Sagal.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The Governing Board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:30 p.m. in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Cañada, California. Present were the five Governing Board Members, Superintendent Wendy Sinnette, Assistant Superintendent Anais Wenn, Assistant Superintendent Mark Evans, and Chief Technology Officer Jamie Lewsadder. Mr. Kuszyk left Closed Session at 6:00 p.m. Closed Session adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**        Mr. Dan Jeffries, President  
                                     Mrs. Kaitzer Puglia, Vice President  
                                     Mrs. Ellen Multari, Member  
                                     Mr. David Sagal, Member

**OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

None.

**REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. Jeffries stated that in Closed Session the Governing Board unanimously voted (4:0) to approve the Settlement Agreement signed on October 4, 2017 regarding Special Education due process matter OAH case number 2017060475. Governing Board member Brent Kuszyk was absent.

**REGULAR MEETING**

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board was reconvened at 7:00 p.m. in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Cañada, California. Present were four Governing Board Members, Ms. Sinnette, Mrs. Wenn, Mr. Evans, Ms. Lewsadder and Executive Assistant to the Superintendent Kim Bergner. There were approximately 75 people in the audience. Mr. Jeffries introduced members of Boy Scout Pack 510 Den 4 who were present to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**REPORTS**

**1. Superintendent's Report**

Ms. Sinnette reported on public school finance and expressed her gratitude for the La Cañada Flintridge Educational Foundation. She thanked Executive Director Marilyn Yang; Director of Administration Anush Sumian; the Officers and Board of the Educational Foundation; and its community supporters for their financial commitment to the district. The Education Foundation presented the district with a check in the amount of \$2,000,000. La Cañada Educational Foundation President Kevin Martin thanked the community and LCFEF Directors for their support and commitment to the district. He thanked the district for its focus on excellence for our students.

Ms. Sinnette reported on the National Merit Scholarship Program. She reported that this year LCUSD has 10 National Merit Semi-Finalists. Ms. Sinnette and Governing Board President Dan Jeffries presented Certificates of Achievement to the semi-finalists present.

Ms. Sinnette recognized and thanked Child Education Center Director Elyssa Nelson for the 20 year partnership between CEC and the district, with the CEC providing school age childcare in LCUSD. Ms. Sinnette reported that CEC will be celebrating the 20 year partnership with the community with events across the elementary school sites.

**2. President's Report**

Mr. Jeffries recognized Dr. Mandy Redfern for being named as 1 of the 16 educators recognized as a Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year. Out of 300,000 teachers in the state of California, Dr. Redfern will now be considered for Teacher of the Year at the state level. Mr. Jeffries and Ms. Sinnette presented flowers to Dr. Redfern with congratulations for her accomplishment.

**3. Assistant Superintendent of Business & Administrative Services' Report**

Mr. Evans reported on current state legislation and the reserve cap increase to 10% which kicks in when reserves hit 3%. The latest report from the State Department of Finance states that revenues are ahead of budget. However, the district still has challenges ahead in managing the STRS and PERS continued increases. The first read of the budget will come to the Governing Board in November, with a second read in December.

**4. Student Representative**

Averi Suk reported on recent and upcoming events, including La Cañada High School Homecoming.

A brief reception was called to celebrate the National Merit Semi-Finalist achievements.

**REVIEW OF AGENDA**

None.

**OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS BOARD**

The following audience members addressed the Board:

None.

**PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS**

**1. First Reading**

- a. **2017 CAASPP Results, R51-17-18.** Ms. Sinnette introduced Ms. Lindi Dreibelbis and thanked her for her expertise in the compilation of CAASPP results data. Ms. Dreibelbis reported that the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, known as CAASPP, is in its third official year statewide. The CAASPP program consists of several different tests. The computer-adaptive Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) Summative Assessments in English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics are administered in grades 3-8 and 11. Fifth, eighth and eleventh grade students also piloted the new state test in Science called the CAST (CA Science test). Students with special needs were administered the California Alternate Assessment (CAA) in English, Math and Science. Next year, Seniors will be tested in Science in April. Ms. Dreibelbis stated that scores statewide remained stagnant in the third year. She presented a comparative of scores in English Language Arts and Mathematics showing overall state scores along with comparable districts.

Ms. Dreibelbis reported on the 4 performance levels for the tests: Not Met; Nearly Met, Met and Exceeded. Statewide in Mathematics, only 17.6% of students scored exceeded on the test, while LCUSD had 60.73% of its students exceed. She reported on the scale scores for each grade level. She showed comparable scores for the district in 2015, 2016 and 2017 in both English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics. Ms. Dreibelbis provided a breakdown of scores by school site and subject test. Ms. Dreibelbis reported on the State Indicators in the Fall 2017 Dashboard which include: Chronic Absenteeism; Suspension Rate; English Learner Progress; Graduation Rate; College/Career; Academic: English Language Arts and Mathematics. The district's English Language Learners are approximately 5%. Ms. Multari asked how this data can be broken down by student to make sure that all students are successful. Ms. Sinnette reported that teachers embrace the data from these tests and use the information in the classroom. The district encourages using Illuminate for assessment results so all of the testing data can be incorporated and used by the teacher to assist all students in improving. Ms. Dreibelbis reported on the parent meeting that she holds every year to support parents in understanding their child's test scores. The Governing Board thanked Ms. Dreibelbis for her comprehensive presentation.

- b. **Challenge Success Initiative Update, R52-17-18.** Executive Director of Pupil and Personnel Services James Cartnal was present to provide an update on the Challenge Success Initiative. Mr. Cartnal reported that in the 2016-17 academic year, La Cañada 7/8 and La Cañada High School partnered with Stanford's Challenge Success program in efforts to address concerns regarding student wellness and in an attempt to identify ways to improve the climate of care at both schools. During the 2016-17 academic year, both La Cañada 7/8 and La Cañada High School issued the Stanford Survey of Adolescent School Experiences, and engaged stakeholder groups across the year in order to analyze the survey results and develop appropriate programmatic changes as guided by Challenge Success research. Continued participation in Challenge Success for La Cañada 7/8 and La Cañada High School and the expansion of Challenge Success to the elementary schools became an LCAP goal for 2017-18. In 2017-2018, both La Cañada 7/8 and La Cañada High School have continued as partner schools in the Challenge Success program. As a shared action plan, both schools will again give the Stanford Survey of Adolescent School Experiences to students in grades 7-12, will organize class by class assemblies to share additional details about Challenge Success and how it will influence the experiences of students at both sites, will host Challenge Success co-founder Madeline Levine as a guest speaker, in addition to creating their three year, site-specific Challenge Success implementation plans. Districtwide, the tenets and ideals of the Challenge Success program are being shared with elementary school stakeholder groups via a series of staff trainings, parent education opportunities, and student meetings. Mr. Cartnal reported on the stress and challenges that are affecting students at both the elementary and 7-12 level. Mr. Cartnal reported on a presentation being made this year at the elementary sites, "The What, Why, and How of Challenge Success". Mr. Cartnal reported on the 2017-2018 Challenge Success initiatives, which include the establishment of a Homework Committee to look at ways to refocus homework from quantity to quality, and continuing to in-service teachers on the Challenge Success program. And Parent Ed to educate parents on the importance of "Playtime, Downtime and Family time". Mr. Cartnal reported on the 2017-2018 wellness initiative for district staff which includes regular wellness trainings and after work yoga which are available to staff. The Governing Board thanked Mr. Cartnal for his presentation.
- c. **\*Updated Resolution 4-17-18 Addressing the District's On-going Concerns Related to the Devil's Gate Reservoir Sediment Removal and Maintenance Project.** It was moved and seconded (Multari/Sagal) to adopt Resolution 4-17-18 Addressing the District's On-going Concerns Related to the Devil's Gate Reservoir

Sediment Removal and Maintenance Project. Ms. Sinnette reported on the discussion at the last meeting regarding the negative impacts of the Devil's Gate Reservoir Sediment Removal and Maintenance Project to student, staff and family health. The County Board of Supervisors acknowledged receipt of the previous resolution. Mr. Jeffries reported on the discussions during the Joint Use Committee meeting with the City of La Canada Flintridge. During that meeting there were discussions regarding the tracking of the project to ensure that all restrictions on the project are followed. Ms. Sinnette reviewed the items identified by the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors invited the district to attend the information meetings at the end of October. The motion to adopt Resolution 4-17-18 Addressing the District's On-going Concerns Related to the Devil's Gate Reservoir Sediment Removal and Maintenance Project was adopted unanimously, 4:0 with Mr. Kuszyk not in attendance.

- d. **\*Election of Members to the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization, R53-17-18.** It was moved and seconded (Multari/Sagal) to discuss how to mark the election ballot for the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization. Ms. Sinnette reported that the Governing Board is requested to submit a vote for two seats on the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization. After some Governing Board discussion it was agreed to vote for Maria Calix and AJ Willmer. The motion to mark the election ballot for Maria Calix and AJ Willmer for the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization was adopted unanimously.

2. **Consent Agenda**

It was moved and seconded (Puglia/Multari) to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion to approve the Consent Agenda was adopted unanimously.

- a. **Personnel Report, P8-17-18.** The Governing Board approved the Personnel Report as follows: *Certificated*: New Hires: Stella Barcello, Katherine Fabanish, Noelle Montgomery, Daniel Muro. *Classified*: New Hires: Jessica Buhler, Karen Contreras, Effie Edwards, Scarlet Eskew, Sandra Smith, Jessica Vega, Jay Yang. Modification: Jessica Thai. Leave of Absence: Jenny Lee. Resignation: Megan Martin.
- b. **Illuminate Contract, R48-17-18.** The Governing Board approved the contract with Illuminate Education, Inc. through June 30, 2020.
- c. **Teacher Internship Contract Agreement – Brandman University, R50-17-18.** The Governing Board approved the Teacher Internship Contract Agreement with Brandman University through October 1, 2019.
- d. **Notice of Completion, R54-17-18.** The Governing Board approved the Notice of Completion for Digital Synergy Consulting as of August 1, 2017.
- e. **Purchase Order List 6-17-18.** The Governing Board approved Purchase Order List 6-17-18.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Sagal announced that La Cañada High School will be performing Beau Jest at the high school October 22 – October 24, 2017.

Ms. Multari reported that she and Mr. Kuszyk have been working on the bond campaign. Phone banks and canvassing door to door have been occurring. She also stated that the YMCA Youth and Government students will be holding a mock legislative campaign and have asked an LCHS Governing Board member to attend. Ms. Puglia agreed to attend.

Ms. Puglia thanked the community for their support at the LCFEF Endowment Wine Auction on October 14, 2017 and encouraged the community to attend the Boosterfest on October 21, 2017.

Ms. Sinnette reported that the district is currently fully staffed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Canada, California.

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Wendy K. Sinnette, Superintendent  
Secretary to the Governing Board

**MINUTES APPROVED**

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Brent Kuszyk, Clerk

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Date