

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

October 8, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of La Cañada Unified School District was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Brent Kuszyk on October 8, 2019, in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Cañada, California. Present were Governing Board Members Brent Kuszyk, Joe Radabaugh, Ellen Multari, Dan Jeffries and Kaitzer Puglia.

CLOSED SESSION

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Brent Kuszyk, President
Mr. Joe Radabaugh, Vice President
Mrs. Ellen Multari, Clerk
Mr. Dan Jeffries, Member
Mrs. Kaitzer Puglia Member

OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

None.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Kuszyk stated there was nothing to report out of Closed Session.

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 five Governing Board Members, Ms. Sinnette, Mrs. Wenn, Mr. Evans, Ms. Lewsadder and Executive Assistant to the Superintendent Kim Bergner. There were approximately 46 people in the audience. Mr. Kuszyk asked Boy Scout Troop 519 to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

REPORTS

1. Superintendent's Report

Ms. Sinnette commended and congratulated LCUSD 2019-2020 National Merit Semi-Finalists. She provided background on the National Merit Scholarship program. 15 students from La Canada High School qualified as semi-finalists this year, the highest number of students in memory. Semi-finalists are the highest scoring students in the state and represent the top 1/2% of all high school seniors. Mr. Kuszyk and Ms. Sinnette presented certificates to the students present.

On behalf of the entire LCUSD community, Ms. Sinnette extended her sincerest thanks to the La Canada Flintridge Educational Foundation for their annual gift. The Foundation's annual gift supports signature programs within the District. The Foundation helps fund lower class sizes, counselors throughout the district, art and music instruction, elementary Spanish, technology, and so much more. The Foundation Directors are hardworking volunteers who go

above and beyond each year to ensure the best for our kids. Ms. Sinnette thanked all of the families, businesses and community supporters who make the annual gift a reality. Members of the Foundation were in attendance to present a check to the district in the amount of \$1,900,000.

Ms. Sinnette congratulated district students on their scores on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP).

2. President's Report

Mr. Kuszyk acknowledged that October is National Dyslexia Awareness Month. He reported on the parent education series that helps educate parents on student issues and student achievements. The first event is on, "Bringing Efficiency Home" for parents of students in grades 4-12 on October 17, 2019. The program on October 2, 2019 is designed for 7 -12 parents and is entitled, "Choices Matter". In November, Christina Hale-Elliott will host, "Cultivating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion" for K-12 parents. She will present an evening program on November 5, from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and a morning presentation on November 6, from 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Both events will be held in the high school auditorium. Family Learning Series events for 2020 will include, "College Night", "Bringing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Home", "What I Wish my Parents Knew", "Elementary Math Night", "The Best College Admissions Results", "Social Emotional Learning", "Social Media & Cell Phones", and "Coping with School-Related Anxiety". Mr. Kuszyk thanked Ms. Karen Hurley for producing a robust parent education series for 2019-2020.

3. Associate Superintendent of Business & Administrative Services' Report

Mr. Evans provided an update on summer projects. The La Canada High School Cafeteria project is moving along. The scope of the project has increased to include updating the PA and audiovisual systems. The project is expected to be completed by Thanksgiving. Fencing panels are largely in place at the elementary sites, gates and entryways are still being completed. Fencing at Paradise Canyon Elementary has been the most complicated site to finalize. The district is currently planning for Summer 2020 projects which will include upgrading utilities at Palm Crest Elementary in preparation for the modernization project, as well as balconies and railing improvements at La Cañada High School, PA and fire system upgrades at La Cañada High School and Fencing at La Cañada High School. Mr. Evans reported that the Citizens' Oversight Committee will meet on October 24, 2019 at 7:30 a.m. for its first meeting of 2019-2020.

4. Student Representative

Student Representative JJ Dick reported on recent and upcoming school site events.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

None.

OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS BOARD

The following audience members addressed the Board:

None.

PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS

1. Second Reading

- a. **Approval of the Proposed District Technology Plan, R26-19-20.** It was moved and seconded (Puglia/Jeffries) to approve the District Technology Plan as presented. Ms. Lewsadder provided a presentation on the 2019-2022 Technology Plan updates. She reported on the Six Pillars of the LCUSD Tech Plan, which are: Teaching, Learning,

Infrastructure, Assessment, Leadership and Community. The Tech Team wants to solve challenges through education; meet everyone where they are by individualizing learning; create a safe environment that doesn't hold any learner back; support a shift from grading to learning; move from leading innovation to empowering innovators; share resources and learn with other districts/organizations. The pillars are broken down into 6 goals that are doable over the next 3 years. Year 1 and Year 2 are mapped out but are flexible in order to change with technology and district demands. Members of the Student Advisor Tech Council were present reporting that the Student Advisor Tech Council is not just about technology it's also about the soft skills which students are also learning. Student voice is important in technology. As technology becomes more integrated in students' school and home experiences, it's important to ensure that students have a voice because they are the ones being affected by technology. The Student Advisor Tech Council hopes to accomplish community, innovation and empowerment through the efforts as an advisory group. The motion to approve the District Technology Plan as presented was approved unanimously.

2. **First Reading**

- a. **Update on Dyslexia Intervention Process, R40-19-20.** During the 2018-2019 school year, the Governing Board made reading intervention screeners, instructional materials, and comprehensive program offerings a priority at the elementary sites, with an increased focus on students who are at-risk for dyslexia. Now retired Executive Director of Special Education and Psychological Services Dr. Tamara Jackson and school psychologist-on-special-assignment Nicole Pilarski researched the best response to intervention for dyslexic students and identified and initiated dyslexia screening processes, selected an intervention curriculum, trained teachers and administrators, and ultimately developed a preliminary plan to be deployed during the 2019-2020 school year. Ms. Sinnette introduced Dr. Derek Ihori and Nicole Pilarski who were present to provide an update on the implementation to date. Dr. Ihori reported on the initiative to address best practices for dyslexia. He reported that a dyslexia screener is available for parents to complete as part of the enrollment process for all kindergarten, first, second, and third grade students. The screener results were available at the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year. Elementary principals were consulted and the preliminary plan for deployment was fully developed as the 2019-2020 school year began. Dr. Ihori reported on the overall process of identifying and supporting students with this specialized learning disability. Dr. Ihori reported that the current goal is to identify the student in K-3 so that early intervention may be provided. Interventions for older students become more difficult to address. Currently, teachers administer direct reading assessments to all K-3rd grade students. The Sonday pretest is administered to any student scoring significantly below grade level. The Sonday pretest identifies targeted areas for intervention and places the student at the appropriate point in the Sonday Intervention Program. Dr. Ihori reported on the Intervention Research, including research by The National Reading Panel, Fletch, Lyon, Fuchs, & Barnes, and the national Joint Committee of Learning Disabilities. Based on the California Dyslexia Guidelines, interventions should be systematic, explicit and diagnostic. Dr. Ihori reported on the systematic, explicit and diagnostics of The Sonday System. Dr. Ihori reported on the Sonday System trainings which are provided to district staff. To date, the district has expended approximately \$22,000 on materials and training. There will be additional expenditures as the district expands its toolbox.

The following members of the audience addressed the Board:

Barto Ramirez, LCUSD parent, requested more teacher awareness of what dyslexic students are going through and requested that more support be provided to parents on how to support their dyslexic student;
 Riley Kam, PCY student, requested more teacher training on dyslexia;

Doris Kam, PCY parent, thanked the Governing Board for their support of dyslexic students.

- b. **Presentation of Superintendent's 2019-2020 Goals, R36-19-20.** The Superintendent prepares annual goals that are reviewed, revised, and ultimately approved by the Governing Board. In Closed Session on September 10, 2019, the Governing Board gave direction on the Superintendent's 2019-2020 goals. Since 2011, the Superintendent has elected to make the goals public. Ms. Sinnette presented her goals for 2019-2020.

LCUSD Bond Program-Measure LCF) LCAP Goal #4)

- Work with Assoc. Sup. Business and Admin. Services and the CTO to oversee Bond Measure LCF projects for 2019-20. Attend Program Manager and Site Design Committee meetings (PCR and LCHS). Attend Executive Steering Committee meetings with the architects to check progress and assist in planning the project phases. Work with Assoc. Sup. Business and CTO to ensure community outreach and input related to pending project design and communications. Continue to maintain and improve districtwide facilities by supporting maintenance and operations excellence and monitoring performance outcomes. Prepare a semester check-in report to the Governing Board on Maintenance and Operations Departments' progress including site visits with Board and Cabinet members as a performance metric.

Parcel Tax Campaign Preparation 2019-20 (Provides for LCAP Goals #1 and #2)

- Work with Assoc. Sup. Business and Admin. Services, the Governing Board, and TBWB to initiate polling to determine community support for a Spring 2020 Parcel Tax renewal. Engage in outreach to the community by working with TBWB to create messaging and materials to inform and build community consensus. Work with TBWB to draft the parcel tax resolution and ballot questions. Draft parcel tax measure documents to present to the Governing Board for consideration and approval. Once the measure is approved by the Governing Board, work as an independent citizen during non-work hours as a part of the Parcel Tax Citizens Get Out the Vote Committee.

Districtwide Social Emotional Learning/Wellness Initiative (LCAP Goal #3)

- Work with Governing Board and Leadership Team to hire a DEI Consultant under an Independent Services Contract (ISC) for the 2019-2020 school year. Ensure the following outcomes: a needs assessment and action research within the district to determine the policies, programs, trainings, and services which will be developed and offered; promote and sustain equity, inclusion, and diversity trainings and programs; strengthen the educational environment and enhance a District culture which emphasizes personal growth, academic excellence, and core values of inclusion, wellness and empathy. Identify where the future coordination and oversight of these responsibilities will remain within district administration once the ISC comes to a close. Monitor with the Assoc. Sup. Of Ed Services and the Principals the Challenge Success LCHS Year IV and Elementary Year III Implementation Plans. Monitor the opening and implementation of the LCHS Wellness Center with the LCHS Principal, Counselor in charge of Program Development, and LCHS Peer Support Instructors. Ensure the successful implementation of LCHS Spartan Support II Course in 2019-20. Support and promote the LCUSD Family Learning Series.

Organizational Talent Development – Building Excellence from Within, Planning Across LCUSD (LCAP #1)

- Develop and implement a strategic action plan designed to develop talent within the LCUSD organization at every level – administrator, teacher, certificated support staff, and classified staff groups. Create systems to successfully identify high-potential future leaders and deliver professional development and trainings to support growth in their existing roles and build pathways for the next stage of site or district leadership. Build learning contacts and access contact opportunities with LCUSD administration and outside experts. In addition, report out regarding the best practices work being done within the school sites and district departments. Coordinate a recognition program to highlight meaningful contributions and achievements throughout the district. Continue to oversee the success of the reorganized LCUSD Administrative Leadership Team through frequent meetings, performance updates, and goal progress reports.

Community and District Relations – Comprehensive Planning and Development

- Work with Cabinet, the LCUSD Governing Board, the Executive Director of Personnel, Leadership Team members, Curriculum Council, Instructional Planning Group, and community colleagues as required to complete all of the following action items.
- Devil's Gate Sediment Removal Project – Lead the ongoing LCUSD Response/Action Plan;
- Update the District's Guiding Documents (Vision Statement, Mission Statement, Core Values, etc.);
- Lead the LCUSD response to the proposed Sagebrush Territory Transfer;
- Plan and schedule 2019-20 Governing Board Retreat (with Board President and Cabinet);
- Oversee the success of the reorganized LCUSD Administrative Leadership Team;
- Plan and implement the revised Panorama Ed Survey Instruments and Protocols.

Ms. Sinnette thanked the Governing Board for their forethought and vision during the goals process. It was moved and seconded (Radabaugh/Jeffries) to approve the Superintendent's Goals for 2019-2020 as presented. The motion to approve the Superintendent's Goals for 2019-2020 as presented was approved unanimously.

- c. ***Addition of a book to the 12th grade Core Literature List, R34-19-20.** It was moved and seconded (Jeffries/Multari) to approve the addition of Uncharted Territory by Jim Burke to the Core Literature List. Ms. Wenn reported on the steps taken to bring this request to the Governing Board. The motion to approve the addition of Uncharted Territory by Jim Burke to the Core Literature List was approved unanimously.

3. **Discussion Items**

- a. **Discussion Regarding the Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration (Sediment Removal and Maintenance) Project – District Actions and Updates, R30-19-20.** Ms. Sinnette provided an update on the Devil's Gate Sediment Removal project. She reported on the two town hall meetings that occurred on September 24, 2019. In the spring, Phase 2 of the project will begin, which will include tailpipe emissions monitoring. Ms. Sinnette reported that the five real time air monitoring stations, which are continually being reviewed. As of October 4, 2019, there have been 76 days of hauling, with 26,153 total truck trips, 373,000 cubic yards of sediment has been removed. The dust residue has been reduced with the expansion of the multi-phased wheel washing. The

County is considering expanding their air quality monitoring. New air quality monitoring equipment has just arrived but it won't be in place until the next hauling cycle. Per community requests, a striping refresh on Berkshire will be done within the next few weeks. Mr. Evans ensured that air filters are being replaced on a regular basis as needed. To date, there have not been any red alerts. The County is continuing to move forward with adding the left turn signal at Berkshire/Oak Grove. Traffic Engineers have been asked to review the project due to the no right turn that will be implemented with the installation of the left turn signal.

4. **Consent Agenda**

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

- a. **Personnel Report, P5-19-20.** The Governing Board approved the Personnel Report as follows: *Certificated*: New Hires: Kevin Devine, John Haglund, Georgina Mueller. Leave of Absence: Christine Dornian, Adriana Egger. Resignation: Devika Parashar. *Classified*: New Hires: Jessica Cortez, Carlos Garcia, Rosa Nunez. Modification: Dolly Leidelmeijer, Matt Whisenant. Resignation: Virtrice Nolen. Retirement: Alfonso Ruiz Gonzalez. Extra Duty Stipend: Teena Vasquez.
- b. **Spec Acts: LCE Pali Institute, R29-19-20.** The Governing Board approved the LCE Special Activity request to attend Pali Institute in Running Springs, California December 2-6, 2019.
- c. **Spec Acts: LCE Time Capsule/Ocean Institute, R28-19-20.** The Governing Board approved the LCE Special Activity request to attend Time Capsule/Ocean Institute in Dan Point, California December 3-5, 2019.
- d. **Spec Acts: LCHS WBA Championships, R33-19-20.** The Governing Board approved the LCHS Special Activity request to attend the WBA Championships in Fresno, California Friday, November 22, 2019 to Sunday, November 24, 2019.
- e. **Spec Acts: LCHS Crystal Springs Cross Country Invitational, R35-19-20.** The Governing Board approved the LCHS Special Activity request to attend the Crystal Springs Cross Country Invitational in Belmont, California Friday, October 11, 2019 – Sunday, October 13, 2019.
- f. **Spec Acts: LCHS 7/8 NatureBridge at Yosemite, R37-19-20.** The Governing Board approved the 7/8 Special Activity request to attend NatureBridge in Yosemite National Park February 16-21, 2020.
- g. **Spec Acts: LCHS WGI Power Regionals, R38-19-20.** The Governing Board approved the LCHS Special Activity request to attend the WGI Power Regionals in Las Vegas, Nevada March 14-16, 2020.
- h. **Spec Acts: LCHS Concert Choir Retreat, R39-19-20.** The Governing Board approved the LCHS Special Activity request to attend the Concert Choir Retreat at the Angeles Christian Camp in Palmdale, California Saturday, October 19 – Sunday, October 20, 2019.
- i. **Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints, R32-19-20.** The Governing Board approved the Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints as presented.
- j. **Change Order No 001 to Bid No. 18/19-08, La Cañada High School Band Room & Drainage Improvement, R42-19-20.** The Governing Board approved Change Order No 001 to Bid No. 18/19-08, La Cañada High School Band Room & Drainage Improvement in the amount of \$40,993.71, increasing the contract to Chalmers Construction Services from \$945,000.00 to \$985,993.71.
- k. **Notice of Completion, R41-19-20.** The Governing Board approved the Notice of Completion for Abny General Engineering, Inc., Bid No# LCF 18/19-06 for the Installation of the new 6-inch sewer line at Palm Crest Elementary and the connection to public sewer system as of September 19, 2019.
- l. **Purchase Order List 6-19-20.** The Governing Board approved Purchase Order List 6-19-20.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Kuszyk reported on the Homecoming Game.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Tuesday, October 29, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Canada, California.

Wendy K. Sinnette, Superintendent
Secretary to the Governing Board

MINUTES APPROVED

Ellen Multari, Clerk

Date