

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

October 29, 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 29, 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 that in Closed Session the Governing Board unanimously approved the Settlement Agreement signed on October 11, 2019 on Special Education non-due process matter for SM.

**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 65 people in the audience. Boy Scout Troop 395 led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded (Puglia/Jeffries) to approve the minutes of September 10, 2019. The motion to approve the minutes of September 10, 2019 was adopted unanimously.

**REPORTS**

**1. Superintendent's Report**

Ms. Sinnette reported on the upcoming Family Learning Series entitled, "Cultivating Diversity, Equity and Inclusion". Christina Hale-Elliott, LCUSD's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion consultant will report out on the district's plans and commitments related to the district's efforts to further cultivate diversity, equity and inclusion in LCUSD this year and beyond. Ms. Sinnette invited the community to attend the event to share their experiences and ideas for moving the work forward. Ms. Hale-Elliott will present the workshop Tuesday, November 5

from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and Wednesday, November 6 from 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Both events will be held in the high school auditorium.

Ms. Sinnette welcomed Dr. Jeff Brookey and the LCHS Chamber Singers who were present to perform for the Governing Board. She reported that Dr. Brookey has taught choral music in California schools for over 25 years and has taught at LCHS since 2008. She provided background on the choral program and Dr. Brookey's accomplishments. Dr. Brookey thanked the Governing Board for the opportunity to perform.

**2. President's Report**

Mr. Kuszyk highlighted efforts currently underway at the high school regarding college applications for our seniors. The current trend is for district students to submit applications for early decision. Early application deadlines are due by the end of November. Mr. Kuszyk reported on his discussion with LCHS Counselor Andrea Rasmussen who advised that students visit a variety of schools and not just a few of the local and more popular schools. She also encouraged parents and students to put in the time doing their research on different colleges. Additionally, Mr. Kuszyk spoke to LCHS Principal Jim Cartnal who recommended, "Fit over Fame" and to make sure students apply to a blend of colleges. Mr. Kuszyk reported that over 150 college representatives visit La Cañada High School each year. Mr. Kuszyk thanked Mr. Cartnal and the outstanding counseling staff at the high school who go the extra mile for students during this extremely busy and stressful time and he thanked our teachers who make such a difference, not only in the classroom but also in their gracious support through letters of recommendation writing.

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

Mr. Evans reported that the City of La Cañada Flintridge and LCUSD will be holding a Town Hall meeting on Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> in the Paradise Canyon Elementary School multi-purpose room to hear about traffic, parking and safety concerns around Paradise Canyon Elementary, specifically during drop off and pick up times.

Mr. Evans reported that the Citizen's Oversight Committee met and reviewed summer bond projects, sharing both successes and challenges.

Mr. Evans discussed the summer 2020 projects that will include LCHS fencing, upgrading the LCHS fire alarm and PA system, and retrofitting LCHS railing and balconies on the A and B buildings. Teachers and Administrators met to work on details of the schematic designs for the Palm Crest Modernization. Mr. Evans reported on the LCHS South Campus Modernization project, stating that the Pool Design committee continues to meet to fine tune the project. Mr. Jeffries reported on the hard work and collaboration of the Pool Design committee and thanked them for this commitment.

**4. Student Representative**

Student Representative JJ Dick was not present.

**REVIEW OF AGENDA**

It was requested that Consent items e and f be moved to First Reading \* d and e.

**OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS BOARD**

The following audience members addressed the Board:

Dina Loftus and Corinna Ritter, CSEA Representatives, announced the 2019-20 CSEA Board and reported on their goals for 2019-2020.

## **PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS**

### **1. First Reading**

- a. **Measure LCF presentation on Assessed Valuation, R51-19-20.** Mr. Evans introduced Adam Bauer of Fieldman, Rolapp & Associates who was present to report on Measure LCF's assessed valuation. He began his report by providing a Historical Assessed Valuation from 1991 – 2020. Mr. Bauer reported on the district's Outstanding General Obligation Bonds. He reported on the difference between a 2020 series issuance and a 2021 series issuance. He reported on the current interest rate environment. The spend out requirement of bond funds was also discussed. Program Manager Harold Pierre was present and discussed the cash flow needs for upcoming bond projects. The Governing Board asked Mr. Pierre to bring an updated bond projects timeline to the next Governing Board meeting on November 19, 2019, to see if a March issuance would be beneficial and feasible. It was suggested that Charles Heath from TBWB be contacted to ensure a bond issuance in March would not impact the Parcel Tax election.
- b. **2018-2019 CAASPP Scores Report, R48-19-20.** Director of Program and Services Karen Hurley provided a report on the 2018-2019 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). Students Grades 3-8 and 11 take the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium text in English and math and Grades 5, 8 and 11 take the CA Science Test and the Next Generation Science Standards test in Science. Ms. Hurley reported on the scale scores and performance levels for the test results. The English test includes English Language Arts/Literacy in reading, writing, listening and Research/inquiry. The Mathematics test includes concepts & procedures, problem solving and modeling & data analysis, and communicating reasoning. Ms. Hurley provided the district's ELA scores in grades 3-11. 99.94% of students within each achievement level met or exceeded standards for ELA. She presented the district's math scores grades 3 -11. 85.19% of all students within each achievement level met or exceeded standards for math. Ms. Hurley provided student scores by site. Ms. Hurley provided a ranking comparison from like districts in English Language Arts and Mathematics. The CAASPP scores will be used to focus on improvement, provide differentiation in the classroom, adjust pacing guides, improve instruction, increase collaboration, determine GATE alternate qualifications, determine ELD reclassification, and compare our performance with other high performing districts to collaborate on best practices. Ms. Hurley reported on the comprehensive assessment system provided by CAASPP, which includes a digital library, interim assessments and summative assessments.
- c. **California School Dashboard, Fall 2019, R47-19-20.** Director of Programs and Services Karen Hurley was present to report on the Fall 2019 California School Dashboard. On December 4, 2017, the state released the California School Dashboard, requiring annual updates that identify, amongst other factors, local performance indicators. The Dashboard represents multiple measures to give a wider view of overall performance and progress than the previous Academic performance Index (API) that was used in California between 1999 and 2013. The six state indicators are academic performance, graduation rates, college and career readiness, English learner progress, suspension rates and chronic absenteeism. The five local performance indicators are the basic conditions of learning, such as teacher qualification, instructional materials, and facilities; implementation of academic standards; school climate; parental involvement; and access to a broad course of study. Ms. Hurley's presentation included changes in the Dashboard since last school year and LCUSD performance levels for each indicator based on prior year status and current changes. The data provided will be used as LCAP metrics and will help to identify the district's

annual goals. Ms. Hurley went online to the district's California dashboard and provided samples of the dashboard reporting.

- d. **Spec Acts: PCY Valley Forge, R45-19-20.** It was moved and seconded (Jeffries/Multari) to approve the PCY Special Activity request to attend Freedom Foundation in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania Monday, March 23 – Friday March 27, 2020. Ms. Sinnette clarified questions from the Governing Board regarding who attends the trip and the varying costs of the trip between sites. The motion to approve the Special Activity request to attend Freedom Foundation in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania Monday, March 23 – Friday, March 27, 2020 was approved unanimously.
- e. **Spec Acts: LCE Valley Forge R46-19-20.** It was moved and seconded (Radabaugh/Multari) to approved the LCE Special Activity request to attend Freedom Foundation in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania Monday February 3 –Friday, February 7, 2020. Ms. Sinnette clarified questions from the Governing Board regarding who attends the trip and the varying costs of the trip between sites. The motion to approve the LCE Special Activity request to attend Freedom Foundation in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania Monday, February 3 –Friday, February 7, 2020 was approved unanimously.

## 2. **Discussion Items**

- a. **Discussion Regarding the Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration (Sediment Removal and Maintenance) Project – District Actions and Updates, R50-19-20.** Ms. Sinnette provided an update on the Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration Project reporting that district and high school administrators have been investigating some recent false positive unhealthful air quality alerts due to humidity. York Engineering is working to establish a new base line humidity level to eliminate the false alerts. Additionally, the district will be purchasing two additional user licenses so that site and district administrators can monitor the air quality simultaneously. Ms. Sinnette gave a shout out to LCHS administrators who are taking the air quality monitoring very seriously. Ms. Sinnette shared the actions and best practices taken by Mr. Cartnal to ensure the safety of the 7-12 students throughout the duration of the Devil's Gate Sediment Removal Project.

## 3. **Consent Agenda**

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

- a. **Personnel Report, P6-19-20.** The Governing Board approved the Personnel Report as follows: *Certificated:* New Hires: Ryan Alhadeff, Armena Andranian, Davit Davityan, Kathrin Davis, Alexander Kim, Taek In (Tim) Kim, Stephen Lane, Olivia Leyva, Ronit Liberman, Silvia Martirosyan, Charlene Miller, Kristin Radcliffe, Jacqueline Vartanian, Kendall Walbrecht, Patty Wynn-Hughes, Leilani Yee, Amanda Zia. Leave of Absence: Kristin McDaniel. *Classified:* New Hires: Jose Escalante, Evan Jackson, Angela Joyner, Sylvia Martirosyan, Tresa Washington, Amanda Wirtz. Modification: Tina Avanes, Danielle Canas, Ruby McCullin. Resignation: Emily Allen, McKenna Smith.
- b. **Extra Duty Report, P7-19-20.** The Governing Board approved the Extra Duty Report as presented.
- c. **Spec Acts: LCHS Yearbook Workshop, R43-19-20.** The Governing Board ratified the LCHS Special Activity request to attend the Balfour Yearbook Workshop in Anaheim, California Friday, October 4 – Sunday, October 6, 2019.
- d. **Spec Acts: PCY Pali Institute, R44-19-20.** The Governing Board approved the PCY Special Activity request to attend Pali Institute in Running Springs, California, Monday, February 24 – Friday, February 29, 2020.
- e. **Spec Acts: PCY Valley Forge, R45-19-20.** This item was moved to First Reading\*
- f. **Spec Acts: LCE Valley Forge R46-19-20.** This item was moved to First Reading \*

- g. **Notice of Completion, R52-19-20.** The Governing Board approved the Notice of Completion for Chalmers Construction for Bid No. LCF 18/19-16 for the Conversion of Book Room to Wellness Center at LCHS and connection to public sewer system.
- h. **Gifts to District, R49-19-20.** The Governing Board approved the Gifts to District as presented.
- i. **Purchase Order List 7-19-20.** The Governing Board approved Purchase Order List 7-19-20.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Multari reported that she is attending her first Student Speak Session tomorrow.

Mr. Radabaugh asked that we continue to have discussion and to provide updates on the progress of the Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity consultant.

Mr. Kuszyk thanked the Booster's for their successful Boosterfest.

Mr. Kuszyk briefly discussed the recent 7/8 PTA vaping presentation and requested that a similar presentation come to the Governing Board in the near future.

Mr. Evans gave a shout out to school administrators for their proactive approach to the potential power outages.

The Governing Board Holiday party was scheduled for December 12, 2019.

Ms. Lewsadder reported that the next Student Tech Council meeting is November 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. The Council has established their project for the year, which is, to show how they best like to learn. She invited members of the Governing Board to attend to hear the discussion.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Tuesday, November 19, 2019 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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Ellen Multari, Clerk

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Date