

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

March 12, 2020

The Emergency Meeting of the Governing Board of La Cañada Unified School District was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Joe Radabaugh on March 12, 2020, in the Governing Board Room at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Cañada, California. Present were Governing Board Members Joe Radabaugh, Ellen Multari, Dan Jeffries, Kaitzer Puglia and Brent Kuszyk; Superintendent Wendy Sinnette; Associate Superintendents Anais Wenn and Mark Evans; and Chief Technology Officer Jamie Lewsadder. There were approximately 33 people in the audience.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Governing Board Member Dan Jeffries led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROPOSED ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Coronavirus Response for LCUSD

Ms. Sinnette provided an update on the district's response to the coronavirus. As of Tuesday evening all air travel out of state field trips have been cancelled. Due to additional cases of COVID-19 in Los Angeles County the district has issued the following statement "All LCUSD school sites will cancel large group after school events, programs and activities. All LCUSD school sites will cancel or postpone multi-grade level assemblies and non-essential activities within the school day. Additionally, at 7-12 all sports practices and competitions will take place but without spectators. Large meetings outside of the instructional day will be staggered in smaller groups. They will be cancelled, postponed or moved to an online platform when possible. And finally, LCUSD will cancel all field trips through Spring Break." The district has committed to the community that for the months of April and May the district will continually assess to see if those precautions need to be in place. Ms. Sinnette reported that it has been the district's understanding that school districts could only close under the direction of the Los Angeles County Office of Public Health. However, due to concerns regarding the increase in COVID-19 cases, Ms. Sinnette called the Superintendent of the Los Angeles County Office of Education and learned that this is not a fact. While it is preferred and recommended that the Department of Public Health issue the closure, school districts can independently make that decision. Therefore, Ms. Sinnette recommended to the Governing Board a districtwide school closure. She asked that the Governing Board review and discuss how and if we exercise the option to close, and to give direction to staff if we exercise that option. Ms. Sinnette stated that the community has been strong and united and if we take action we would be part of the greater good in slowing the spread of COVID-19. We are in a window of time that a closure can benefit the community. Ms. Sinnette provided her recommendation on what the closure would look like. Student attendance would not be taken and staff would continue to be paid. Teachers would organize distance learning at home to provide learning opportunities being remotely provided to students every day. The Governing Board reviewed current cases of COVID-19 and discussed the need to flatten the curve by providing social distancing. The logistics of school closures and distance learning were discussed. Ms. Sinnette thanked the Technology Department for diligently working to assist teachers in getting prepared for distance learning. Ms. Lewsadder discussed the tremendous efforts by our teachers to think about and prepare for distance learning. She provided a sample of what a distance learning week could look like for teachers and students. Ms. Sinnette discussed the need to access Special Education student services. Ms. Lewsadder discussed options for creative distance learning for PE and other interactive classes. ADA funding was discussed.

The following members in the audience addressed the Board:

Dr. Nazy Matloubi, parent and physician, requested school closures;
 Eugene Hocopians, parent, requested school closures;
 Carmen Slavov, parent and physician, requested school closures;
 Emily Woods, parent, not in support of school closures;
 Sugi Sorenson, parent, requested school closures;
 Audrey Huang, parent, requested school closures;
 Belinda Randolph, community member, requested school closures;
 Kristine Kasumyan, parent, not in support of school closures;
 Lola Dietrich, parent, in support of school closures;
 Charlotte Landon, Jr at LCHS, in support of school closures;
 Christian Schmidt, LCHS student, in support of school closures;
 Stephan Badescu, LCHS student, in support of school closures.

Students in the audience expressed concerns with SAT testing that is scheduled for this weekend. Mr. Cartnal confirmed that SAT tests will continue and safety precautions will be put in place to ensure social distancing and student safety.

The Governing Board unanimously agreed that a district wide school closure is necessary. Options for the closure were discussed. Ms. Sinnette recommended and the Governing Board agreed that the school site facilities closure start tomorrow, Friday, March 13 through March 23, 2020 with the plan to reassess with a Special Governing Board meeting on March 19, 2020. Students will be allowed on campus on Friday, March 13th to retrieve any personal items currently on campus. All staff will be asked to report to work on Friday, March 13 until further direction is provided by their immediate supervisor.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Tuesday, March 31, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Cañada, California.

Wendy K. Sinnette, Superintendent
 Secretary to the Governing Board

MINUTES APPROVED

Kaitzer Puglia, Clerk

Date