

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

May 19, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of La Cañada Unified School District was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by President Joe Radabaugh on May 19, 2020, via a Zoom teleconference in La Cañada, California. Present were Governing Board Members Joe Radabaugh, Ellen Multari, Dan Jeffries, Kaitzer Puglia and Brent Kuszyk.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The Governing Board adjourned to Closed Session at 4:30 p.m. 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. Joe Radabaugh, President  
Mrs. Ellen Multari, Vice President  
Mr. Dan Jeffries, Clerk  
Mrs. Kaitzer Puglia Member  
Mr. Brent Kuszyk, Member

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

None.

**REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. Radabaugh stated that there is nothing to report out of Closed Session.

**REGULAR MEETING**

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board was reconvened at 6:00 p.m. via a Zoom teleconference. Present were five Governing Board Members, Ms. Sinnette, Mrs. Wenn, Mr. Evans, Ms. Lewsadder and Executive Assistant to the Superintendent Kim Bergner. Mr. Radabaugh asked Governing Board Member Brent Kuszyk to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**REPORTS**

**1. Superintendent's Report**

Ms. Sinnette thanked Student Representative JJ Dick for his service as the 2019-2020 Student Representative.

**2. President's Report**

Mr. Radabaugh congratulated LCHS seniors graduating and all students being promoted. He reaffirmed the Board's commitment to do whatever it can to bring students back onto campuses while following state and local reopening guidelines. He reiterated that we are all in this together.

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

Mr. Evans provided a brief update on the Budget and the COVID-19 impact on the budget. He discussed the reduction in school funding in 2020-21, stating that it is expected that there will be an 8% decrease in LCFF funding with no COLA in the following two years. However, there

will be a net gain for Special Education programs and assistance with pension contribution costs.

#### **4. Student Representative Report**

Student Representative JJ Dick provided his last student report. He thanked the Governing Board for the opportunity to be the Student Representation for the 2019-20 school year. He reported that students continue to learn through distance learning and are anxious to see what graduation will look like for seniors. The Governing Board wished Mr. Dick success after graduation and thanked him for his service.

### **REVIEW OF AGENDA**

None.

### **OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS**

The following audience members addressed the Board:

LCUSD Parent, regarding opening of LCHS fields for community use,  
 LCUSD Parent, requested summer school distance learning,  
 Belinda Randolph, requested restricting expenditures due to budget cuts in 2020-21,  
 Jenny Franz, LCUSD teacher, appreciates the banners on Foothill and congratulated graduates,  
 Belinda Randolph, commented on frustration signing onto YouTube to view the meeting, and  
 Justin Luthey, LCHS teacher, regarding impact of Devil's Gate Sediment Removal project.

### **PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS**

#### **1. Second Reading**

- a. **Elementary Science Textbook Adoption, R93-1920.** Ms. Wenn introduced Dr. David Kretschmer of the Department of Elementary Education, CSUN and Dr. Brian Foley, Department of Secondary Education, CSUN. Dr. Kretschmer and Dr. Foley discussed the Elements of Science PCK (Pedagogical Content Knowledge) and Curriculum Choices. Their report reviewed National Geographic and STEMscopes elementary textbooks in the following categories: orientation to teaching science, teaching strategies, curriculum activities and materials, representations and examples, and students' alternative theories. They provided examples of serious science errors, minor errors, awkwardly worded content, and scientific simplifications appropriate for grade levels. Dr. Kretschmer and Dr. Foley concluded that the concerns raised by the reviewers of the textbooks are valid but do not rise to the level at which they would reject the curriculum from being adopted by the district. They encouraged teachers to be careful consumers of the two different curricula and in the case of STEMscopes rely more on the continually-updated digital versions of curriculum materials. Ms. Wenn invited several teachers to share their experiences with the textbooks. Lara Berdahl discussed her experience while piloting the textbooks in her fourth grade class. She provided examples of lessons that were available online. 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Debbie Bedell-Au was present and discussed her professional background and her experience with the textbook. 6<sup>th</sup> grade LCE teacher Lauren Schour was present to report on how STEMscopes helps teachers work with every child and each specific learner. Ms. Schour has used STEMscopes in the past. LCE 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Barb Drange was present to report on STEMscopes. She reported that she and Ms. Schour applied for a grant through LCFEF to purchase additional resources from STEMscopes. PCY 3rd grade teacher Mickey Block was present to speak on the engagement aspect of STEMscopes. She provided examples of a unit that her students participated in during the 2019-2020 school year. PCY 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Jenny Kazak reported on the success she has had with STEMscopes in the classroom and distance learning. Ms. Wenn thanked teachers for their discussion. She requested that the Governing Board approve

the adoption of the digital and hands-on materials of STEMscopes while waiting for an updated version of the textbook. She reported that the full adoption of STEMscopes grades 2-6 would cost approximately \$378,000. The digital only cost is approximately \$107,208 and \$198,125 for the digital and hands-on materials. Ms. Wenn reported on the professional development on STEMscopes that was provided to staff.

The following members of the public commented on the textbook adoption:

Belinda Randolph, community member,  
Shanti Rao, LCUSD parent,  
William Schultz, LCUSD parent,  
Stacey Boland, LCUSD parent,  
Sugi Sorensen, LCUSD parent,  
Anastassios Petropoulos, LCUSD parent, and  
Jenny Kazak, LCUSD teacher.

Ms. Sinnette acknowledged the frustration experienced by some parents and stated that she will work to regain their trust and try to make sure that the district hones and refines the textbook adoption processes and asked that the teachers be supported with their decision.

Mr. Radabaugh thanked the teachers for sharing their experiences. He thanked Dr. Kretschmer and Dr. Foley for auditing the content. It was moved and seconded (Puglia/Jeffries) to approve the adoption of National Geographic Learning: National Geographic exploring Science for Kindergarten -1; and Accelerate Learning: STEMscopes CA NGSS 3D for grades 2-6. The motion to approve the adoption of National Geographic Learning: National Geographic exploring Science for Kindergarten -1; and Accelerate Learning: STEMscopes CA NGSS 3D for grades 2-6 was approved unanimously.

- b. **Revised Medical Biology Course at LCHS 7/8 for 2020-2021 School year, R133-19-20.** Ms. Wenn reported on the modifications to the Medical Biology course since first read. She requested approval of the Revised Medical Biology Course. Dr. Gold was present for any questions from the Governing Board. Dr. Gold clarified that this course will provide basic First Aid and does not provide EMS Certification. It was moved and seconded (Jeffries/Kuszyk) to approve the course description for Revised Medical Biology at LCHS 7/8 for 2020-2021 School Year. The motion to approve the course description for Revised Medical Biology at LCHS 7/8 for 2020-2021 School Year was approved unanimously.
- c. **Potential New Course at LCHS for 2020-2021 School Year: Forensic Science, R134-19-20.** LCHS Principal Jim Cartnal was present for any questions from the Governing Board. It was clarified that no additional FTE is required to offer this course. Mr. Cartnal reported on the pathway for this course. Ms. Wenn requested approval of the Forensic Science course description. It was moved and seconded (Jeffries/Multari) to approve the new course description for Forensic Science for the 2020-2021 School year. The motion to approve the new course description for Forensic Science for the 2020-2021 School year was approved unanimously.
- d. **Potential New Course at LCHS for 2020-2021 School Year: AP Computer Science Principle, R135-19-20.** LCHS Principal Jim Cartnal was present for any questions from the Governing Board. Ms. Wenn requested approval of the new course description. It was moved and seconded (Multari/Kuszyk) to approve the new course description for AP Computer Science Principles for the 2020-2021 School year. The motion to approve the new course description for AP Computer Science Principles for the 2020-2021 School year was approved unanimously.

## 2. First Reading

- a. **7/8 Science Textbook Adoption, R145-19-20.** This is a First Read item. Ms. Wenn reported that during the past two years, LCHS 7/8 Science teachers have been piloting a variety of science instructional materials and communicating their findings to site and district administration. Upon review and consideration, the science teachers recommend Accelerate Learning-STEMscopes CA NGSS 3D. Dr. Gold and Ms. Wenn reported on the evaluation process. LCUSD parent, John Day, who was involved in the adoption process reported on how he came to the decision to recommend the adoption. Mr. Jeffries asked that 7/8 teachers be present for Second Read prior to adoption.

The following members of the public commented on the 7/8 Science Textbook adoption:

Stella Shrinsky, 8<sup>th</sup> grade student,  
Sugi Sorensen, LCUSD parent,  
Stacey Boland, LCUSD parent, and  
Belinda Randolph, community member.

This item will come back to the Governing Board for adoption at the June 30, 2020 Governing Board meeting.

- b. **Superintendent Update on LCUSD Response to COVID-19 and Distance Learning: Grading Format Policy Review, Graduation Activities, and Beginning Planning for 2020-2021 Reopening, R152-19-20.** Ms. Sinnette reported on the two LCHS 7-12 Grading Options: Credit/No Credit or the opt-in for a letter grade. Ms. Sinnette reported that LCHS Principal Jim Cartnal has been working tirelessly on a celebration for seniors. Congratulatory yard signs have been distributed throughout the community. The lighting of the Spartan stadium lights is a unifying symbol of our congratulations to our seniors. Mr. Cartnal reported on the Spartan banner installation. Mr. Cartnal thanked the City for supporting this project. This Friday the high school will hold a socially-distanced textbook return, Chromebook return, and cap and gown pick up. Ms. Sinnette reported that the district has been working behind the scenes on the graduation car parade. She reported that the Department of Public Health has denied the request for a drive through car procession for graduation. However, the City has approved the parade route and Supervisor Barger has agreed to submit the plan to the Dept. of Public Health for approval. We are hopeful, but the plan has yet to be approved. If approved, the parade will be June 3<sup>rd</sup> at approximately 4 – 6 p.m. Additionally, at 6:30 p.m., a senior video which was produced by Van Wagner will be debuted. Ms. Sinnette reported on the 2020-2021 Reopening plan. She reported that within the next week a survey will go out to families to begin data collection regarding the opening of next school year, asking families their interest in site attendance or distance learning. Ms. Sinnette is in the process of creating two reopening committees: one for elementary and one for secondary. Ms. Sinnette will be attending a Zoom Forum on Thursday with the State Superintendent of Instruction. The following members of the public addressed the Board on this agenda item:  
Ronald Falasca, LCUSD parent,  
Stacie deArmas, LCUSD parent, and  
Kelly McWilliams, LCUSD parent.
- c. **Discussion of the Instructional Delivery Format for Summer 2020 Extended School Year for Special Education Students, R153-19-20.** Ms. Sinnette reported that each year the district operates a Special Education Extended School Year Program (ESY). Given the Safer at Home order and the Department of Public Health's social distancing requirements associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, staff is recommending that the ESY program be conducted via a distance learning model rather than being held with students physically attending a school facility. Dr. Ihori was

present for any questions from the Governing Board. Dr. Ihori provided background on how ESY is typically provided for special education students. He reported that approximately 111 students receive ESY services. Dr. Ihori will be sending out a survey to parents whose students qualify for ESY to see how many students will be participating in the program.

The following members of the public addressed the Governing Board on this agenda item:

Deborah Jeandron, LCUSD parent.

It was moved and seconded (Multari/Kuszyk) to approve the recommendation to provide the Extended School Year for Special Education students through distance learning.

- d. **Direction Regarding the Leasing of District School Site Properties to Child Care or Summer Camp Providers in Summer 2020, R154-19-20.** Ms. Sinnette reported that the district has valued summer school childcare and summer camp providers that rely on leasing district facilities. Unlike typical summers, there are potential implications or consequences related to engaging in such summer lease agreements due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Safer at Home order, and Public Health's social distancing requirements. A decision related to summer leases has a relative urgency given the outside agencies planning and enrollment needs, but also presents challenges for LCUSD given its school facility closures, concerns for health and safety, and staged planning for reopening for 2020-2021 school year. The three agencies that have requested summer leases are the Child Education Center's Elementary Age Summer Programs, YMCA Summer Camp, and LCHS Spartan Summer Sports Camp. After much discussion, it was requested that the decision on summer leases be deferred and revisited in June. It was moved and seconded (Jeffries/Multari) to direct staff to bring this item back in June for further direction. The motion to direct staff to bring this item back in June for further direction was approved unanimously.
- e. **Presentation by Governing Board Members since 2011 and LCUSD Governing Board, R155-19-20.** Mrs. Ellen Multari was elected to the Governing Board in November 2011. She has given nearly nine years of service to the students, families, teachers, staff, and administrators of the district. Mrs. Multari is moving out of the LCUSD residency boundaries and is resigning her Governing Board seat as of May 30, 2020. Ms. Sinnette expressed her gratitude to Ms. Multari for her stellar leadership, her intelligent insights, her decisive nature, her quick wit, and her selfless commitment to always doing what was in the best interests of the students, families, and staff served by LCUSD. The Governing Board and Cabinet honored Mrs. Multari with a presentation and heartfelt words of appreciation for her service. A video was presented to Mrs. Multari. Mrs. Multari thanked the Governing Board and Cabinet.

The following members of the public addressed the Governing Board on this agenda item:

Corina Ritter, CSEA President

Dina Loftus, CSEA representative, and

Kelly Davis, LCUSD parent.

- f. **Process and Direction for Filing the Unscheduled Vacancy on the LCUSD Governing Board, R156-19-20.** Ms. Sinnette reported on the process for filing the unscheduled vacancy on the LCUSD Governing Board. She stated that the Governing Board has sixty days from the date of the vacancy to either make a provisional appointment or order an election. Ms. Sinnette recommended that the Governing Board accept applications, conduct interviews, and then take action to appoint a candidate. She recommended that a notification be published in the local paper on May

28 and June 4, applications be made available on the district website beginning Friday, May 29, that the application deadline be established at 5 pm June 12. She recommended that Special Governing Board meetings be established to conduct interviews the week of June 15, 2020, with an appointment made to fill the vacancy at the Governing Board meeting on June 30, 2020. The timeline was discussed.

The following members of the public addressed the Governing Board on this agenda item:

Kelly Davis, LCUSD parent

Yvonne Herring, LCUSD parent.

It was moved and seconded (Jeffries/Multari) to approve the timeline and process as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion to approve the timeline and process as recommended by the Superintendent was approved unanimously.

- g. PCR New Construction Presentation, R147-19-20.** Program Manager Harold Pierre and LPA representatives Casey Chapin, Nicole Mehta, Rick Musto and Lancelot Hunter were present to provide an update on the PCR New Construction. Mr. Chapin provided an update on design refinements. Lance Hunter walked the Governing Board through the landscape design adjustments. Landscape options were discussed. Casey Chapin continued with the presentation discussing exterior finishes and materials.

The following members of the public addressed the Governing Board on this agenda item:

Laura Olhasso, community member,

Paul Kirstie, LCUSD parent

Keith Park, community member,

Katie Poole, community member,

Erin Olmsted, community member,

David Haxton, community member, and

Lori Moody, community member.

At 10:30 p.m. it was moved and seconded (Jeffries/Puglia) to extend the meeting to 11:30 p.m. The motion to extend the meeting to 11:30 p.m. was approved unanimously.

Landscaping concerns from Palm Crest neighbors were discussed. Mr. Evans confirmed the Governing Board direction to continue to develop and finalize landscaping in alignment with neighbor concerns and to move the landscaping timeline forward. The Governing Board agreed with the shorter building footprint as presented. The Governing Board thanked LPA for the presentation update.

- h. LCHS Pool Presentation, R147-19-20.** Mr. Evans reported that during the past several months, the design team has been working and meeting with the design committee to continue progress on project design and preparing construction documents to be submitted to the Division of State Architect for review and approval. Gonzalez Goodale Architect Dennis Smith provided a slide presentation update and discussed design modifications to the LCHS New Outdoor Pool and South Campus Improvement project.

The following members of the public address the Governing Board on this agenda item:

David Haxton, community member;

Lori Moody, community member; and

*Miles* Haxton, community member.

The Governing Board thanked Mr. Smith for the project update. Mr. Evans will further discuss the project with LCHS Administration to review the use of the baseball field.

- i. **\*Resolution 19-19-20 Delinquent Tax Agreement.** Mr. Evans provided background on the Delinquent Tax program reporting that the district has participated in this program since 2002. The expected revenue to the district from participating in this program is approximately \$16,000 annually. It was moved and seconded (Multari/Jeffries) to adopt Resolution 19-19-20 Delinquent Tax Agreement. The motion to adopt Resolution 19-19-20 Delinquent Tax Agreement was approved unanimously.

### 3. **Consent Agenda**

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

- a. **Personnel Report, P22-19-20.** The Governing Board approved the Personnel Report as follows: *Certificated*: New Hires: Kelly Brooks. Leave of Absence: Amy Marcoullier. Resignation: Amani Krischel. *Classified*: Termination: Margaret Barron, Silvia Bautista, Jessica Cortez, Katryna Hwee, Spencer Klass, Elvira Martinez.
- b. **Extra Duty Report, P23-19-20.** The Governing Board approved the Extra Duty Report as presented.
- c. **Authorization to Make Year-End Appropriations Transfers, R149-19-20.** The Governing Board authorized the County to make appropriations transfers necessary at the close of the 2019-2020 Fiscal year to permit payment of obligations of the District that have been incurred during the fiscal year.
- d. **Resolution 17-19-20 Temporary Transfers from the School Pools Fund Maintained by the Los Angeles County Treasurer (2019-20).** The Governing Board adopted Resolution 17-19-20 to approve the ability to make temporary transfers from the School Pools Fund.
- e. **Resolution 18-19-20: Temporary Inter-Fund Cash Borrowing (2020-21).** The Governing Board adopted Resolution 18-19-20 providing for the temporary borrowing of cash between various district funds should that be needed to address any short-term /temporary cash-flow needs.
- f. **CIF League Representative Authorization, R143-19-20.** The Governing Board approved Jim Cartnal, Kristina Kalb and Carrie Saks and the district's CIF Representatives for the 2020-21 school year.
- g. **Authorization to renew contract with Fagen, Friedman & Fulfroost for legal services, R151-19-20.** The Governing Board approved entering into a contract with Fagen Friedman & Fulfroost for legal services for the 2020-21 school year.
- h. **Purchase Order List 15-19-20.** The Governing Board approved Purchase Order List 15-19-20.

**The Consent Agenda was approved at 12:03 a.m. and subsequently was also approved at the Governing Board meeting on June 9, 2020.**

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Governing Board wished Ms. Multari well.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:03 a.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 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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Kaitzer Puglia, Clerk

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Date