

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

July 14, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of La Cañada Unified School District was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Joe Radabaugh on July 14, 2020, via a Zoom Videoconference. Present were Governing Board Members Joe Radabaugh, Dan Jeffries, Kaitzer Puglia and Brent Kuszyk.

OATH OF OFFICE

Mr. Radabaugh administered the Oath of Office to Andrew Blumenfeld.

CLOSED SESSION

The Governing Board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:05 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. Joe Radabaugh, President
Mr. Dan Jeffries, Vice President
Mrs. Kaitzer Puglia, Clerk
Mr. Andrew Blumenfeld, Member
Mr. Brent Kuszyk, Member

OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

None.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

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

REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board was reconvened at 7:02 p.m. via a Zoom Videoconference. 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 Mr. Jeffries to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mr. Radabaugh announced that prior to entering into Closed Session, Andrew Blumenfeld took the Oath of Office. However, in order for the public to be a part of welcoming Mr. Blumenfeld to the Governing Board, Mr. Radabaugh administered the Oath of Office again. The Governing Board congratulated Mr. Blumenfeld and welcomed him as a member of the Governing Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded (Jeffries/Kuszyk) to approve the minutes March 2, 2020, March 10, 2020 and March 12, 2020. The motion to approve the minutes of March 2, 2020, March 10, 2020 and March 12, 2020 was adopted unanimously.

REPORTS

1. Superintendent's Report

Ms. Sinnette deferred her report.

2. President's Report

Mr. Radabaugh welcomed Mr. Blumenfeld to the Governing Board. He looks forward to his experienced perspective and collaboration.

Mr. Radabaugh reported that he has received many detailed thoughts and questions in regards to reopening. He thanked everyone for taking the time to write to him and provide his or her input. He acknowledged the varying opinions of families regarding reopening. He reminded the community that there are public mandates in place and that we are a public agency, and as such, we are required to adhere to them. He discussed the financial constraints, liability, and safety requirements needed to meet the COVID protocols put in place by the County of Los Angeles.

3. Associate Superintendent of Business & Administrative Services' Report

Mr. Evans provided a brief budget update. More details are available in regards to the Governor's budget. He will present a revised budget based on any new information since the June 30, 2020 budget report.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

None.

OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS BOARD

The following audience members addressed the Board:

Belinda Randolph, Community Member, thanked the Governing Board for appointing Andrew Blumenfeld to the Governing Board.

PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS

1. First Reading

- a. **LCUSD Town Hall Debrief, R8-19-20.** Ms. Sinnette debriefed the Governing Board on the four Town Hall forums that occurred on July 9th. Governing Board members serve on the Reopening Committees and also participated with the committee regarding individual and collective responses to the content of the Town Hall presentations. The priorities for reopening, including: health and safety, social emotional wellness, high quality rigorous instruction, equity of educational experience for Special Education and English Language Learners, maintaining flexibility, student access and technology proficiency, teacher professional development, parent education, a sense of normalcy (which includes consistent schedules, childcare needs, and strong communication), and maintaining fiscal solvency. Ms. Sinnette reported that the district is planning two quality learning experiences for elementary students: the LCUSD Virtual Learning Academy and daily on campus instruction. She provided the details regarding the instructional design for the Virtual Learning Academy for 2020-21. Ms. Sinnette then provided details for TK-6 Daily On Campus Instruction, which has students attending on campus instruction 5 days a week in the AM or the PM. During the Town Hall the Virtual Learning Academy was well received with positive parent feedback. Families appreciated the 5 days a week of virtual or on-campus instruction. The main area of concern voiced by teachers and staff was health and safety. Other areas of concern

include cleaning schedules, student behavior management, contact tracing and COVID-19 surge and spiking in Los Angeles County. Ms. Sinnette discussed her recommendation for the Elementary Reopening Plan. After reviewing the areas of strengths and concerns, Ms. Sinnette recommended that we move forward with the Virtual Academy registration and proceed with the on campus learning schedule with continued review of the COVID protocols.

Ms. Sinnette reviewed the recommended secondary schedule for LCHS 7-12. She reported that, once the plan was presented at the Town Hall, concerns were expressed by parents and staff. Ms. Sinnette reviewed the issues including safety and instructional concerns. Ms. Sinnette agrees with the Secondary Reopening Committee that the proposed schedule presents significant challenges. Chief concerns were the dual instructional model, having 1200 people on campus each day, the number of students to teacher contact, and the current COVID 19 surge. She recommended going back to the Secondary Reopening Committee to plan for a distance learning instructional model to open the school year, set requirements for distance instruction, structure/scheduled on campus time for small groups, contract outside support services for individualized instruction, assess return to school/Stage II every 6 weeks; build out an A/B Model that does not require dual instruction, prepare classrooms and individualized teacher PPE workstations, and prepare for Stage III – full day return.

Ms. Sinnette presented a proposed LCHS 7-12 distance learning schedule which would provide for 45 minute periods. She discussed the details of the proposed schedule. Ms. Sinnette provided the LCUSD Distance Learning Requirements for 2020-2021: Secondary Edition. She reported that students would follow the daily bell schedule and attendance will be taken. Live instruction will be provided each period.

Ms. Sinnette reported that the Administrative team researched outside support services that would assist our students with distance learning. Ms. Lewsadder provided details on Paper Co., which is a service that the district would provide for individual student support to assist with online learning. Paper Co. offers 24/7 access to a tutor, providing students support with their subjects. The tutor works with the students so the student can come up with the answers on their own. Tutors also have access to and can communicate with the student's teacher. Paper provides an immediate chat feature. Ms. Lewsadder provided a brief demo of the program.

The Governing Board discussed the elementary and LCHS 7-12 schedules. Dr. Ihori was present to discuss special education options. He stated that the proposed elementary schedule would work well for Special Education students. It was suggested that students needing special services report in the AM for their instructional day with an extended day for special services in the afternoon. He sees more challenges with the current LCHS 7-12 schedule. All student services will be individually reviewed to ensure a schedule that works best for the individual student and Special Education staff.

The challenges with the LCHS 7-12 schedule were discussed.

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

Jenny Raulli, LCUSD parent,
Sarah Beattie, LCHS teacher,
Anonymous LCUSD parent,
Paris Cohen, LCUSD parent,

Emily Woods, LCHS parent,
 Jamie Abrahamian, LCHS parent,
 Melinda Fulmer, LCUSD parent, and
 Stacey Boland, LCUSD parent.

Due to some concerns expressed regarding Paper Co. during public comment, Ms. Lewsadder provided clarification on Paper Co. and the service they provide.

- b. Presentation of LCUSD Reopening Plan for the 20200-2021 school Year for Governing Board Review and Discussion.** Ms. Sinnette stated that the Reopening plan presented aligns with the protocols provided by the Department of Public Health and addresses teacher and staff concerns. There have been parent concerns with committing to the onsite learning or to the online learning academy. Ms. Sinnette discussed the need for the one-year commitment due to the impact a family's moving back and forth would have on teacher assignments. When we hit stage three and we can all return, then all students would be welcomed back to on campus learning. In the event that all students would be required to go online due to COVID closures, then all students would go online.

Ms. Sinnette reported that there is some refinement needed on the elementary and secondary reopening plans. Both Reopening Committees are meeting tomorrow. Ms. Sinnette clarified that it is the Governing Board's purview to decide working conditions, and then the effects of those conditions are negotiated at the table. The Governing Board is in support of the elementary model, and asked for additional work with the Secondary Reopening Committee to finalize a 7-12 schedule and to bring back their recommendation to the Governing Board for adoption.

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

Rachel Koelzer LCUSD parent,
 Ryan Hainey, LCHS teacher,
 Sue Cronon, LCTA President,
 Gayle Nicholls-Ali, LCUSD teacher,
 Grace Kung, LCUSD parent,
 Kelsey Larson, LCUSD parent,
 Mike and Mandy Redfern, LCUSD parents & teacher,
 Debbie Bedell-Au, LCUSD teacher,
 Howard Eisen, LCUSD parent,
 Trina Chen, LCUSD parent,
 Anusha Ramanathan, LCUSD parent,
 Monica Radulescu, LCUSD parent,
 Geoff Davis, LCUSD parent,
 Brandon Carroll, LCUSD teacher,
 Albie Salsich, LCUSD parent,
 Diana Jou, LCUSD parent,
 Melinda Fulmer, LCUSD parent,
 Archana Gupta, LCUSD parent,
 Cristina Diaz, LCUSD teacher,
 Jamie Abrahamian, LCUSD parent,
 JJ Falasca, LCUSD parent,
 Shilpa Garg, LCUSD parent,
 Nicole Pantazis-Pitsos, LCUSD parent,
 Jennifer Monday, LCUSD teacher,
 Krisitine Kasumyan, LCUSD parent,

Brien Fox, LCUSD parent,
 Will Johnson, LCUSD parent,
 Jill Simonian, LCUSD parent, and
 Stacey Boland, LCUSD parent.

Ms. Sinnette thanked the members of the Reopening Committees for their time, commitment, and input. She appreciates the collaboration of both the elementary and secondary committees.

The district's principals were present to answer any questions.

Mr. Blumenfeld stated that the elementary plan for Phase II is very sound. He suggested adopting the general principles of the elementary plan so that the plan may be further defined. The Governing Board agreed with the framework on the elementary plan but rejected the dual model for 7-12 and asked that the 7-12 schedule be reevaluated to create a more workable plan.

The Governing Board would like to have plans in place as soon as possible. Therefore, a Special Governing Board meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, July 21, 2020, at 11:30 a.m.

- c. **Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators, R1-20-21.** Mr. Evans presented the Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators. The district anticipates that it may need to employ, or currently may have some credentialed employees, who are in the process of completing full credentials or additional credentials/authorizations required for their assignment. The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) may offer emergency permits if an application is initiated by the school district on behalf of the credentialed employee. A Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators form must be filed by the school district with the CTC prior to any initial or renewal applications for emergency permits. The Declaration being considered is for the 2020-21 school year only. It was moved and seconded (Blumenfeld/Jeffries) to approve the Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators. The motion to approve the Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators was approved unanimously.
- d. **Approval of Board Policy revisions, R2-20-21.** Ms. Wenn reported on the Board Policy revision for BP5141.52 Suicide Prevention stating that the current policy only identified suicide prevention for upper grade students. The board policy revisions include suicide prevention efforts for all students TK-12. This item will come back at the next regularly scheduled meeting for adoption.
- 2. **Second Reading**
 - b. **Adoption of Forensics Science: Fundamentals and Investigations, 2nd Edition, R175-19-20.** Ms. Wenn reported that between the last meeting and this meeting a 3rd edition of Forensics Science: Fundamentals and Investigations has come out. Ms. Wenn asked that the Governing Board approve the adoption of the 3rd edition, which will include more updated data. It was moved and seconded (Puglia/Jeffries) to accept the recommendation and to approve the adoption of Forensics Science: Fundamentals and Investigations, 3rd edition. The motion to approve the adoption of Forensics Science: Fundamentals and Investigations, 3rd edition was approved unanimously 5:0.
- 3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

 - a. **Personnel Report, P23-17-18.** The Governing Board approved the Personnel Report as follows: *Certificated*: New Hires: Thomas Cisneros, Talin Dikranian, Brandon Hensley, Kenny Joo, Megan Martin, Heidi Oxley, Micah Stimson, Megan Thomas.

Resignation: Andrea Stassi. *Classified:* Resignation: Kimberly Barron, Alison Escobar.

- b. Removing assets from inventory, R7-20-21.** The Governing Board approved removing assets from inventory as requested.
- c. Managed Print Services Contract Renewal, R8-20-21.** The Governing Board approved entering into a contract renewal with HP for managed print services.
- d. Action on Final Settlement Agreement (Special Education), R5-20-21.** The Governing Board approved the Final Settlement Agreement with Student 20200707 in the amount of \$9,225.
- e. Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints, R3-20-21.** The Governing Board approved the Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints.
- f. Purchase Order List 1-20-21.** The Governing Board approved Purchase Order List 1-20-21 as presented.
- g. Purchase Order List 18-19-20.** The Governing Board approved Purchase Order List 18-19-20 as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Kuszyk announced that the Chamber Singers have received the prestigious honor to perform at the American Choral Directors Association's national conference in Dallas in March 2021.

Mr. Blumenfeld gave a shout out to the hard work the Governing Board has done during these difficult times. Additionally, he gave a shout out to Chief Technology Officer Jamie Lewsadder for the parent trainings that her Department has created and for her overall expertise in technology.

Mr. Radabaugh thanked Superintendent Sinnette and staff for their hard work.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. via a Zoom Videoconference.

Wendy K. Sinnette, Superintendent
Secretary to the Governing Board

MINUTES APPROVED

Kaitzer Puglia, Clerk

Date