

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

July 21, 2020

The Special Meeting of the Governing Board of La Cañada Unified School District was called to order at 11:32 a.m. by President Joe Radabaugh on July 21, 2020, via Zoom. Present were Governing Board Members Joe Radabaugh, Dan Jeffries, Kaitzer Puglia, Brent Kuszyk and Andrew Blumenfeld, Superintendent Wendy Sinnette, Associate Superintendents Anais Wenn and Mark Evans, Chief Technology Officer Jamie Lewsadder and Executive Assistant to the Superintendent Kim Bergner. Mr. Radabaugh asked Brent Kuszyk to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS**

**1. First Reading**

- a. \*Approval of Distance Learning Schedules for LCUSD Elementary Schools and LCHS 7-12 Reopening the 2020-2021 School Year and Review of the Virtual Instruction Requirements, R10-20-21.** Mr. Sinnette reported that the original intent of this agenda item was to review the schedules and to determine whether we would open virtually or with onsite learning. However, on Friday, July 17, Governor Newsom required all schools in Los Angeles County to open virtually. The Governor released updated COVID-19 guidelines for schools and school-based programs. He outlined five main points in his press conference: School reopenings will be based on local county health data. Once a county is off the state monitoring list for 14 consecutive days, the school districts within that county may reopen if certain conditions are met. This includes mandatory masks for student in grades 3 and above, and recommended masks for grades 2 and below; physical distancing on campuses for students and staff; training for staff and families; cleaning measures; and health hygiene practices.

Additionally, per Governing Board direction, progress continued last week with the LCUSD Elementary and Secondary Reopening Committees to bring to the Governing Board recommended schedules for reopening virtually its elementary and LCHS 7-12. The proposed elementary schedule is proposed for both the virtual opening and will transition seamlessly into the hybrid model when conditions are met which allow the elementary sites to reopen at 50% capacity. The proposed LCHS 7-12 schedule is designed for the virtual reopening and has unique features to build SEL relationships between students and teachers/staff and foster campus connectedness both virtually and when the campus is able to be reopened to students in a limited capacity. Developing a 50% hybrid schedule, which will also continue to provide for families who elect a 100% virtual experience, remains a task for LCUSD Administration along with the Secondary Reopening Committee. Ms. Sinnette requested that the Governing Board review the proposed schedules as put forth by the reopening committees and vote on whether to approve the start and end times of the distance learning schedules because they are different than our current bell schedules. Additionally, the La Cañada Teachers Association signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which Ms. Sinnette presented. The MOU includes the LCUSD Virtual Learning Academy and Virtual Instruction for 2020-2021: Elementary Edition. The MOU creates clear and coherent guidelines for distance learning. She presented the elementary and secondary distance learning schedules. Ms. Sinnette reported that she received a request yesterday to modify the elementary schedule in order to reduce screen time. The request will be reviewed. TK -6 grade parents have been asked to commit to the Virtual Learning Academy or onsite instruction in the event that students may return to

campus. She discussed the need for a family commitment to the virtual academy to ensure a consistent virtual classroom and to assist with classroom assignments when students are allowed to return to in person instruction. The Governing Board discussed the need for markers or notices for students returning to campus. They engaged in discussion on how best to support teachers with distance learning.

Dr. Ihori was present to report on Special Education instruction. As the MOU applies to all teachers, special education teachers will be adjusting plans and student needs to support individual students. Dr. Ihori will be meeting with Special Education parents via zoom to present a plan for special needs students. Specifics will depend on the individual student. The possibility of a special education waiver was discussed. Features of the elementary schedule were discussed. A priority is to sign up families in the same cohort and then try to work with AM/PM preferences.

The secondary schedule was reviewed and discussed. There were concerns with the lack of a stage two plan. Ms. Sinnette reported that the Secondary Reopening Committee continues to research a stage two plan. Reopening Committee member Josh Epstein reported that the committee focused on the online schedule first and will continue to meet to work on a hybrid schedule. Ms. Sinnette stated that our hybrid model may be bringing our students on campus while maintaining their distance learning schedule, with the opportunity for students to engage in small groups in a scheduled fashion.

The following members of the public commented on this agenda item:

Nicole Pitsos, LCUSD parent,  
 Emily Vencatachellum, LCUSD parent,  
 Doris Lee, LCUSD parent,  
 Jessica Mulheim, LCUSD parent,  
 Tracy Liu, LCUSD parent,  
 Mikki Weightman, LCUSD parent,  
 Proactive Parents, LCUSD parent,  
 Kelsey Larson, LCUSD parent  
 An Angry Parent, LCUSD parent,  
 RJ Falasca, LCUSD parent,  
 Doris Lee, LCUSD parent,  
 A Concerned PCY Parent, LCUSD parent,  
 Advocate for Online Learning, LCUSD parent,  
 A PCY parent, LCUSD parent,  
 Mandy Redfern, LCUSD staff member,  
 Belinda Randolph, community member,  
 Jimmy Kam, LCUSD parent,  
 Emily Woods, LCUSD parent,  
 Concerned parent, LCUSD parent,  
 Deborah Bell, LCUSD parent,  
 Sharon Rae, LCUSD parent,  
 James Marchetti, LCUSD parent,  
 Grace Kung, LCUSD parent,  
 Kelsey Larson, LCUSD parent,  
 Jamie Abrahamian, LCUSD parent,  
 Emily Woods, LCUSD parent,  
 Ahman Dhillion, LCUSD parent,  
 Jenny Kazak, LCUSD staff member,  
 Stacey Boland, LCUSD parent,  
 Ocatvia Thuss, LCUSD parent,

A Parent, LCUSD parent,  
 A Parent, LCUSD parent  
 Anonymous, LCUSD parent,  
 Stacey Boland, LCUSD parent,  
 A Concerned Parent, LCUSD parent,  
 Unknown, LCUSD parent,  
 Anonymous, LCUSD parent,  
 Concerned parent, LCUSD parent,  
 Niz, LCUSD parent,  
 A PCY Parent, LCUSD parent.

The Governing Board discussed whether to give elementary parents more time to decide whether to sign up for online learning and whether or not to make parents commit for the year. It was moved and seconded (Puglia/Jeffries) to approve the opening and closing times of the virtual and hybrid elementary schedules maintaining the current registration deadline. The motion to approve the opening and closing times of the virtual and hybrid elementary schedules while maintaining the current registration deadline was approved unanimously.

It was moved and seconded (Jeffries/Blumenfeld) to adopt the Secondary Distance Learning Schedule as presented. The motion to adopt the Secondary Distance Learning Schedule was approved unanimously.

Ms. Sinnette reported on next steps, which include communicating with families regarding the Virtual Learning Academy, loading elementary classes, working with high school administration to create a structure around 7-12 afternoon sessions, finding out more about waiver opportunities, exploring daycare options for LCUSD staff, and reviewing the contract with Paper Co.

The Virtual Learning Academy marketing materials were discussed.

It was moved and seconded (Jeffries/Blumenfeld) to endorse the Memorandum of Understanding. The motion to endorse the Memorandum of Understanding was approved unanimously.

It was moved and seconded (Jeffries/Kuszyk) to provide Ms. Sinnette the power to negotiate the details of future Memoranda of Understanding. The motion to provide Ms. Sinnette the power to negotiate the details of future Memoranda of Understanding was approved unanimously.

**2. Second Reading Item**

- a. **Board Policy Revisions, R2-20-21.** It was moved and seconded (Blumenfeld/Kuszyk) to approve the revisions to Board Policy 5141.52 Suicide Prevention. There being no questions or changes from First Read the motion to approve the revisions to Board Policy 5141.52 Suicide Prevention was adopted unanimously.

**3. Consent Agenda**

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

- a. **Approval Needed for Use of Piggyback Contract for Technology Purchases, R11-20-21.** The Governing Board approved the use of the Piggyback contract negotiated by Irvine Unified allowing the purchasing of computer equipment.
- b. **Resolution 1-20-21 Declaring the District's Membership in the National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance (NCPA) to Utilize Synnex Corporation Contract**

**to Purchase Certain Equipment.** The Governing Board adopted Resolution 1-20-21 declaring the district's membership in the National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance (NCPA) to utilize Synnex Corporation Contract to purchase certain equipment.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Tuesday, August 11, 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