

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

September 29, 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 September 29, 2020, via a Zoom Videoconference. Present were Governing Board Members Joe Radabaugh, Dan Jeffries, Kaitzer Puglia, Brent Kuszyk and Andrew Blumenfeld.

CLOSED SESSION

The Governing Board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom. Present were the five Governing Board Members, Superintendent Wendy Sinnette. Associate Superintendents Anais Wenn and Mark Evans, and Chief Technology Officer Jamie Lewsadder joined Closed Session at 5:45 p.m. 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 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. 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 Andrew Blumenfeld to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded (Jeffries/Blumenfeld) to approve the minutes of April 28, 2020, May 15, 2020, May 19, 2020 and June 9, 2020. The motion to approve the minutes of April 28, 2020, May 15, 2020, May 19, 2020 and June 9, 2020 was approved unanimously.

REPORTS

1. Superintendent's Report

Ms. Sinnette shared that the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is preparing to open the elementary school waiver process. They will approve 30 schools at a time. The approval process will be prioritized by schools with the highest number of free and reduced students. La Cañada Unified will apply as soon as the process is open. Even if rejected due to our participation rate of students on free and reduced meals, we will continue to apply. If approved, the waiver will allow Transitional Kindergarten to Second grade students back on campus with a hybrid model.

Ms. Sinnette reported that Los Angeles County remains in the highest restrictive Tier (the purple tier) due to the continued increase in positive COVID-19 test results.

2. President's Report

Mr. Radabaugh introduced Senator Anthony Portantino who was in attendance to provide a legislative update. Mr. Radabaugh stated that LCUSD and the City of La Cañada Flintridge have enjoyed a close relationship with Senator Portantino. Mr. Radabaugh listed Mr. Portantino's many accomplishments that have benefited education and the community.

3. Senator Anthony Portantino's Legislative Update

Senator Anthony Portantino provided a legislative update reporting on the state budget and the \$98M that was budgeted for education. He provided an update and brief background on the following legislation: the ethnic studies bill; AB1835, which seeks accountability for the Local Control Funding Formula; the retro bill on high school diplomas; AB841, which would create a fund for HVAC systems upgrades in schools, transportation funds and public works funding; and the economic stimulus for small businesses and rents. The Senator reported that the Governor just announced an expansion of COVID-19 testing availability beginning in November with a continued increase in testing capacity. This should help schools offset testing needs. Senator Portantino discussed the impact that COVID-19 is having on the emotional wellness of our students. The Governing Board thanked Mr. Portantino for his report.

4. Associate Superintendent of Business & Administrative Services' Report

Mr. Evans reported on minor changes to the Unaudited Actuals that were requested by the Los Angeles County Office of Education. Mr. Evans provided a Food Services update, reporting that the district is serving over 300 meals a day. Meals are free to all students under 18 through December 2020 and are being served Monday – Friday between 10:30 a.m. and Noon.

5. Student Representative

Student Representative Ben Lee reported on recent and upcoming events. He reported that even though elementary students are doing better with distance learning they are looking forward to returning to campus. He reported on the tutoring services being offered through Paper Co. He provided feedback on his personal experience with the service reporting that it was very helpful to him. He recommended the service and asked parents to make their students aware of this 24/7 tutoring service. Additionally, Mr. Lee reported on the Care Solace 24/7 mental health concierge that is available to parents, students, and district staff.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

None.

OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS BOARD

The following audience members addressed the Board:

Krysti Teng, Community Member, regarding Diversity, Equity and Inclusion,
Lori Moody, Community Member, regarding LCHS fencing,
David Haxton, Community Member, regarding LCHS fencing, and
Anonymous, regarding the implementation of ethnic studies.

PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS

1. Second Reading

- a. LCUSD Learning Continuity Plan 2020-2021, R38-20-21.** Director of Program & Services Karen Hurley reported on the minor changes made to the Learning Continuity Plan since First Read. She answered clarifying questions from the Governing Board. It

was moved and seconded (Blumenfeld/Puglia) to adopt the LCUSD Learning Continuity Plan. The motion to adopt the LCUSD Learning Continuity Plan 2020-2021 was approved unanimously.

2. **Public Hearing**

Resolution 6-20-21 Approving the Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and Final Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Palm Crest Elementary School Modernization Project. Program Manager Harold Pierre was present along with the following representatives from Ultra Systems: Margaret Partridge, Michael Rogozen, Michelle Tollett, Betsy Lindsay, Bai Tang, and Brian Marchetti. Ultra Systems is the company that performed the environmental study for the Palm Crest Elementary School Modernization Project. Mr. Pierre provided background on the process of completing and filing the Environmental Report. Margaret Partridge, Senior Project Manager with Ultra Systems Environment, reported on the results of the report.

Mr. Radabaugh opened the Public Hearing for comments at 8:12 p.m.

The following comments were received:

Laura Verlaque, Community Member, regarding the historic Bullock House;
Erin Van Breen, Community Member, regarding historic Bullock House;
James Camp, Community Member, regarding historic Bullock House; and
Michael Morgan, Community Member, regarding historic Bullock House.

Mr. Pierre clarified the next steps in the process if someone disagrees with the report. The Public Hearing was closed at 8:53 p.m.

3. **First Reading**

- a. **Resolution 6-20-21 Approving the Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and Final Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Palm Crest Elementary School Modernization Project.** Mr. Evans and Program Manager Harold Pierre reported on some of the mitigation measures that needed to be implemented as part of the modernization project. The extent, time and thought that has gone into this property and the study is a confirmation of the commitment of the district to the community.

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

David Haxton, Community Member

It was moved and seconded (Kuszyk/Jeffries) to adopt Resolution 6-20-21 Approving the Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and Final Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Palm Crest Elementary School Modernization Project. The motion to adopt Resolution 6-20-21 Approving the Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and Final Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Palm Crest Elementary School Modernization Project was approved unanimously.

- b. **Superintendent's 2019-2020 Goals Review, R41-20-21.** Ms. Sinnette provided a progress review of her 2019-2020 goals assessing her outcomes and levels of success in meeting each of her five goals. 1) LCUSD Bond Program – Measure LC, 2) Parcel Tax Campaign Preparation 2019-2020, 3) Districtwide Social Emotional Learning/Wellness Initiative, 4) Strategic Succession Planning Across LCUSD, 5) Community Relations – Comprehensive Planning and Development.

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

Anonymous

- c. ***Adoption of an LCHS 7-12 Hybrid Learning Schedule for the 2020-2021 School Year, R42-20-21.** Ms. Sinnette provided background on the work done by the Secondary Reopening Committee. She reported on the reopening restrictions by the county and the institutional integrity and safety concerns. She presented the various schedules that she has identified. She discussed concerns with each schedule. Schedule 1 concerns are primarily health related. Schedule 2 concerns are having a mid-day drop off, teacher's planning would be increased, and students would be released at 11 am and left on their own with guided practice. However, Schedule 2 provides for a shorter viral load. Ms. Sinnette presented a supervised Virtual Learning Proposal for #1A. 1A* is slightly different from 1A. After presenting the various Hybrid Learning Schedules, Ms. Sinnette recommended Schedule 2. The Governing Board engaged in discussion regarding the four schedules. Ms. Sinnette stated that until we land on a schedule, staff can't start focusing on specific COVID protocols.

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

LCHS Principal Jim Cartnal was in attendance to discuss the schedules being presented. Mr. Cartnal also prefers Schedule 2. If approved, Schedule 2 would be implemented in January. It was moved and seconded (Jeffries/Blumenfeld) to approve the implementation of Schedule 2. The motion to adopt Schedule 2 was approved unanimously.

- d. ***Recommendation to Reopen LCHS Stadium and Fields, R43-20-21.** Because LCUSD School facilities have been closed due to the Stay at Home order, the district's athletic fields have also been closed. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has recently issued a Reopening Protocol for Youth Sports Leagues. Implementing this Protocol would support the reopening of the LCHS stadium and fields to allow LCHS athletic teams to engage in training, conditioning, and skills-building activities. Staff has requested that the Governing Board approve re-opening the LCHS stadium and fields on October 12 for conditioning. An additional consideration is for weekend access after October 12 to individual community members and to bring back an item in October to discuss opening all of our fields. LCHS Principal Jim Cartnal and Assistant Principal Jason Ito were present to provide a presentation in regards to field openings. Mr. Cartnal and Mr. Ito discussed the reopening protocols for LCHS sports, the three phases of Reopening, General Activity Description by Sport, and discussed the contents of the PPE kits for coaches and Athletic Equipment List for Athletes. They showed the location of the proposed health screen stations & athletic practice areas at LCHS. Mr. Cartnal discussed the communication plan including coaches' meetings, parent and student athlete meetings, aeries communication, and LCHS website and social media communication to stress safety protocols. The Governing Board engaged in discussion regarding whether to open the fields for user groups and if so, when.

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

David Haxton, Community member.

It was moved and seconded (Jeffries/Kuszyk) to approve staff recommendation to reopen LCHS stadium and fields. The motion to approve the recommendation to reopen LCHS stadium and fields was approved unanimously.

- e. ***LCUSD School Reopening and Safety Plan 2020-2021, R44-20-21.** State and County agencies have required a written report from LEA's formally detailing plans for the 2020-21 school year amid the uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Sinnette presented the LCUSD Reopening and Safety Plan which sets forth the plan for the 2020-2021 school year and includes descriptions of how LCUSD will structure its instructional program; provide for the social and emotional well-being of its student, staff and families; ensure family and community engagement; protect the health and safety of all stakeholders in response to COVID-19; and practice facility cleaning and disinfecting. The Governing Board engaged in discussion regarding the plan. Mr. Blumenfeld made suggestions to the plan based on the 7 -12 schedule that was adopted at the meeting. It was moved and seconded (Puglia/Blumenfeld) to approve the LCUSD School Reopening and Safety Plan. The motion to approve the LCUSD School Reopening and safety Plan was approved unanimously.

4. **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, P5-20-21.** The Governing Board approved the Personnel Report as follows: *Certificated*: New Hires: Amanda Ridley, Matthew Sullivan, Alex Valadez. Modification/transfer: Amy Marcoullier. Resignation: Kristina Kalb. *Classified*: Leave of Absence: Sylvia Martirosyan. Resignation: Cameron Krischel, Brandon Lefton. Extra Duty Stipend Correction: Teena Vasquez.
- b. **Action on Final Settlement Agreement (Special Education), R39-20-21.** The Governing Board approved the Special Education Settlement Agreement on Student #20200911 in the amount of \$4,705.
- c. **Gifts to District, R4-20-21.** The Governing Board approved the Gifts to District as presented.
- d. **Purchase Order List 4-20-21.** The Governing Board approved Purchase Order List 4-20-21.

COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Lewsadder provided an update on the Broadband subcommittee.

Ms. Lewsadder reported that she is working with Governing Board members Dan Jeffries and Brent Kuszyk on board meeting optimization. She will bring an agenda item to the October Governing Board meeting for discussion.

Ms. Lewsadder reported that there have been 338 participants in the Paper, Co. tutoring services.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Wendy K. Sinnette, Superintendent
Secretary to the Governing Board

MINUTES APPROVED

Joe Radabaugh, Clerk

Date