

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

January 7, 2021

The Special Meeting of the Governing Board of La Cañada Unified School District was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Governing Board President Kaitzer Puglia on January 7, 2021, via a Zoom Videoconference. Present were the five Governing Board Members: Kaitzer Puglia, Dan Jeffries, Caroline Anderson, Dan Jeffries, and Josh Epstein, Superintendent Wendy Sinnette, Associate Superintendents Anais Wenn and Mark Evans, and Chief Technology Officer Jamie Lewsadder.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Ms. Puglia led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS BOARD ON AGENDIZED ITEMS**

The following audience members addressed the Board:  
None.

**GOVERNING BOARD RETREAT**

**Review of LCUSD Guiding Statements and Principles, R74-20-21**

Ms. Sinnette reported that Governing Board President Kaitzer Puglia requested that the Governing Board engage in a review of the LCUSD Guiding Statements and Principles. Ms. Sinnette presented the district's existing tagline, Vision Statement, Mission Statement, Guiding Principles, the La Cañada Commitment, and LCUSD Governing Board Core Values. The Governing Board engaged in discussion and made recommendations for change. The recommendations will be incorporated into a revised draft and presented to the Governing Board for approval at a later date.

**Discussion of LCUSD Communication Strategies, Routines, Areas of Strength, and Area for Growth and Development, R75-20-21.**

Ms. Sinnette reported that Governing Board President Kaitzer Puglia requested that the Governing Board engage in a full review of LCUSD's communication strategies and routines in order to assess areas of strength, identify areas for growth, and make determinations regarding how to improve communication with families, staff, students, and the larger community. Ms. Sinnette presented LCUSD Communication Routines for Parents and Families showing communication sources for the District Office and each school site. The Governing Board engaged in discussion regarding communication avenues and how best to streamline communication. Mr. Epstein has agreed to prepare the Governing Board newsletter. He discussed his plan for Governing Board communication through the newsletter. The Governing Board requested a Public Information Officer. There was a brief discussion regarding how to continue communication expectations once COVID restrictions are removed and Governing Board meetings return to in person meetings.

**Discussion of LCUSD Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Commitment Statement and Definitions, R76-20-21**

Ms. Sinnette reported that Governing Board President Kaitzer Puglia requested that the Governing Board engage in a review and discussion of the LCUSD DEI Commitment Statement and Definitions prior to formal adoption by the Governing Board later in the year. Ms. Sinnette presented the working draft Commitment Statement and DEI definitions for comments and feedback. The Governing Board requested further exploration on the working draft definition regarding diversity, specifically reviewing the inclusion of political beliefs. Diversity of thought was recommended instead of political beliefs. Ms. Sinnette will take the recommendation to her DEI Governance subcommittee. The definition of

Equity and Inclusion were reviewed and discussed. Minor recommendations were discussed. Mr. Epstein suggested that the definitions be reviewed by an expert in the field of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion prior to adoption by the Governing Board.

**Discussion of Provisions and Requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act, R77-20-21.**

Ms. Sinnette presented a Summary of the Major Provisions and Requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act provided by Best, Best & Kreiger. The Governing Board engaged in discussion regarding the Brown Act. Mr. Jeffries informed the Governing Board regarding Assembly Bill 992, which prohibits Governing Board members to comment on another Board Member's comment on social media. The Governing Board engaged in discussion regarding Closed Session discussions and responding to Public Comment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Tuesday, January 14, 2021 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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Joe Radabaugh, Clerk

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Date