

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

January 12, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of La Cañada Unified School District was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Kaitzer Puglia on January 12, 2021, via Zoom. Present were Governing Board Members Kaitzer Puglia, Dan Jeffries, Joe Radabaugh, Caroline Anderson, and Josh Epstein.

**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 Superintendent Anais Wenn, Associate Superintendent Mark Evans, and Chief Technology Officer Jamie Lewsadder. Closed Session adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. Kaitzer Puglia, President  
Mr. Dan Jeffries, Vice President  
Mr. Joe Radabaugh, Clerk  
Ms. Caroline Anderson, Member  
Mr. Josh Epstein, Member

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

None.

**REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

Ms. Puglia reported that in Closed Session by an unanimous vote of 5:0 the Governing Board voted to reject the Government claim #2020-2021-12.

**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, Mrs. Lewsadder and Executive Assistant to the Superintendent Kim Bergner. Ms. Puglia asked Governing Board member Caroline Anderson to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded (Jeffries/Radabaugh) to approve the minutes of September 24, 2020. The motion to approve the minutes of September 24, 2020 was adopted unanimously.

**REPORTS**

**1. Superintendent's Report**

Ms. Sinnette reported on the work of the subcommittees of both the LCAP Committee and the DEI Special Committee. She shared her heartfelt gratitude to Verdugo Hills Hospital for beginning the process with the district towards the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine for all LCUSD staff.

**2. President's Report**

Ms. Puglia thanked Mr. Radabaugh for his leadership during the challenges of the 2020 school year. She welcomed Caroline Anderson and Josh Epstein to their first full Governing Board meeting. Ms. Puglia reported on the 2021 Governing Board liaison assignments.

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

Mr. Evans reported that staff is working on the Second Interim. The Governor's budget proposal was just released with some positive educational proposals. The district is awaiting details of the proposal so that it can start working on the budget impacts for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023.

**4. Student Representative**

Student Representative Benjamin Lee reported on the rising COVID-19 cases. Of the several parents that he spoke with regarding returning during the surge, most elementary parents were still feeling comfortable with the hybrid schedule. Mr. Lee reported on the work being done to create a positive experience for Seniors.

**REVIEW OF AGENDA**

None.

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

The following audience members addressed the Board:

None.

**PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS**

**1. First Reading**

- a. Superintendent Update on LCUSD's Reopening Progress for 2020-2021 School Year, R81-20-21.** Superintendent Sinnette provided an update on LCUSD reopening progress for the 2020-2021 school year. She reported that student, staff and family safety is our #1 priority. She stated that learning experiences have informed our planning, and patience and flexibility are required. Ms. Sinnette provided an update on what resources are currently open for TK-12 students. She reported on the protocols for reopening TK-2 (the VLA and hybrid classes). Staff is currently working towards a grade 3 reopening. The district is currently waiting for the COVID surge numbers to lower and stabilize. Next steps after bringing back 3<sup>rd</sup> graders would be a 4<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> grade reopening. The current reopening target dates are mid-February for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and mid-March for grades 4-6. The implementation of the COVID-19 vaccine for staff will assist with the reopening.

Ms. Sinnette reported on the Governor's "California's Safe Schools For All" plan that was implemented on December 30, 2020. Under the plan, COVID testing would be required for all students and staff at least once a week. She reported on the LCHS 7-12 pods for High-Need High-Risk students. Ms. Sinnette presented the next steps towards a 7-12 Reopening. There will be no 7-12 reopening while Los Angeles County is in the most restrictive Purple Tier. She discussed the need to provide Seniors with some sort of normalcy for their final year. The 7-12 Reopening Committee will meet again next week to continue their work to get 7-12 students back on campus.

Ms. Sinnette reported that the district has been providing COVID-19 testing opportunities for staff approximately every two weeks since early November.

After the update, Ms. Sinnette asked the Governing Board for input and guidance. Based on the strong recommendation to suspend in person instruction for the month of January, Ms. Sinnette asked for input regarding LCHS 9-12 athletic conditioning, field use, and the use of the outdoor basketball courts. She asked for Governing Board support to continue with the PSAT that is scheduled for January 26<sup>th</sup> with increased safety measures. Additionally, she asked for Governing Board support to continue individual assessments/goals progress monitoring for Special Education students.

The Governing Board asked for Mr. Cartnal's input regarding the field closures. Mr. Cartnal reported on the community use of high school facilities that are impacting student safety. Because there is a Governing Board meeting to provide direction on closing school facilities tomorrow, the Governing Board was asked to digest the information presented for further discussion and action tomorrow. Mr. Cartnal did report that most coaches have self-selected to shut down conditioning due to COVID concerns. LCUSD is currently the only school open for athletic conditioning within the Rio Hondo league. Mr. Cartnal's recommendation is to close sports fields through February 1 and in-person learning during the current COVID surge.

Mr. Cartnal reported that there are currently 135 students signed up for the PSAT test on January 26<sup>th</sup>. With additional staff and small cohorts he also requested that the PSAT remain on the schedule. The Governing Board agreed to continue with the PSAT testing on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

Special Education individual assessments were discussed and at the recommendation of Dr Ihori it was agreed to continue to move forward with the individual assessments as long as it continues to be safe for students and staff.

The following members of the public addressed the board on this agenda item:  
Mark Kassabian, LCUSD parent

The Governing Board will continue this discussion at tomorrow's Special Meeting.

- b. Measure LCF Bond Program update, R78-20-21.** Associate Superintendent Mark Evans and Program Manager Harold Pierre presented a Measure LCF Bond Program and Facilities Master Plan update which included current, upcoming and future projects. Mr. Pierre presented the completed projects and the cost of the projects per site. The total of all completed projects to date is \$13,890,869. Mr. Pierre presented details of upcoming projects. The timeline and cash flow of Measure LCF Bonds was presented.

The following members of the public addressed the board on this agenda item:  
David Haxton, Community Member;  
Miles Haxton, Community Member; and  
Lori Moody, Community Member.

The Governing Board asked clarifying questions of Mr. Pierre and Mr. Evans. The Governing Board thanked Mr. Pierre and Mr. Evans for the presentation.

It was moved and seconded (Jeffries/Epstein) to extend the meeting to midnight. The motion to extend the meeting to midnight was approved unanimously.

- c. \*2019-2020 School Accountability Report Card (SARC), R83-20-21.** Director of Programs and Services, Karen Hurley, was present to report on the School

Accountability Report Cards. Ms. Hurley reviewed the 2019-2020 School Accountability Report Cards (SARC). It was moved and seconded (Radabaugh/Anderson) to accept the 2019-2020 School Accountability Report Cards (SARC). The motion to accept the 2019-2020 School Accountability Report Cards was approved unanimously.

2. **Consent Agenda**

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

- a. **Personnel Report, P9-20-21.** The Governing Board approved the Personnel Report as follows: *Certificated:* New Hires: Sitara Falcon, Kristal Pomerville. Leave of Absence: Brittany Bridgman, Melissa Clemens, Annie Hokanson. *Classified:* New Hires: Carl Gschwende. Modification: Tony Camerena. Leave of Absence: Johanna Buhler, Rosie Ledezma, Hilda Minasyan, Anthony Peralta, Erica Rios. Resignation: Adrine Manukova, Matt Whisenant. Retirement: Kim Bergner. Extra Duty Stipend: Teena Vasquez.
- b. **Approval of Lease Amendment for Child Education Center, Caltech/JPL Community (CEC) Elementary School Sites School Age Child Care Program, R85-20-21.** The Governing Board approved the Lease Amendment for Child Education Center, Caltech/JPL Community (CEC) Elementary School Sites School Age Child Care Program.
- c. **Approval of Lease Amendment for Child Education Center, Caltech/JPL Community (CEC) Oak Grove Real Property, R86-20-21.** The Governing Board approved the Lease Amendment for Child Education Center, Caltech/JPL Community (CEC) Oak Grove Real Property.
- d. **Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints, R82-20-21.** The Governing Board approved the Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints.
- e. **Notice of Completion, R84-20-21.** The Governing Board approved the Notice of Completion as presented.
- f. **Gifts to District, R80-20-21.** The Governing Board approved the Gifts to District as presented.
- g. **Purchase Order List 8-20-21.** The Governing Board approved Purchase Order List 8-20-21.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Governing Board Community Liaison assignments were discussed.

Mr. Radabaugh reported that the DEI subcommittees have been engaging in quality discussions.

Mr. Radabaugh announced the passing of Randy Boal, a past LCHS Athletic Director. The district is considering opportunities to recognize his contribution to the district.

Mr. Epstein announced the release of the Governing Board newsletter and asked for community input.

Mr. Epstein commended Mr. Cartnal for his recent interview on KCRW.

Ms. Puglia reported on a student interview she participated in and commended the student for his professionalism.

Mrs. Lewsadder reported that she is proud of Omar Torres for receiving the Founders Day award at Palm Crest Elementary.

Mrs. Lewsadder reported on the contribution offered from parents during the LCAP subcommittee meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:27 p.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

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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