

LYNWOOD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Education Center 11321 Bullis Road, Board Room B-105, B-106, Lynwood, California, 90262
March 25, 2021

MINUTES

1. IMPORTANT ADVISORY REGARDING PUBLIC MEETING (COVID-19)

The public meeting was held at 11321 Bullis Road, Lynwood, CA 90262 and via teleconferencing in accordance with the Governor's Executive Orders N-25-20, dated March 12, 2020 and N-29-20, dated March 17, 2020. Important information on how to participate in the public meeting and submit public comments were outlined on the agenda.

2. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Education, held on March 25, 2021, was called to order at 5:19 p.m. by the President, Mrs. Maria G. Lopez, to conduct a closed session. Superintendent Crosthwaite took the roll.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Mrs. Maria G. Lopez, President
Mr. Alfonso Morales, Esq., Clerk
Mr. Gary Hardie, Jr., Member
Dr. Alma Carina Castro, Member (*Arrived during Closed Session. Participated remotely.*)

Legal Counsel, Mr. Terence Gallagher of Olivarez Madrugá Lemieux O'Neill, LLP, was also present.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ON MARCH 25, 2021

Motion by Mr. Hardie; Seconded by Mr. Morales.

Individual votes by roll call:

Mrs. Lopez - Yes
Mr. Morales - Yes
Mr. Hardie - Yes
Dr. Castro – Absent

Item passed with 3-0 votes.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT/COMMUNICATIONS – *None.*

6. GOVERNING BOARD - Recess to Closed Session at 5:20 p.m.

7. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION/CALL TO ORDER

The Board reconvened into open session at 6:39 p.m. Superintendent Crosthwaite took the roll.

8. ROLL CALL

Present: Mrs. Maria G. Lopez, President
Mr. Alfonso Morales, Esq., Clerk
Mr. Gary Hardie, Jr., Member
Dr. Alma Carina Castro, Member (*Participated remotely.*)

Legal Counsel, Mr. Terence Gallagher of Olivarez Madrugá Lemieux O'Neill, LLP, was also present.

9. FLAG SALUTE by Roosevelt Elementary School

Mr. Adolfo Rodas, Principal at Roosevelt Elementary School, introduced Analia Montes, whose goal is to become a lawyer or an engineer, and in the process, attend Harvard University.

Recognition: Food Pantry Volunteers

Superintendent Crosthwaite honored volunteers who have consistently supported the Lynwood community during these difficult and challenging times. Superintendent Crosthwaite asked Dr. Shawna Dinkins, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, to assist with the presentation recognizing the Food Pantry Volunteers.

Dr. Dinkins thanked the volunteers for their “above and beyond” service to the community. The volunteers have been instrumental in ensuring there is no food scarcity in Lynwood and continuing to provide food during this ongoing pandemic.

She thanked several individuals and organization representatives, including Lynwood Sheriff's Department, the City of Lynwood, Greater Emmanuel Temple, Reformed Church of Los Angeles, Lynwood Partners Educational Foundation, Lynwood Rotary, AmeriCorps, Lynwood Unified School District Office and school site employees, and community volunteers.

Lynwood Rotary, along with Lynwood Partners Educational Foundation, worked tirelessly to raise money to support expanding and continuing the Food Pantry. AmeriCorps, currently partnered with Lynwood Unified, serve as mentors for our foster and unhoused youth. Members of the Greater Emmanuel Temple Church and the Reformed Church of Los Angeles have consistently volunteered with the Food Pantry in continuing to feed the neediest members of our community.

10. REPORTS

10.A. Student Reports (Reports available on website.)

10.A.1. Lynwood Community Adult School by Michelle Diaz.

10.A.2. Pathway High School by Kimberly Hernandez.

10.A.3. Vista High School by Juan Espinoza.

10.A.4. Firebaugh High School by Leslie Benitez.

10.A.5. Lynwood High School by Zayra Hernandez.

10.B. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Crosthwaite provided an update on the reopening of schools; Helen Keller and Washington Elementary schools opened for in-person K-2 instruction on Monday, March 22nd. Social media, as well as local channel 52, *Telemundo*, highlighted Lynwood Unified School District's reopening. Superintendent Crosthwaite also recognized participants for Middle School Wellness Day, which addressed the mental health of our students.

COVID-19 vaccination updates included upcoming vaccine distributions beginning Monday, March 29th, at both St. Francis Medical Center and St. John's Well Child and Family Center at Firebaugh High School. Links will be posted on social media to make appointments. In partnership with the City of Lynwood and St. Francis Medical Center, vaccines will be available to Lynwood residents and employees. Superintendent Crosthwaite urged the community to continue to wear masks, social distance, and limit group interactions.

10.B.1. Presentation: Facilities Update

Mr. Gregory Fromm, Chief Business Official, provided an update regarding the facilities' emergency resolution. Resolution No. 20-21/24, which enables the timely transition for relocating Lynwood High School to Lynwood Middle School's campus, was approved by the Board of Education on February 11th and allows for the repair and replacement of facilities, the procurement of equipment and services, and the necessary relocation of students and operations.

Because of the necessary relocation of students and the reconfiguration of operations caused by the unavailability of Lynwood High School, repairs and other equipment are needed at the District's middle schools and other campuses to provide adequately equipped facilities and available space for classroom instruction and essential educational services.

10.B.2. Recognition: Food Pantry Volunteers

This item was considered after Item Number Nine, flag salute.

Recognition: Women of Lynwood Unified School District

A video presentation shared women of Lynwood Unified School District, who are recognized for being loyal, positive, dedicated, resilient, scholarly, powerful, and valiant leaders. Two special LUSD employees are honored: Melissa Bahmanpour has been recognized as last year's Teacher of the Year from Rosa Parks Elementary, and has been asked to sit on a panel with Speaker Assembly Member Anthony Rendon and Dolores Huerta. Audrey Casas, teacher from Lynwood High School, is recognized as the Assembly District 63's Woman of the Year and will also be on that panel.

10.C. Board Members' Reports

Dr. Castro asked our community to celebrate and honor its women who break through ceilings and fight for social justice all year long.

Dr. Castro thanked the City of Lynwood and its partners for bringing the COVID-19 vaccine to our community. She also thanked the school staff for welcoming students back to campus at Helen Keller and Washington Elementary schools. She asked that we examine the reopening process at these schools and reflect on necessary changes as we prepare to safely reopen other sites.

Dr. Castro acknowledged the importance of ELPAC testing and encouraging and motivating our English Language Learners to do well on the ELPAC. Their reclassification will only expand their opportunities throughout grade school, middle school, and high school.

Dr. Castro shared information about the board vacancy and the provisional appointment application, which is available on our Lynwood Unified School District website and has been advertised in local press. She invited Lynwood community members to assist with identifying eligible candidates to fill the vacancy.

Mr. Hardie commended staff who assisted with initial elementary reopenings and expressed desire to see further campus reopenings in the near future. Noting it has been a full year since Lynwood Unified School District closed schools in 2020, Mr. Hardie recognized the hard work and dedication of LUSD staff, Dr. Brian Lucas, and his team's assistance with getting the vaccine to Lynwood community members and LUSD staff.

Mr. Hardie emphasized the importance of receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, along with advocating for and educating our community about vaccination benefits and acknowledging past mistrust of the medical community by people of color. He mentioned a virtual conversation to be hosted about the vaccine on Saturday, March 27th, with the head of Microbiology from UCLA. The discussion, which he shared on social media, will discuss how the vaccine is produced and how it protects recipients from the COVID-19 virus.

Mr. Hardie recognized steps taken to simplify reopening, specifically at Wilson Elementary school. Clear processes and identification markers on gates, doors, etc., show our district's thoughtfulness and intentions behind reopening.

Mr. Morales also acknowledged the tedious labors of Lynwood Unified School District staff during elementary reopenings. He visited Washington Elementary in person to witness all of the detailed steps made to follow protocols to keep our students and teachers safe. Mr. Morales made a special point to acknowledge the hard and physically demanding work of staff to prepare our school.

Mr. Morales emphasized the importance of receiving COVID-19 vaccinations, social distancing, and wearing masks whenever possible to reduce transmission and spread of the virus.

Mrs. Lopez stated Lynwood Unified School District is ready to receive our students on campus. As viewed on Telemundo, our schools, and students, are ready to return to in-person learning. The Board has visited schools to ensure site readiness for reopening. Mrs. Lopez thanked the administration and the Cabinet members for their efforts to prepare for reopening, noting that Lynwood Unified School District is a step ahead of other districts in getting our students back into school.

Mrs. Lopez explained the upcoming vaccination schedule for children sixteen and older (beginning April 15th), and for community members over fifty (beginning April 1st). This will reduce risks in our high schools, where we will begin preparing for in-person graduation at the end of the school year.

Mr. Hardie proposed returning seniors to high schools for some in-person, on campus experiences as well.

11. GOVERNING BOARD - Resolutions/Proclamations/Appointments

11.A. Appointment of Representative to the California Advancing Pathways for Students (CalAPS)

Motion to nominate Mr. Morales by Mrs. Lopez; Seconded by Mr. Hardie.

Individual votes by roll call:

Mrs. Lopez - Yes
Mr. Morales - Yes
Mr. Hardie - Yes
Dr. Castro - Yes

Item passed with 4-0 votes. Mr. Morales took a moment to thank the Board for their nomination.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT/COMMUNICATIONS

The following public comment was read into record by Dr. Brian Lucas, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources.

Diana Hawkins

My name is Diana Hawkins, CSEA president, I am very honored and privileged to stand before you to speak on behalf of our members. We want to send out a special thank you to Superintendent Gudiel Crosthwaite, President of the Board, Maria Lopez, and Board Member Gary Hardie Jr. for taking the time out of their busy schedules to attend our Wednesday, March 17, 2021 Chapter Meeting via Zoom. We really appreciate you all accepting the invitation to come and answer our questions, concerns, and also updating us on your current reopening plans. From your visit, we know that you really care about Lynwood staff and their safety. Seeing that our membership has a large contingent of Special Education and Child Care employees, we were more at ease with these updates. If you would be able to provide a more precise stable timeline on the return to work on-site for us, that would be great and this would eliminate some anxiety, stress, and uncertainty some of us are experiencing. This would also make it easier for our members to prepare, plan, and be ready to return to their worksite. We would appreciate it and thanks again for your continued support and have a great evening.

13. PUBLIC HEARING – None.

14. ACTION ITEMS

14.A. BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Morales motioned to approve Action Item No. 14.A.1. and 14.A.2 concurrently; Seconded by Mr. Hardie.

Individual votes by roll call:

Mrs. Lopez - Yes
Mr. Morales - Yes
Mr. Hardie - Yes
Dr. Castro - Yes

Items passed with 4-0 votes.

- 14.A.1. Minutes - Request Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on March 11, 2021
- 14.A.2. Minutes - Request Approval of Minutes for the Special Meeting/Study Session of the Board of Education on March 18, 2021

- 14.B. FACILITIES - (Measure K and Measure N Projects)
Mr. Morales motioned to approve Action Item No. 14.B.1. through 14.B.6 concurrently;
Seconded by Mr. Hardie.

Individual votes by roll call:

Mrs. Lopez - Yes
Mr. Morales - Yes
Mr. Hardie - Yes
Dr. Castro - Yes

Items passed with 4-0 votes.

- 14.B.1. Review of Emergency Repairs and Consideration of Need for Continued Action at District Middle School Sites in Relation to the Transition of Moving Lynwood High School to Lynwood Middle School Campus
- 14.B.2. Request Approval to Cancel All Bids Submitted for CM-212021, Emergency Refresh of Classrooms/Portables Project at Lynwood Middle School
- 14.B.3. Request Approval to Enter Into an Additional Professional Service Agreement with Westberg White Architects for a Stand-alone Fire Alarm System in Conjunction with CM-12020, Fire Alarm Replacement Project at Lynwood Middle School
- 14.B.4. Request Approval to Enter Into an Additional Professional Service Agreement with ADM Architects to Prepare Construction Documents for Five Additional Portable Classrooms in Conjunction with the Emergency Displaced Student Housing Project at Cesar Chavez Middle School
- 14.B.5. Request Approval to Enter Into a Service Agreement with TMP Services to Replace the Ramps, Landings and Railings at Twenty-Three Existing Portables at Lynwood Middle School
- 14.B.6. Request Approval to Enter Into an Agreement with SVA Architects for the Master Planning Conversion of Lynwood Middle School to Lynwood High School

15. CONSENT AGENDA

All items on the Consent Agenda, which are not debatable and which require a unanimous vote for passage, will be approved with one motion. Any member of the Board, the Superintendent, or the public, may request an item to be removed from this section and placed in the regular order of business following the approval of the Consent Agenda.

Superintendent Crosthwaite pulled Agenda Item No. 15.D.3 for future Board consideration.

Mr. Hardie motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, with the exception of Agenda Item No. 15.D.3;
Seconded by Mr. Morales.

Individual votes by roll call:

Mrs. Lopez – Yes

Mr. Morales – Yes

Mr. Hardie – Yes

Dr. Castro – Yes

Items passed with 4-0 votes.

15.A. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

- 15.A.1. Request Approval to Enter Into an Agreement with Curriculum Associates to Provide Training for Special Education Teachers from March 2021 to June 2021
- 15.A.2. Request Approval to Participate in the ANATOMY IN CLAY Learning System, Level I Online Training between March 2021 and June 2021
- 15.A.3. Request Approval to Enter Into an Agreement with Studio Spectrum, Inc., to Provide Video Recording and Editing Services for the Lynwood Unified School District Arts Festival and Showcase from March 2021 to April 2021
- 15.A.4. Request Approval to Renew Agreement with Orenda Education to Provide Coaching Services and Professional Learning for Site Teachers and District Office Administration for the 2021-2022 School Year
- 15.A.5. Request Approval to Attend the Project Lead the Way Virtual Training (PLTW) in Various Locations During Spring 2021 and Summer 2021

15.B. HUMAN RESOURCES – CERTIFICATED

- 15.B.1. Request Approval of Certificated Personnel Report: Personnel Assignments, Employment, Leaves, and Separations

15.C. HUMAN RESOURCES – CLASSIFIED

- 15.C.1. Request Approval of Classified Personnel Report: Personnel Assignments, Employment, Leaves, and Separations
- 15.C.2. Request Approval to Award Contract Based on RFQ# 011221-DN to Educational Management Solutions for Job Classification and Compensation Study

15.D. BUSINESS SERVICES

- 15.D.1. Request Approval of Warrant and ACH Schedule for the Period of February 17, 2021 through March 2, 2021
- 15.D.2. Request Approval to Attend the School Services of California May Revision Virtual Workshop to the Proposed 2021-22 State Budget on May 20, 2021
- 15.D.4. Request Approval to Attend the Power of Positive Leadership Virtual Training on March 24-25, 2021

15.E. ADMINISTRATION

15.E.1. Request Approval of Board Meeting Dates for the 2021-2022 School Year

15.E.2. Request Approval to Amend Certification of Signatures, Previously Approved on December 11, 2020, for the Remaining Period of April 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

ITEM PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

15.D.3. Request Approval to Enter Into a Service Agreement with Envisie Co. for the Preventative HVAC Maintenance Program beginning April 15, 2021 through April 14, 2022

This item was not considered.

16. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

6.A. Conference with Legal Counsel – Pending Litigation – Pursuant to GC § 54956.9(d)(1)

6.A.1. OAH Case No. 2020120205

- With 3-0 votes, Dr. Castro not present, the Board approved settlement, including \$4,200.00 in attorney's fees.

Individual votes by roll call:

Mrs. Lopez - Yes

Mr. Morales - Yes

Mr. Hardie - Yes

Dr. Castro - Absent

Item passed with 3-0 votes.

6.A.2. OAH Case No. 2020100221

- With 4-0 votes, the Board approved settlement, including \$29,950.00 in attorney's fees.

Individual votes by roll call:

Mrs. Lopez - Yes

Mr. Morales - Yes

Mr. Hardie - Yes

Dr. Castro - Yes

Item passed with 4-0 votes.

6.B. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated/Potential Litigation – Pursuant to GC § 54956.9(d)(4)

6.B.1. Initiation of Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (4) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: One (1) Case

- The Board received information; no final action was taken.

6.C. Public Employment/Public Employee Performance Evaluation/Public Employee Discipline Dismissal/Release/Appointment (Pursuant to GC § 54957)

6.C.1. Superintendent's Evaluation

- This item was not considered by the Board.

6.D. Conference with Labor Negotiator Agency Designated Representatives Employee Organizations - CSEA, LTA, and SEIU

- This item was not considered by the Board.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Lopez adjourned the meeting in honor of women worldwide at 7:25 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Morales; Seconded by Mr. Hardie.

Individual votes by roll call:

Mrs. Lopez – Yes

Mr. Morales – Yes

Mr. Hardie – Yes

Dr. Castro – Yes

Item passed with 4-0 votes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gudiel R. Crosthwaite, Ph.D.
Superintendent & Secretary to the Board