

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

April 11, 2016

The Special Meeting of the Governing Board of La Cañada Unified School District was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President David Sagal on April 11, 2016, in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Cañada, California. Present were Governing Board Members David Sagal, Dan Jeffries and Ellen Multari, Ms. Sinnette, Mrs. Wenn, Dr. Davis, Mr. Evans and Executive Assistant to the Superintendent Kim Bergner. There were approximately 120 people in the audience. Mr. Sagal asked Valerie Aenlle-Rocha to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS BOARD ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

The following audience members addressed the Board on non-agendized items:

None.

PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS

1. First Reading

- a. Presentation Regarding LCAP Local Priority Progress and 2016-2017 Plan Development, R103-15-16.** Ms. Sinnette and Mr. Evans provided an LCAP progress report on local priorities. Ms. Sinnette reported that there were 838 respondents to the LCAP survey. The survey results were presented to the LCAP Oversight Committee and direction was given based on survey feedback.

The district goal to reduce and maintain class size reduction was ranked as second priority in the LCAP survey with 89.8 % of the respondents assigning it a high level priority. Ms. Sinnette provided an update on current efforts being made to maintain and improve current student to teacher ratios.

The local goal to recruit and retain the highest quality teachers, staff and administration was ranked as priority #1 in the survey with 94.2% of respondents assigning it a high level priority. Mr. Evans reported that the district is doing well on the recruiting side and is currently working with LCTA to make salaries competitive within our elite group of comparable districts. Classified recruitment and retention will also be addressed.

The local goal for successful/on-going implementation of the Common Core State Standards was ranked as priority #5 in the survey with 78.8% of the respondents assigning it a high level priority. Ms. Sinnette reported that the district has made great strides in implementing this goal. Common Core instructional strategies and technology have become increasingly integrated. The district is working towards adopting instructional materials to support common core instruction, starting with a math textbook adoption. Ms. Sinnette also addressed TOSA support and professional development for teachers.

The local goal to support the delivery of a quality instructional program through technology was ranked #4 in the survey with 79.3% of respondents assigning it a high level priority. Ms. Sinnette discussed the need to overhaul the technology infrastructure and briefly discussed the need for a General Obligation Bond. She stated that the Technology Team is doing a great job in supporting staff in realizing this goal. Ms. Sinnette discussed Digital Citizenship and the training that is taking place with our students to educate them to make smart choices while on the internet.

Mr. Evans reported on the goal to provide a quality instructional program to English Language Learners. This item is ranked as a low priority, but largely due to the minimal number of students in this category. This goal was ranked #8 in the LCAP survey with 55.2% of respondents assigning it a high level priority-although this priority is a state mandate and funded with assigned supplemental dollars.

Mr. Evans discussed the goal to maintain districtwide facilities and initiate capital improvement projects, which was ranked #6 in the LCAP survey with 75.8% of respondents assigning it a high level priority. He reported on the requirements of the Williams Act and the funding for Deferred Maintenance and Routine Maintenance. While discussing Capital Improvements, Mr. Evans reported on the Facilities Master Plan and the viability of a General Obligation Bond.

Ms. Sinnette reported on the progress of the goal to Enhance Student Engagement through Program Offerings. She reported that there has been good progress in achieving this goal. It was ranked #3 in the LCAP survey with 75.8% of respondents assigning it a high priority. The new and redesigned electives in 7-12 have been met with enthusiasm. Some courses have not received the sign-ups that were expected so those electives will not be offered next year. There is interest in continuing the development of CTE/Vocational Pathways and to explore dual enrollment through articulation with local community colleges. There is also interest in exploring opportunities for more interdisciplinary learning – allowing students to make real world connections. The development of “maker” opportunities at the elementary sites was also discussed. There is expressed interest in improving the overall coaching staff and stipends in 9-12 athletics. There were comments on the survey that the elementary GATE program needs to be more inclusive. This goal has moved up in priority over last year’s survey.

The general feedback on the goal to Improve Stakeholder Involvement and Communication is that communication has improved. While this goal received a 69.8% ranking as a high level priority there was consensus to eliminate this goal and imbed the communication goal into the other goals. However, there was an interest in establishing an additional 8th goal focusing on student and staff wellness; providing life balance skills, stress management and resiliency skills, and systemic support in making our students college ready.

The following other suggestions were made that did not relate to current goals:

- Reduce Elementary Counselors and add Assistant Principals
- Upgrade Facilities – equity between school sites – Bond Measure
- Need Teacher Resources and Training for NGSS
- Redesign Classrooms as 21st Century Learning Environments
- Address Parking Needs and Traffic Flow at school sites
- New Textbooks and Instructional Materials
- Improve Teacher Salaries
- Address Employee Underperformance
- Greater Curricular Emphasis on Writing Skills.

Mr. Jeffries asked why an allocated percentage was not included into the second interim budget. Mr. Evans clarified that historically this is not in the budget until a negotiations settlement is reached. It was suggested that negotiations begin earlier in the year so that future second interim reports can reflect a salary increase. Mr. Jeffries asked how LCUSD compares to other districts on teacher salaries. Mr. Evans reported

on the work that is being done to create a more equitable salary schedule so that our district's teachers' salaries are more competitive.

At the completion of the presentation, the following members of the audience addressed the Board:

LCTA President Mandy Redfern spoke regarding teacher salaries;
 Joseph Langton, LCFEF Representative and LCUSD Parent spoke in support of teacher salary increases;
 Ryan Rowe, LCUSD Parent supporting a teacher salary increase;
 Susan Marinoff, LCUSD Parent, spoke in favor of a teacher salary increase;
 John Caire, Community Member and spouse of LCUSD teacher regarding teacher salaries;
 Rodney Swan, LCUSD Parent at LCE 3rd & 4th grader regarding teacher salaries;
 Valerie Aenlle-Rocha, LCUSD Parent regarding teacher salary increase;
 Jim Ryan, Community member supporting teacher salary increase;
 Justin Eick, teacher and parent, regarding teacher salaries.

There being no other comments, the Governing Board adjourned to Closed Session.

OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

None.

CLOSED SESSION

The Governing Board adjourned to Closed Session at 7:40 p.m. in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Cañada, California. Present were the five Governing Board Members, Superintendent Wendy Sinnette, Assistant Superintendent Anais Wenn, Assistant Superintendent Jeff Davis and Chief Business & Operations Officer Mark Evans.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. David Sagal, President
 Mr. Dan Jeffries, Vice President
 Mrs. Ellen Multari, Member.

CLOSED SESSION ADJOURNMENT

Closed Session adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Sagal stated that there is nothing to report out of Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Canada, California.

Wendy K. Sinnette, Superintendent
 Secretary to the Governing Board

MINUTES APPROVED

Kaitzer Puglia, Clerk

Date