

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

November 7, 2017

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of La Cañada Unified School District was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Dan Jeffries on November 7, 2017, in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Cañada, California. Present were Governing Board Members Dan Jeffries, Kaitzer Puglia, Brent Kuszyk, Ellen Multari and David Sagal.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The Governing Board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:00 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 Mark Evans, and Chief Technology Officer Jamie Lewsadder. Closed Session adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Dan Jeffries, President  
Mrs. Kaitzer Puglia, Vice President  
Mr. Brent Kuszyk, Clerk  
Mrs. Ellen Multari, Member  
Mr. David Sagal, Member

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

None.

**REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. Jeffries 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. in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Cañada, California. Present were five Governing Board Members, Ms. Sinnette, Mrs. Wenn, Mr. Evans, Ms. Lewsadder and Executive Assistant to the Superintendent Kim Bergner. There were approximately 14 people in the audience. Mr. Jeffries asked Palm Crest Elementary Cadet Troop 9181 to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded (Sagal/Multari) to approve the minutes of September 26, 2017 and October 17, 2017. The motion to approve the minutes of September 26, 2017 and October 17, 2017 was adopted unanimously.

**REPORTS**

**1. Superintendent's Report**

Ms. Sinnette reported on the history of the district's current bond measure. She reported that the Technology Review Advisory Committee (TRAC) which began two years again, started discussions regarding the district's aging technology infrastructure. These discussions resulted in discussions regarding a potential bond measure. She reported on the timeline related to the bond measure and how it integrated with the community's input, which took the form of the District's Facilities Master Planning process. Upon completion of the Facilities Master Plan,

the Governing Board approved a General Obligation Bond election which is being presented today-election day-to the community for a vote. Ms. Sinnette thanked the stakeholders that assisted the district throughout this process including the Governing Board, and the Bond Measure Committee. She individually thanked Campaign Co-Chairs Josh Epstein and Stephanie Fossen; the Fundraising Team Leads Sue Kim Choi and Julie Milbrodt; the Media and Website Team Joe Radabaugh and Debra Weirick; the Voter Circle Chair Julie Eletheriou; the Volunteer Coordinator Kelly McWilliams; Yard Sign Chair Keith Eick; Treasurer Jacob Tujian; and all of the site leads. Whether the Bond Measure passes or not, this has been a two year commitment by so many people in the community and Ms. Sinnette thanked them all for their support of the measure.

**2. President's Report**

Mr. Jeffries thanked the community for the continuing support of our schools and our kids. He reported on his positive experience while re-campaigning for an additional term as a member of the Governing Board. He thanked the community for being so kind, caring and supportive of the district and the community.

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

Mr. Evans reported that he will be presenting the First Interim Financial Report for a First Read. The First Interim Financial Report will come back to the Governing Board in December for adoption.

**4. Student Representative**

Averi Suk reported on recent and upcoming student events.

**REVIEW OF AGENDA**

It was requested that the Personnel Report be moved to First Reading\*.

**OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS BOARD**

The following audience members addressed the Board:

Belinda Randolph, LCHS parent regarding the Challenge Success homework policy  
Bill Chitwood, local educational coach regarding a reported cheating incident which occurred last year.

**PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS**

**1. First Reading**

- a. California School Dashboard, Local Indicators, R60-17-18.** Ms. Dreibelbis provided a presentation on the new California School Dashboard. The new dashboard is comprised of multiple measures to give a wider view of overall performance and progress. The state indicators are academic performance, graduation rates, college and career readiness, English learner progress, suspension rates and chronic absenteeism. Each school district is required to establish its own local performance indicators for the Dashboard. Ms. Dreibelbis' presentation informed the Governing Board and the community of the district's four Local Indicators which are: Priority 1: Basic – (Teachers, Instructional Materials, Facilities); Priority 2: Implementation of Academic Standards; Priority 3: Parent Engagement; Priority 4: Local Climate Survey. The Governing Board asked clarifying questions regarding the local priorities and the district's current suspension rate. Ms. Wenn reported on the district's suspension rates and the high school's current suspension policy.
- b. Student Technology Experiences, R61-17-18.** Ms. Lewsadder was present to report on student technology experiences. She reported that 2017-2018 marks the 4<sup>th</sup> year of

the district's targeted move towards more technology in the hands of our students. Four years ago approximately 500 students had 1:1 access to their personal technology device all day in the classroom; in 2017-2018 the district has advanced to support over 2,000 1:1 students each day. Ms. Lewsadder presented data from the annual teacher technology survey on technology use in the classrooms. She also provided highlights from the feedback gathered from the initial meetings of the 7/8 and 9-12 technology councils. She provided comparative results from technology surveys taken in 2013-14 and 2016-17 regarding teacher and student technology use in classroom instruction. The results show a substantial increase in teachers using technology for instruction, homework and assessments. Ms. Lewsadder also provided information on the resultant changes that have occurred due to the increased use of technology, including new report card language, modifications to lesson plans, and the need for professional development to assist teachers with the advancements that are occurring. Ms. Lewsadder discussed potential concerns and necessary innovations regarding technology in school. She reported on comments she received from 7/8 and 9-12 students regarding their experiences with technology on campus and how it affects their personal lives. Ms. Lewsadder reported on the importance of defining the needs and concerns of our students to better address and support them. Several students were present to discuss their experiences with student technology use and as digital citizens. The students reported on the pros and cons of technology in the classroom and their personal experiences with the social aspects of digital citizenship.

- c. **First Interim Financial Report 2017-2018 – First Reading, R55-16-17.** This is a First Reading item. Assistant Superintendent of Business and Administrative Services Mark Evans and Director of Fiscal Services Gretchen Bergstrom presented the First Interim Financial Report. Mrs. Bergstrom reported that the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) is the middleman between the State and the District. It is LACOE's responsibility to approve all of the budgets that they oversee. Part of this process is the certification of each part of the budget throughout the year, including First Interim. A positive certification requires multi-year projections with required reserves for 2017-18 and two subsequent years. Mr. Evans reported that the district anticipates meeting those requirements. Mrs. Bergstrom reviewed the Budget Assumptions; reporting that enrollment remains flat in the out-years. LCUSD follows the School Services gap funding projections which is a more conservative projection than the Department of Finance. The Combined General Fund Revenues were reviewed showing that revenues increased approximately \$900,000 in First Interim. The increase includes an increase in student enrollment; the one-time money of \$147 per Average Daily Attendance and additional local revenue. The 2018-19 budget reflects a decrease of approximately \$1.1 million. This decrease represents the removal of one-time dollars and also conservative reductions to the Educational Foundation donations and other donations by \$600,000. Mr. Evans reviewed expenditures, including staffing, supplies, services and capital outlay. Mr. Evans discussed factors pressuring local budgets, including: PERS and STRS, Special Education services, contributions to programs, retirement/pension obligations, and federal government reform. The First Interim Report will come back at the December meeting for approval.
- d. **Approval of Board Policy Revision – First Reading, R56-17-18.** Ms. Wenn reported on the recommended changes to Board Policy 6136.31 Transcript Credit For Summer Course Work. The policy revisions are to ensure that the board policy aligns with current practice. Ms. Wenn clarified that the exclusion of English in summer school for accelerated credit is due to the district's interest in ensuring that its rigorous research and writing curriculum components are taught as well as the ELA Common Core State Standards-which private and secondary educational agencies are not required to address. The Educational Foundation Summer School English class was

discussed. It was clarified that the Educational Foundation Summer School English class is provided strictly for remediation. There is a provision for exceptions to this policy which are addressed in the Administrative Regulation. La Cañada High School parent Belinda Randolph expressed concern regarding the revisions which exclude English as a course acceptable for summer school accelerated credit and that the provisions for exceptions are only in the Administrative Regulation, which can be changed by Administration at any time without Governing Board approval. This item will come back for adoption at the December meeting.

- e. **\*Coaching Authorization, R59-17-18.** It was moved and seconded (Multari/Kuszyk) to approve the Coaching Authorization for Sarah Beattie, Cynthia Calm, Andy DiConti, Kristina Kalb and Jason Stone. Ms. Sinnette reported on Education Code 44258.7(b) which states that a person who holds a teaching credential in a subject or subjects other than physical education may be authorized by action of the Governing Board to coach one period per day in a competitive sport for which students receive physical education credit, provided that he or she is a full-time employee of the school district and has completed a minimum of 20 hours of first aid instruction appropriate for the specific sport. The motion to approve the Coaching Authorizations for Sarah Beattie, Cynthia Calm, Andy DiConti, Kristina Kalb and Jason Stone was adopted unanimously.
- f. **Personnel Report, P9-17-18.** It was moved and seconded (Puglia/Multari) to approve the Personnel Report as follows: *Certificated*: New Hires: Sarah Larson. Resignation: Nathan Howe. *Classified*: New Hires: Jamal Blackwood, Johanna Buhler. Leave of Absence: Sarah Larson, Erika Martinez. Resignation: Jamal Blackwood, Lisa Walker. Ms. Sinnette clarified the leave of absence and hiring of Sarah Larson. The motion to approve the Personnel Report was approved unanimously.

## 2. Consent Agenda

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

- a. **Personnel Report, P9-17-18.** This item was moved to First Reading\*.
- b. **Extra Duty Report, P10-17-18.** The Governing Board approved the Extra Duty Report as presented.
- c. **Spec Acts: LCHS State Cross Country Championship, R58-17-18.** The Governing Board approved the LCHS Special Acts request to attend the State Cross Country Championship in Fresno, California November 25, 2017.
- d. **Gifts to District, R91-16-17.** The Governing Board approved the Gifts to District as presented.
- e. **Purchase Order List 7-17-18.** The Governing Board approved Purchase Order List 7-17-18

## COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Kuszyk reported on a significant donation to the Alumni Foundation. He stated that the Alumni Choice Award will be presented at the upcoming LCHS basketball game.

Ms. Puglia congratulated the girls' volleyball team for their advancement to Rio Hondo League playoffs.

Mr. Jeffries reported that the November Joint Use Committee meeting has been cancelled.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Tuesday, December 7, 2017 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