

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

January 15, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of La Cañada Unified School District was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Brent Kuszyk on January 15, 2019, in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Cañada, California. Present were Governing Board Members, Brent Kuszyk, Joe Radabaugh, Ellen Multari, Dan Jeffries and Kaitzer Puglia.

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

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

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

None.

**REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. Kuszyk reported that the Board has met in closed session to ratify settlement of agendaized Item No. 4 – the case of *Christine Castillo v. La Cañada Unified School District*. The Board has ratified settlement of the case in the amount of \$385,000 as previously directed to counsel by the Governing Board. The votes to ratify settlement were as follows: Kaitzer Puglia – aye, Dan Jeffries – aye, Ellen Multari – aye, Joe Radabaugh – aye, Brent Kuszyk – aye. (5:0)

The Board also took action to ratify the related settlement agreement regarding agendaized Item No. 3 – Ian McFeat as previously directed to counsel by the Governing Board. The votes to approve this related and referenced settlement are as follows: Kaitzer Puglia – aye, Dan Jeffries – aye, Ellen Multari – aye, Joe Radabaugh – aye, Brent Kuszyk – aye. (5:0)

**REGULAR MEETING**

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board was reconvened at 7:05 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 34 people in the audience. Mr. Kuszyk led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded (Jeffries/Multari) to approve the minutes November 27, 2018; December 4, 2018; December 5, 2018; and December 7, 2018. The motion to approve the minutes of November 27, 2018; December 4, 2018; December 5, 2018; and December 7, 2018 was adopted unanimously. (5:0)

**REPORTS****1. Superintendent's Report**

Ms. Sinnette wished the entire LCUSD community a Happy New Year and a 2019 filled with good health. Ms. Sinnette announced the retirement of Executive Director of Special Education Dr. Tamara Jackson, effective June 30, 2019, which is on the Personnel Report. Dr. Jackson announced her retirement in January to give the district ample time to seek a replacement.

Ms. Sinnette reported on the upcoming community college workshop on Tuesday, January 29, 2019, which is part of the Family Learning Series. She thanked the counseling department for arranging the workshop. Families are encouraged to be strategic in their approach and see as many panels as possible. On January 30, 2019 at 6:30 p.m., a small writing team will meet to review key recommendations from each of the Safety, Security & Wellbeing sub-committees and to distill those findings as recommendations for adoption by the task force and the Governing Board. Once approval, the recommendations will make their way into the LCAP document and the school site safety plans. The task force will eventually sunset and have its work overseen by the School Site Safety committees and the LCAP Oversight Committee.

The survey window for the Panorama Ed 360 survey is set to open Monday, January 31 and will continue through Friday, February 1. The annual survey seeks input from staff, parents and students. Ms. Sinnette encouraged all staff members and parents to activate and participate in the survey. Because the student surveys are taken during the school day student participation is 100%. The data from the surveys informs the LCAP metrics, provides community feedback and identifies areas to inform the goals and priorities for the upcoming school year.

**2. President's Report**

Mr. Kuszyk stated that he is honored and humbled to be selected President of the Governing Board for 2019. Mr. Kuszyk provided highlights of Governing Board events and actions that took place in 2018 and upcoming focuses for 2019.

His goal for 2019 is to highlight student successes and student programs by inviting students to the Governing Board meetings throughout the year. Mr. Kuszyk introduced Palm Crest Elementary teachers Ms. Harter and Ms. Gish who were present with several of their students to share examples of their artistic clay work. Ms. Harter reported that parents have generously donated most of the clay used in the student's projects. The students proudly shared several of the projects that they have worked on since the start of the 2018-2019 school year.

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

Mr. Evans provided a first look at the Governor's budget for 2019-2020. The California economy continues to do well with revenues exceeding what was anticipated in 2018. Governor Newsom's budget proposal increases COLA from 2.5% to 3.5% for the 2019-2020 budget. The Governor is also proposing a buy down on district's pension obligations for PERS and STRS, which will reduce some of the costs to districts in the years ahead. The district will continue to attend budget seminars and workshops to better understand the nuances of the Governor's budget proposal. Information and projections from the Los Angeles County Office of Education will be included in the Second Interim and will be reflected in the out-years.

**4. Student Representative**

Andrew Kwon reported on recent and upcoming district and site events.

**REVIEW OF AGENDA**

None.

## OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS BOARD

The following audience members addressed the Board:

Deana Loftus, CSEA Vice President in appreciation of CSEA employees Bobby Scofield and Eliseo Williams;

David Haxton, regarding opposition to confidential settlement agreements.

## PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS

### 1. First Reading

- a. **\*Acceptance of 2017-18 Financial Audit Report, R93-18-19.** It was moved and seconded (Multari/Radabaugh) to accept the 2017-18 Financial Audit Report. Mr. Evans introduced district auditor Brian Ruff of Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., LLP who was present to report on the district's 2017-18 Financial Audit Report. He reported that the district has a clean audit report without audit findings. Governing Board members Mr. Radabaugh and Mr. Kuszyk recently met with the auditors along with Cabinet to review the report in detail. There were no additional questions from the Governing Board. The motion to accept the 2017-18 Financial Audit Report was accepted unanimously.
- b. **Presentation on Pool Recommendations, R95-18-19.** Mr. Evans introduced Program Manager Harold Pierre who, along with representatives from Gonzalez Goodale Architects, was in attendance to provide a presentation on site assessment and concept planning for the new outdoor pool at La Canada High School. Mr. Pierre began the presentation by discussing the size of the pool, the location, existing utilities, the impact of the pool to other elements at the site (i.e. Baseball, circulation of students, and general characteristics of the site). Additionally, the impacts of pool excavation was considered. The construction logistics were also reviewed. Lastly, the budget was reviewed. Dennis Smith of Gonzalez Goodale Architects provided his background with the company and the groundwork which has occurred prior to this presentation. He reported on the existing pool and equipment room, stating that the current pool is undersized and allows only one team to practice at a time. The current pool cannot be used for competitions due to its size. The existing pool has varied depths, which is not good for water polo. The current pool equipment is outdated and generates excessive maintenance costs. Mr. Smith discussed the existing condition of the North and South Gymnasium and the limitations these buildings provide for pool construction. He reported on the existing electrical at the site. Mr. Smith discussed the south parking lot and adjacent fields and the site needs for additional parking. He discussed the potential campus impacts, depending on the location of a proposed 33-meter pool between the existing gymnasiums or a 33-meter pool placed at the South Side of South Gym. Based on community input, the impacts of a 50-meter pool and a 40-meter pool were also researched. Mr. Smith presented concepts for a 33-meter, 40-meter and 50-meter pool focusing on challenges and opportunities for a 40-meter pool. Mr. Smith provided an aerial view of a proposed 40-meter pool at La Cañada High School. Goodale Gonzales' aquatics specialist reported on the specifics of a 33-meter, 40-meter and 50-meter pool and the limitations that a 50-meter pool would have in the existing pool space. He provided a comparison of league pool facilities at other local high schools. He discussed the program capacity of a 40-meter pool including shallow water instruction, physical education, team practice and competition capacities. The deep-water capacity of the 40-meter pool at 9,188 sq. ft. is 426 participants. Mr. Smith discussed the options and costs of the various pools including location and size. The Governing Board asked clarifying questions. Assistant Principal Kristina Kalb reported on the difficulties that are currently faced due to the size of the existing pool. She reported on the positive impacts to the swim and water polo program if the size of the pool were increased. It was clarified that this project contains additional

modernization improvements including parking and basketball courts (if the pool is moved). The Governing Board discussed the need to balance what benefits all students. Mr. Evans reported on the limitations of renting the facility to user groups once improvements are made given the Civic Center Act. The Governing Board asked Kristina Kalb to report on what would work best for the high school. Ms. Kalb reported that a new 33-meter pool would not benefit the program, even though it would have less impact on parking and other sports programs. A 50-meter is ideal but a 40-meter pool would benefit the school. She expressed concerns with the 40-meter pool being placed between the two gyms. Swim & Dive coach David Hill also provided feedback regarding the size and location of the pool.

The following members in the audience addressed the Governing Board:

Todd Reynolds, Sports Coalition, regarding timeline, staging of the project, impacts on JV field, and costs of various pool sizes;

David Haxton, Community Member, discussed the importance of this decision regarding the pool size. He is concerned with the North/South design, he suggested considering naming rights as a fundraising strategy to assist with increasing the size of the pool;

Russ Nichols, LCHS parent, regarding the need for a larger pool, and the request for due diligence prior to making a decision on the pool.

Ms. Multari expressed concern with creating a 50-meter pool to support community needs while the district is currently focusing on safety and security and is concerned with bringing additional people onto the campus. Mr. Radabaugh stated that he wanted to take the time to digest the information presented and look at the impacts of other bond projects, due to the increase in the cost of the pool project. Mr. Pierre suggested a study session to review the capital improvement projects. It was agreed that the Governing Board is interested in the 40-meter pool. This item will come back at the next meeting for a final decision.

- c. **\*Modernization at Palm Crest Elementary, R94-18-19.** The Facilities Master Plan identifies several projects related to modernization and construction of buildings. Palm Crest Elementary is the first site to be modernized. The District has hired architecture firm LPA for the modernization of the Palm Crest Elementary site. LPA has developed options to address the need for modernization of the campus and a new classroom building to replace many of the portable classrooms. The site design committee has reviewed the concepts from LPA, and two options were presented to the site leadership and the Palm Crest Elementary PTA. The Governing Board reviewed the options at the Board meeting on December 13, 2018. At that meeting, the Governing Board asked for further analysis of costs, ingress and egress of classrooms, and interior versus exterior hallways. Lindsey Hayward and Lance Hunter of LPA were in attendance to present a further analysis of the project. Ms. Hayward provided the existing and the proposed program overlay. She provided an overview of the first and second floor building project, with classroom and building exiting options. Mr. Hunter reviewed the Proposed Site Plan Concept Designs with more portables remaining in place during construction. The Concept Designs also have the building footprint reduced; the play area expanded, and optimal solar orientation, and natural cross-ventilation orientation. This plan would increase parking stalls from 61 to 68. The Governing Board asked clarifying questions. The proposal presented was based on the preferences of the staff at the school site. The Governing Board asked Principal Karen Hurley to report on the site's preference of Plan A or Plan B. Ms. Hurley reported that the majority of the staff preferred Plan B, which was presented by LPA, due to its ability to unify the campus. However, there was concern about the potential noise due to the location of the new building. Noise barrier options were briefly discussed. The following members of the audience addressed the Board:

John Caire, community member, who proposed moving the new building to the center of the campus;

David Haxton, community member, expressed concern with the proposed plan. The Governing Board provided direction to move forward and further refine the design with costs on Plan B while looking at the noise and security concerns.

- d. **\*School Accountability Report Cards, R91-18-19.** It was moved and seconded (Multari/Jeffries) to accept the School Accountability Report Cards (SARC) as presented. The state of California, acting on the regulations of Proposition 98, requires the Governing Boards of California school districts to prepare and issue an annual School Accountability Report Card for each elementary and high school under their jurisdiction and to make them available on the district website. The SARCs contain required information regarding student performance, staffing, and condition of each school. LCUSD works with Document Tracking Services to prepare and submit the SARCs to the state. Ms. Wenn clarified that most of the data comes from the State. Ms. Wenn presented the SARCS for all four of the district's school sites. The motion to accept the School Accountability Report Cards was approved unanimously. (5:0)

2. **Second Reading**

- a. **Approval of Board Policy Revision 5145.7 Sexual Harassment, R83-18-19.** It was moved and seconded (Jeffries/Multari) to adopt the revisions to Board Policy 5145.7 Sexual Harassment as presented. Ms. Wenn stated that no modifications were requested at First Read. The motion to adopt the revisions to Board Policy 5145.7 Sexual Harassment as presented was adopted unanimously. (5:0)
- b. **7/8 Independent Study Physical Education, R53-18-19.** It was moved and seconded (Puglia/Radabaugh) to approve the 7/8 Independent Study Physical Education plan for implementation in the 2019-20 school year. LCHS 7/8 administration would like to offer a 6<sup>th</sup> period Independent Study Physical Education course to support competitive athletes and students who are temporarily excused from physical activity due to injuries or other health related reasons. Ms. Wenn reported that she has worked extensively with legal counsel to refine the requirements for the 7/8 Independent Study for Physical Education program. Ms. Wenn presented the Independent Study Packet for review, which includes The Independent Study PE Course Description, LCUSD Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 6158 regarding Independent Study, the LCUSD Independent Study PE Instructor Checklist, The Independent Study PE Written Agreement and Attachments and the Independent Study PE Verification and Evaluation forms. The cost of the program is the cost of .2 FTE, which should not exceed \$20,000 annually. Dr. Gold was present and reported on the number of students that this program will support. He is unaware of other districts which offer this type of Independent Study for 7/8 students. The motion to approve the 7/8 Independent Study Physical Education plan for implementation in the 2019-20 school year was adopted unanimously. (5:0)

3. **Discussion Items**

- a. **Discussion Regarding the Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration (Sediment Removal and Maintenance) Project – District Actions and Updates, R11-18-19.** Ms. Sinnette reported that in Agenda Planning it was requested that as the Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration (Sediment and Removal Program) moves forward this item be a standing discussion item at each meeting. Ms. Sinnette provided an update on the Project, reporting that the district's legal counsel has hired an Independent Environmental Consultant, Ninyo and Moore. The consultants will provide an independent analysis of the two health risk assessments and identify concerns and make recommendations for risk mitigations. Once the analysis is performed, the district will establish a committee, currently proposed to be called LC Cares (Clean Air Response Efforts).

4. **Consent Agenda**

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

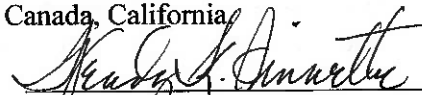
- a. **Personnel Report, P14-18-19.** The Governing Board approved the Personnel Report as follows: *Certificated:* New Hires: Diane Eggert, John Freres, Wendy Senour, Regina Sevilla, Robert "RJ" Stattler. Retirement: Dr. Tamara Jackson. *Classified:* New Hires: Derek Abrego, Sala "Sara" Kim, Armand Tatovosian, Omar Torres. Modification: Davontay Smith. Resignation: Sanna Ly, Jill Oliver, Pilar Sanabria. Retirement: Richard Bond.
- b. **Extra Duty Report, P15-18-19.** The Governing Board approved the Extra Duty Report as presented.
- c. **Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints, R92-18-19.** The Governing Board approved the Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints as presented.
- d. **Agreement for Geotechnical Engineering Services for Fencing Project at Palm Crest, R98-18-19.** The Governing Board approved entering into an agreement with Alan Seward for Geotechnical Engineering Services for the Fencing Project at Palm Crest Elementary.
- e. **Agreement for Professional Services with PlanNet Consulting for Wireless Locks & Access Control Project, R99-18-19.** The Governing Board approved entering into an agreement for professional services with PlanNet Consulting for the Wireless Locks & Access Control Project at La Cañada High School.
- f. **Agreement for Architectural & Engineering Services for Perimeter Fencing at the Elementary School Sites, R100-18-19.** The Governing Board approved the Agreement with LPA, Inc, for engineering and design services for perimeter fencing at elementary school sites.
- g. **Spec Acts: LCHS Winter Guard International Color Guard World Championships, R96-18-19.** The Governing Board approved the LCHS Special Activity request to attend the WGI Guard World Championships in Daytona, Ohio April 1 – 7, 2019.
- h. **Spec Acts: LCHS Heritage Orchestra Festival, R97-18-19.** The Governing Board approved the LCHS Special Activity request to attend the Heritage Festival in San Diego, California March 21-24, 2019.
- i. **Purchase Order List 11-18-19.** The Governing Board approved Purchase Order List 11-18-19.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Sinnette and the Governing Board reviewed calendar: Closed Session meetings were scheduled for February 26, 2019 and February 29, 2019 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. to review Probationary Protocols.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:52 p.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 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**

  
 Ellen Multari, Clerk

2/12/2019  
 Date