



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

Closed Session 5:00 PM / Regular Meeting 7:00 PM

Education Center · 685 E. Jack London Blvd. · Livermore, CA · 94551

This meeting was conducted via Zoom Webinar, and was in compliance with the Governor's Executive order NO-29-20 and subsequently NO-08-21, which allows for a deviation of teleconference rules required by the Brown Act. Members of the public were encouraged to observe and participate remotely.

Board Members Present: President Craig Bueno, Clerk Emily Prusso, Members Yanira Guzmán, Anne White were present, and Member Kristie Wang attended virtually.

Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Kelly Bowers, Superintendent; Chris Van Schaack, Deputy Superintendent; Melissa Theide, Assistant Superintendent; Teresa Fiscus, Director of Fiscal Services; Michelle Dawson, Coordinator of Community Engagement; Geoff Warner, Chief Technology Officer; and Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Lori Rice

Administrative Staff Present via Zoom During Open Session: Darrel Avilla, Director of Student Services; Glenn Sherman, Director of Maintenance, Operations, and Facilities; Kim McNeely, Bond Program Director

Student Board Member Representatives Present: Elise Davies, Granada High School; Emily Wheeler, Livermore High School

1.0 5:10 P.M. - CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Bueno with Clerk Emily Prusso, Members Yanira Guzmán and Anne White present, and Member Kristie Wang attending virtually.

2.0 ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

The Board adjourned to Closed Session to discuss items 2.1 through 2.5. Staff in attendance included Dr. Kelly Bowers, Superintendent; Chris Van Schaack, Deputy Superintendent; Teresa Fiscua, Director of Fiscal Services; Melissa Theide, Assistant Superintendent.

2.1 Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Leave/Employment/Complaint Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957

2.2 Conference with Labor Negotiator Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6 Employee Organizations: California School Employees Association (CSEA) – Chris Van Schaack; Service Employees International Union (SEIU) – Chris Van Schaack; Livermore Education Association (LEA) – Chris Van Schaack

2.3 Anticipated Litigation, Conference with Legal Counsel – Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Paragraph (2) or (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: No Cases

2.4 Existing Litigation, Conference with Legal Counsel – Pursuant to Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9 (Gov Code 54954.5 9 (c)): Two cases

2.5 Conference with Real Property Negotiators

(Government Code Section 54956.08) APN 905-0018-024 (3266 Constitution Drive), APN 905-0018-025 (3278 Constitution Drive), in Livermore, California.

Agency Negotiator: Chris Van Schaack, Susan Kinder, Kelly Bowers

3.0 7:00 P.M. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

3.1 The Regular Board Meeting was reconvened in Open Session by President Craig Bueno with Clerk Emily Prusso, Members Yanira Guzmán, Anne White present, and Member Kristie Wang participated virtually.

President Bueno noted that District staff will continue to debrief following our Zoom Webinar Board meeting of the LVJUSD, with the intent to make modifications to the virtual meeting format if/as needed for future meetings. He thanked members of the public for their continued understanding and patience.

- A.** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Student Board Members Elise Davies and Emily Wheeler.
- B.** Actions approved in Closed Session -
 - a. Board President Bueno reported that at the July 6, 2021 Special Board Meeting the following action was taken: The Board unanimously voted by 5 - 0 roll call vote, to approve Superintendent Bowers' evaluation as satisfactory for 2020-2021 school year.
 - b. Board President Bueno reported that the District has reached a mediated agreement with Bobo Construction, Inc. on the Granada High School Athletics & Aquatics Renovation Project. The essential terms of the agreement are that the District will withhold \$150,000 from Bobo's contract balance to cover any necessary repairs to the pool deck system.
- C.** Expulsion Action - None
- D.** Meeting Procedures – President Craig Bueno reviewed all meeting procedures that included detailed instructions for Section 8.0 - Communications from the Public.

4.0 CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Dr. Bowers stated that there were two changes to the agenda.

1. Consent Item 11.2, Approval of Employment of Personnel, a counselor was inadvertently listed in two full-time positions (one as a teacher and one as a counselor). Kristine Haley was initially hired

as a teacher and has now been hired as a full-time Counselor. A corrected Employment list was provided to each Board member.

2. Multiple pieces of correspondence were received after the agenda was published. Per policy, the cutoff time is 4:00 p.m. the day before the meeting; however the deadline for inclusion was extended until 4:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. A copy of the additional correspondence was provided to each Board member, was summarized and included in the Board Clerk summary.

5.0 RECOGNITIONS

5.1 Recognition of Victoria Scudder

Superintendent Bowers introduced Deputy Superintendent Chris Van Schaack and together they virtually honored and recognized Vicki Scudder, Assistant Director of Curriculum, upon her retirement after more than five decades of employment with LVJUSD.

5.2 Recognition of New Administrators and Administrators with New Assignments

Superintendent Bowers introduced Deputy Superintendent Chris Van Schaack who virtually honored and recognized our New Administrators and Administrators with New Assignments. The Board welcomed and congratulated Jennifer Burkholder, Vice-Principal Christensen Middle School; Tom Fletcher, Principal Sunset Elementary School; Jeannette Garza, Principal Junction Avenue K-8 School; Mary Grace, Vice-Principal Mendenhall Middle School; Tom Jones, Principal Jackson Avenue School; Donielle Machi, Vice-Principal Junction Avenue K-8 School; Steven Martin, Administrator on Special Assignment; David Martinez, Vice-Principal Livermore High School; Denise Nathanson, Principal Vineyard Alternative School; Brian Scharmann, Principal Christensen Middle School; Andrea Tapia, Principal Altamont Creek Elementary School; Dayna Taylor, Principal Marylin Avenue Elementary School; Tracie Christmas, Director of Assessment and Accountability; Chris Connor, Director of Elementary Education; Michelle Dawson, Coordinator of Community Engagement; Carla Estrada-Hidalgo, Coordinator of English Language Development / Title I; Shari Johnston, Coordinator of Equity and Early Literacy; Jason Krolkowski, Director of Secondary Education; and Zandra Texeira, Coordinator of Special Education.

6.0 STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

6.1 Oath of Office / Code of Ethics for New Student Board Member Representatives

Superintendent Bowers invited Deputy Superintendent Chris Van Schaack to administer the Oath of Office to the New Student Board Member representatives, Elise Davies and Emily Wheeler.

Elise Davies - Granada High School, shared that Granada has held its annual Matador Days in preparation for the upcoming school year. She noted that athletic teams have found COVID-19-safe ways to practice. The football team has trained all summer and have their first home game on August 27th. Other fall sports that have already begun practicing include: girls' volleyball, water polo, and golf. She reported that this will definitely be a year to remember and closed her report by thanking the Board, and stating, "Remember, stay classy Granada."

Emily Wheeler - Livermore High School, shared that students at Livermore High School are busy preparing for the new school year. She noted that fall sports began on August 9th, including football cross county, boys' & girls' water polo, as well as girls' tennis, golf, and volleyball. Emily shared that the Leadership class is starting to plan Homecoming and that students are excited to start school on campus on the 24th. Emily thanked the Board and stated, "Today is a Great Day to be a Cowboy!"

7.0 EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATIONS

Aimee Thompson, Livermore Education Association President, thanked Keith Pickering-Walters for serving as the LEA Vice President during the 2020-2021 school year; he has now returned to the classroom this year. She introduced Eileen Greenlee, the new LEA Vice President, who has "hit the ground running." Aimee reported that LEA members have attended Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), International Baccalaureate (IB), and many other training opportunities throughout the summer to hone their craft and prepare for students. She noted that everyone was excited and busily preparing for the return of students to campus for full day, full time instruction.

8.0 COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC - via Zoom

A - Audience Communication

Jackie Cota, Community member, spoke against mask mandates and critical race theory, stating that it is against science. She stated that patriots are rising across the country to speak out for freedom of choice.

Angela Butherus, LVJUSD parent, advocated for parents to choose whether their child wears a mask at school or not. She urged the Board to approach the subject of masking with an open mind. She feels that wearing a mask has adverse psychological and long-term health effects, and stated that she believes masks are ineffective and in many cases cause more harm than good.

Jenny Vierra, LVJUSD parent, citing data from American Academy of Pediatrics, advocated that masks not be required.

Dede Hahlbeck, LVJUSD parent, spoke against the mask mandate. She stated that she supports mask choice, because that makes the most sense for all involved. Ms. Hahlbeck thanked Trustee Prusso for her attention to the data that has been shared. She asked that parents be responsible for their child's health and welfare. She suggested that if there are mask mandates, the Board should mandate nutrition and fitness programs as well.

Cia Riccomini, LVJUSD Parent, spoke against mask mandates, citing that parents are standing up for what they believe is right for their children. In addition, she stated that she believes vaccine coercion and inappropriate curriculum have infiltrated classrooms in the name of science, health, and social justice. She shared her belief that teachers are not being held accountable for teaching the material that they should be teaching, or for bringing their personal views into the classroom. Ms. Riccomini thanked Trustee Prusso for responding to parent questions. She stated that the Board was elected to protect and do what is right for all of our kids.

Courtney Drefahl, LVJUSD parent, spoke against mask mandates. She stated that she feels guilty sending her child to school in a mask. She reported that the California population is 77.5% fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and questioned why it was necessary to mask for COVID, when masks have never been required for influenza. She stated that we need our kids to be back to normal and interact in a normal fashion. She asked the Board to approve the Resolution provided by the Let Them Breathe Group, push back against the California Department of Public Health guidelines, and asked that the Board fight for our children.

Rachel Gerlovich, LVJUSD parent, spoke about Critical Race Theory information. She stated that it is not being called that. It's being called diversity, equity and inclusion. She asked that this stop now.

Jennifer Toro, LVJUSD parent, asked that parents be given the choice whether their children wear a mask or not. She stated, "Our children need to breathe and be kids."

Sydney Cushman, LVJUSD parent, shared her concern that the Board has decided to uphold the mask mandate for children. She feels masks will have long term social and academic impacts. She asked the Board to rescind its decision, advocate for children, and give this decision back to parents.

Nichole Thomas, LVJUSD parent, stated that she has disenrolled her student who will start kindergarten this fall, to homeschool her. Her 12th grader will attend school and advocate for mask-choice. She shared that she is concerned that the mask will hinder progression in speech development as he needs to see mouths move and how the teacher enunciates words.

8B Board Correspondence - The Board of Education received the following Formal Board Correspondence. Board President Bueno asked Clerk Emily Prusso to summarize the correspondence to the Board. Board Clerk Prusso asked Board President Bueno and Members Yanira Guzmán to assist with the reading of the Formal Board Correspondence.

1. Adrianna Carranza, LVJUSD parent, expressed appreciation to the Board and asked that the mask mandate be upheld so children are safe.
2. Jackie Cota, Community member, shared that she believes the public health officials are violating the law; she requested that the Board discontinue any requirements for masking.
3. Rachel Gerlovich (3), LVJUSD parent, shared a Journal of American Medicine Association Pediatrics study as well as a physician letter, and asked the Board for their support in removing the mask mandate in our District.
4. Carolina Stasium, LVJUSD parent, stated that her children do not consent to wearing a mask and asked that they not face any disciplinary action as a result.
5. Jeremy Taylor, LVJUSD parent, expressed concerns with the taxi company that had transported his child on a field trip and asked for a new transportation option to be provided as soon as possible.

****NOTE:** Frank Selvaggio, Director of Special Education followed up with this parent. A contract with a different transportation company for students with special needs is already in place.

6. Ryan Keedy, LVJUSD parent, thanked the Board for committing to in-person learning during the school year. He asked that the Board commit to follow State and County Public Health guidelines, which prescribe that masks be optional outdoors for all individuals in the school setting.
7. Heather Wasson, LVJUSD parent, asked that the Board mandate the use of masks in our schools for the 2021-2022 school year. She stated the idea of not mandating masks would be irresponsible.
8. Katelin Howser, LVJUSD parent, stated she does not feel comfortable sending her son to school without an enforced mask policy. She asked that the Board enforce the policy and protect our children.
9. Jessica Stevens, LVJUSD parent, expressed dismay at the idea of removing the mask mandate. She asked that the Board keep the mask mandate active and enforced.
10. Veronica Ochoa, LVJUSD parent, expressed her desire to have the mask mandate enforced in the 2021-22 school year, in order to keep our children and families safe and limit the spread of the virus.
11. Matthew & Sarah Hill, LVJUSD parents, thanked the Board for their hard work in difficult times and asked that masks and other preventive measures be used at school as long as necessary.
12. Matt & Julie Weingart (3), LVJUSD parents, expressed their appreciation and asked the Board to pursue the responsible course of action, to maintain the requirement for campus masking until conditions safely permit otherwise. They asked the Board to keep in mind that these safety measures could save at least one life.
13. Jennifer Pagach, LVJUSD parent, thanked the Board for their hard work and difficult decisions throughout the pandemic. She requested that masks be mandated in school, as recommended by the CDC, especially as younger children are not eligible for a vaccine yet.
14. Cynthia Corwin, LVJUSD parent, stated that unless children are vaccinated they must be wearing a mask.
15. Erika Taranowski, LVJUSD parent, stated she does not feel safe sending her children to school without a mask. She also requested that virtual learning in their own school be an option.

16. Kelly Karney, LVJUSD parent, stated that masks are our best weapon to protect children from the virus. She encouraged the Board to trust the people with science degrees, and keep children as safe as possible.
17. Lisa Griffin, LVJUSD parent, urged the Board to follow the advice of health officials and enforce the mask mandate.
18. Jodie Carlson, LVJUSD parent, encouraged the Board to mandate masks so that students can remain in school.
19. Heather Silva, LVJUSD parent, asked the Board to ensure the safety of our children and all District staff by requiring all persons on school property to be masked regardless of vaccination status, and that this mandate be enforced. She also stated that there is a lot of misinformation being shared and asked the Board to ensure the information used is validated and accurate.
20. Wendy Manausa, LVJUSD parent, encouraged that children wear masks at school.
21. Carolyn Hall, LVJUSD parent, expressed her support for the requirement of universal masking as recommended by the CDC, California Department of Public Health, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.
22. Jennifer Vallejo, LVJUSD parent, expressed her belief that students should wear masks in class and outside to keep them safe, as children too young to be vaccinated can be vulnerable to COVID-19.
23. Rachel Wood, LVJUSD parent, implored the Board to set a district-wide mask mandate.
24. Dusty Fox, LVJUSD parent, shared that she prefers that masks be mandatory until all students have been vaccinated against COVID-19.
25. Jessica Dennis, LVJUSD parent, expressed her support for the use of masks indoors, particularly when children under age 12 aren't able to be vaccinated.
26. Prabhveer Sarang, LVJUSD parent, stated that children shouldn't wear masks all day; instead, activities and school should be online.
27. Kendis Pitelka, LVJUSD parent, shared that schools should follow the guidance from the California Department of Public Health, which advises that everyone (regardless of vaccination status) mask when around others.

28. Leah Richard, LVJUSD parent, encouraged the Board to heed the advice of our healthcare institutions and protect our children by keeping masks on.
29. Brent Spencer, LVJUSD parent, urged the Board to continue following the County Health and State of California mask mandates until they are lifted.
30. Kim Mayes, LVJUSD parent, asked the Board to require masks for everyone on school property, as school is a public place for all children and they deserve to be kept safe.
31. Anne Margaret Manay, LVJUSD parent, affirmed her family's strong support for mandatory masking when school begins. She stated it would be dangerous and irresponsible for students to be gathered without masking.
32. Thai Arizpe, LVJUSD parent, stated that until all students have been vaccinated, we cannot let kids be back in full classrooms without a mask.
33. Catina Zamora, LVJUSD parent, urged the Board to follow the CDC guidelines and require masking so children can be in school and safe. She also wrote that she'd like to see sports continue.
34. Alicia Gable, LVJUSD parent, encouraged the Board to follow the science and the CDC guidelines, and enforce mask mandates in all LVJUSD schools.
35. AnnMarie Rohe, LVJUSD parent, expressed her support for a mask mandate, following the guidelines of the CDC to keep everyone as safe as possible.
36. Louisa Garrett, LVJUSD parent, shared that her vote is no masks in school. She stated that kids don't wear masks for playdates, at the grocery store, sports, or other gatherings, but yet they are required to for school.
37. BJ Reynolds-Koonce, LVJUSD parent, asked that the Board continue to require masks in our public schools to protect students, teachers, school employees, and all of their families. Masks are one of the simplest things we can do to stop the spread of this virus.
38. Heather Wynne, LVJUSD parent, encouraged the Board to enforce the County mask mandate in our schools to keep kids safe. She stated that allowing parents to make an optional choice on masking their children puts everyone at risk.
39. Marjana Ryan, LVJUSD parent, implored the Board to keep the mask mandate in place and enforce it at all LVJUSD schools, as masking is key to ending this pandemic.

40. Rachel Brumley, LVJUSD parent, shared her support for mask mandates and encouraged LVJUSD to set an example in keeping our children safe.
41. Nikolette Runstadler, LVJUSD parent, shared the importance of wearing masks in school, and her belief that it is not safe for children who are unvaccinated to be unmasked.
42. Bonnie Hansen, LVJUSD parent, expressed her desire that LVJUSD follow the CDC recommendation and require students to wear masks all day except when eating.
43. Kristin Discala, LVJUSD parent, shared her desire to have her children in school. Her children have adjusted well to wearing masks indoors throughout the day, as they have participated in summer day camps when masking was required.
44. Amanda Bateman, LVJUSD parent, strongly requested that LVJUSD enforce the mask mandate in our schools, as the safety of children should be the top priority.
45. Amy Jenei, LVUSD parent, expressed her support for LVJUSD to follow any recommendations for mandatory masking for children, as long as the current COVID-19 situation indicates that it is necessary.
46. Verenise Mendez, LVJUSD parent, shared her support of a mask mandate for all LVJUSD students. She stated it is one of the few things we can do to protect our children who are not yet eligible for the vaccine.
47. Marla Kirby, LVJUSD parent, strongly urged the Board to adopt mandatory masking requirements for everyone on LVJUSD campuses. She also requested that verification of vaccination or regular COVID-19 testing be required for staff.
48. Linda Nicholson, LVJUSD parent, implored the Board to mandate masks universally throughout all K-12 schools. She stated that it is our responsibility as community members and leaders to follow the guidelines of the CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics.
49. Veronica Munro, LVJUSD parent, expressed her support for the Alameda County requirement for children to wear masks while attending school, and stressed that LVJUSD should follow the advice of the CDC experts.
50. Meg Fratanduono, LVJUSD parent, thanked teachers and staff who have worked so diligently to create a safe and engaging environment for children. She asked that the Board continue to put the health and safety of our children above politics and require masking in schools, as this is our shared responsibility to our children and their current and future health and well-being.

51. Dayne Fratanduono, LVJUSD parent, encouraged the Board to use leading science and require masking in schools to protect the health of our children during this global pandemic.
52. Nichole & TJ Thomas, LVJUSD parents, have decided to home-school their son, rather than allow him to attend kindergarten with a mask requirement. She expressed her disappointment in the lack of response to her initial correspondence.

** Note: Superintendent Bowers reached out to this parent in response to this email in order to apologize for any delay in response and to ensure the lines of communication were open going forward.

53. Kathleen Hall, LVJUSD parent, expressed her support of the State-mandated mask requirement. She stated that removing the mask mandate now would further endanger our children.
54. Alice Conover, LVJUSD parent, expressed appreciation for support in enforcing masks for all as we seek to protect unvaccinated children against the new and highly contagious Delta variant.
55. Colleen Davila, LVJUSD parent, wrote in defense for all vulnerable children who are not yet eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine. She encouraged the Board to keep children safe by following the State and County masking guidelines and not buckle to pressure from a few.
56. Deanne Hahlbeck, LVJUSD parent, stated she has significant concerns regarding the current mask policy and asked the Board to pass a Resolution for mask choice.
57. Lisa Duncanson, LVJUSD parent, urged the Board to consider vaccination requirements for all eligible persons, requiring masks, and continuing distancing or small cohorts to help protect our community.
58. Jackie Luu, urged the Board to keep our children and families safe by enforcing the masking requirements at school.
59. Hooman Azarpour, LVJUSD parent, urged the Board to mandate masks indoors and keep our young children as safe as possible during this school year.
60. Erin McGuire, LVJUSD parent, expressed support for masks in schools and asked the Board to require strict adherence to science-based COVID-19 protocols.
61. Stacey Swanson, Community member, expressed full support for State and District policy regarding mask requirements.

62. Gurdeep Sidhu, LVJUSD parent, expressed full support of mask mandates and student vaccinations based on CDC guidelines.
63. Brittni Kiick, LVJUSD parent, thanked the Board for their leadership and expressed appreciation for following local guidelines to require masks for individuals in schools.
64. Simon Paul, LVJUSD parent, asked that the Board require masking for children in school.
65. Carlee Sira-Graham, LVJUSD parent and teacher, thanked the Board for the mask mandate and for putting the health and safety of our kids first.
66. Shannon Sargent, LVJUSD parent, thanked the teachers, staff, and administration for supporting masks and vaccinating when age appropriate.
67. Keith Pickering-Walters, LVJUSD teacher, encouraged the Board to enforce an inside mask mandate for all students, staff, volunteers, and visitors.
68. Diane Cathcart, Community member, expressed support for mask requirements.
69. Lisa Gemberling, LVJUSD parent, expressed concern regarding the mask mandates and asked that her child not face any disciplinary action for not wearing a mask.
70. Kay Wapman, Community member, expressed support for masking requirements, as it is necessary to protect students, teachers, and their family members.
71. Dave Vonheeder, LVJUSD parent, expressed support for masking requirements and asked that the Board set aside the misinformation that is circulating.
72. Jennifer Valentin, LVJUSD parent, asked that our Board keep our children safe by requiring masks at school.
73. James Haugen, LVJUSD parent, asked that the Board strongly enforce the State and County masking requirements and offer alternative educational opportunities for those who cannot or will not wear masks.
74. Lauren Bambino, Community member, expressed support for mask mandates in our schools.
75. Amy Rose, Community member, stated that masks need to be worn in schools for as long as possible to keep our children, teachers and community safe from COVID-19.

Correspondence Received After the Board Agenda was Published:

76. Shahana Mitra, LVJUSD parent, urged the Board to follow all health and masking guidelines recommended by the CDC, as it will help to reduce the spread of the virus.
77. Kimberly Woodworth, LVJUSD parent, asked the Board to continue to follow State masking guidelines to keep our children safe.
78. Kay Adams, Community member, asked the Board to keep our schools masked, and to not let the community down by following misinformation.
79. Meghan Harvey, LVJUSD parent, shared her expectation that the mask mandates would be enforced 100%. She thanked the Board for putting the safety of children and teachers first.
80. Lara Webber, LVJUSD parent, asked that the Alameda County mask mandates be enforced on all school campuses. She thanked the Board for doing what is right in accordance with State, County, and CDC guidance.
81. Alek Butler, LVJUSD parent, asked that the Board uphold the mask mandate and protect children who are not yet eligible for the vaccine.
82. Kandice Olcese, LVJUSD parent, asked that the Board enforce the mask mandates. She stated that it is dangerous for our unvaccinated children to be in school without them.
83. Renee Lawrence, LVJUSD parent, asked that the Board make masks a family choice and not a mandate.
84. Erik Cushman, LVJUSD parent, asked that the Board make the decision on masks optional and allow parents to make the decision.
85. Morgan Towers, LVJUSD parent, stated that parents should have the right to make the choice regarding masks for their children.
86. Bryan Towers, LVJUSD parent, shared that he feels the mask mandates are wrong and the decision should be up to the parent.
87. Margaret Epperly, Community member, asked that the Board protect our kids and community by upholding the mask mandate.
88. Lainie Pascall, LVJUSD parent, shared her firm support for masking of students and staff on school campuses. She asked that the Board abide by all State and County guidelines to keep our children safe.

89. Jacqueline Garrett, LVJUSD parent, stated that masks work and asked the Board to enforce the mask mandate.
90. Dawn Wantroba, LVJUSD parent, thanked the Board for following CDC and State guidance regarding masks at school.
91. Mary Fake, LVJUSD parent, wrote to advocate for the masking of children to be by parental choice.
92. Elizabeth Ponce, LVJUSD parent, asked that mask mandates be lifted from our schools.
93. Mary Brandis, LVJUSD parent, asked that masking be optional. She also requested that Critical Race Theory not be taught in our schools.
94. Mandi Harrison, LVJUSD parent, asked that the use of masks be made optional.
95. Laura Paul, LVJUSD parent, asked that the Board follow the Health Department guidelines in requiring all individuals to wear masks while they are indoors.
96. Susanne Winters, LVJUSD parent, requested that wearing masks and vaccines be optional. In addition, she asked that the Board not allow the teaching of CRT.
97. Joe & Kate Boice, Community members, asked that students and staff be allowed to choose whether or not to wear a mask.
98. Shannon Reeser, LVJUSD parent, stated that it should be an individual choice whether to wear a mask or get vaccinated.
99. Dawn Michel, LVJUSD parent, asked that the Board not require masks or vaccinations for our children.
100. Julie Van Groningen, LVJUSD parent, asked that students and staff be allowed to choose whether or not to wear a mask.
101. Eric Michel, LVJUSD parent, stated that he believes masks are ineffective, and asked that our schools be unmasked. In addition, he asked that there be no vaccine requirement.
102. Jeff Siragusa, Pleasanton, CA, asked that the decision regarding masking and vaccination be optional.

103. Linda DaMonte, Community member, urged the Board to let students and staff choose whether or not to wear a mask for the coming school year.
104. M. Hanson, LVJUSD parent, asked that masks be optional for students.
105. Sydney Cushman, LVJUSD parent, provided examples from several sources regarding the ineffectiveness of cloth and disposable medical masks.
106. Robin Christofferson, Community member, asked that our District not mandate the wearing of masks by students.
107. James Bateman, LVJUSD parent, strongly encourages the mask mandate; feels that to not require masks would be reckless, and shared that masks are a simple, science-supported solution to maintain in-person learning.
108. Jared Cushman, Community member, shared that he does not support masks in school, as it harms social-emotional development and communication skills.
109. Cia Riccomini (2), LVJUSD parent, requested that parents be given mask choice while kids attend school.
110. Courtney Drefahl, LVJUSD parent, asked that our District push back against CDPH guidelines and not require masks for students, citing the statistics of COVID-related deaths for children world-wide.
111. Paul Primrose, LVJUSD grandparent, stated that to wear or not wear a mask is a free right given by the U.S. Constitution and asked that parents be allowed to make their own decision regarding masking.
112. Corinne Tierney, LVJUSD parent, asked that masks be optional for students and staff, and that parents be allowed to choose whether or not to mask their children.
113. Darla Wincentzen, LVJUSD parent, asked that masks not be mandated, asserting that parents should be allowed to choose whether or not to mask their children.
114. Trina Wade, LVJUSD parent, stated that science does not support mask mandates and requested the Board allow parents to choose whether or not to mask their children
115. Genoa Sperske, LVJUSD parent, urged the Board to enforce masks in school in order to protect the children and allow our most vulnerable students to have the opportunity to safely attend school in-person.

116. Angie Eaton, Community member, feels that masks are a hindrance to physical and mental health and that parents should have the choice to mask their children or not.
117. Anna Richardson, LVJUSD parent, requested that parents be allowed to choose whether or not to mask their child, citing concerns about social-emotional development.
118. Kassandra Burnett, LVJUSD parent, does not consent to a mask mandate from the District, State, or federal government; parents should be allowed to choose whether or not to mask their child.
119. Ryan Wade, LVJUSD parent, expressed concern for the District COVID-19 flow chart for exposure; he feels vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals should not be treated differently, and vaccinated students who have been exposed to COVID-19 should quarantine before returning to school or sports.
120. Sara Alessi, LVJUSD parent, requested that parents be allowed to choose whether or not to mask their child without negative recourse or consequence.
121. Phyllis Couper, Pleasanton, CA, requested that the Board dismiss the mask requirement for students, staff, and visitors/parents.
122. Christopher Kozlik, LVJUSD parent, expressed his disagreement with a mask mandate for students.
123. Linda Harmeson, Pleasanton, CA, does not support the mask mandate for students under age twelve without parental consent.
124. Lindsay Acorn, LVJUSD parent, expressed concern with the mask mandate for students, citing social-emotional development concerns, and asked that parents be allowed to choose whether or not to mask their child.
125. Nancy Parker, San Lorenzo, CA, urged the Board to allow students and teachers to choose whether or not to wear a mask.
126. Nichole Thomas, LVJUSD parent, expressed concern with the mask guidelines, and requested mask choice, no mandatory testing, and that unvaccinated parents not be denied entry to school campuses.
127. Elizabeth Corona, Pleasanton, CA, does not support a mask mandate, citing child survival rates for COVID-19 and testing concerns.

128. Cathie Dumas-Rose, Community member, asked that the Board allow students and staff to choose whether or not to wear a mask.
129. Lindsay Knight, LVJUSD parent, shared her displeasure with the mask mandate and stated that parents should choose whether or not to mask their child.
130. Jonalyn Porter, LVJUSD parent, shared that she does not support a mask mandate for students, as it violates their personal freedom.
131. Carmen Gerlovich, LVJUSD grandparent, stated that masks should not be mandatory and only at the discretion of parents.
132. Katie Paslay, LVJUSD parent, requested that the decision to wear a mask be left to parents.
133. Sonia Jones, Dublin, CA, shared her displeasure with the mask mandate and requested that parents have the option to mask their child or not.
134. Robert Bishop, LVJUSD parent, stated that he believes parents alone should decide whether or not to mask their child.
135. Ariana Galisatus, LVJUSD parent, requested that students and staff have the choice to wear a mask for the coming school year.
136. Kristine Sabal, LVJUSD parent, requested that masks be optional for the coming school year.
137. Charlene R, Community member, asked for no more masks.
138. Doug Phillips, LVJUSD parent, expressed concerns regarding COVID-19 related communications, as well as vaccinations, testing, outdoor learning, lunch/recess, positive cases, and ventilation.

**Deputy Superintendent Van Schaack has reached out to this parent directly for follow up.
139. Cynthia Chisholm, LVJUSD parent, advocated for mask choice for parents.
140. Tara Lomba, LVJUSD parent, requested that parents be allowed to choose whether or not to mask their child.
141. Michele Schmitt, LVJUSD parent, expressed appreciation to the Board for taking necessary precautions to keep students safe and shared support for a mask mandate.

142. Kimberly Martynow, Lake Forest, CA, stated that masks and vaccines should not be mandatory for students, and parents should have the right to choose for their child.
143. Lynette Lopes, LVJUSD parent, advocated for masks to be a choice, not a requirement.
144. Tiffany Broadbent, LVJUSD parent, requested that masking be a choice, not a mandate. She also stated that she should be allowed on campus to walk her student to class.
145. Staci Holcomb, Community member, stated that masks and vaccines should be optional.
146. Kimberly Ancira, LVJUSD parent, urged the Board to allow parents, students, and staff to choose whether or not to wear a mask.
147. Hannah Pettinichio, LVJUSD parent, requested that parents and students choose whether or not to mask.
148. Nicole Twohig, LVJUSD parent, asked that students and staff be allowed to choose whether or not to wear a mask for the coming school year.
149. Jennifer Santry, Roseville CA, stated that people must have the freedom to choose whether or not to wear a mask.
150. Liberty Gon, Community member, asked that children be unmasked.
151. Alison Hayden, Hayward, CA, stated that children are not at risk of contracting COVID-19 and asked the Board to refuse to impose the mandatory mask requirement.
152. Elizabeth Corona, Pleasanton, CA, stated that she believes the mask mandate violates her rights as a parent and that masking should be a parents choice.
153. Caleb Baker, LVJUSD student, stated that it's difficult to breathe with a mask on, as it gives him a headache.
154. Gavin Baker, LVJUSD student, stated that it's difficult to breathe with a mask on and is uncomfortable.
155. Jamie Blake, LVJUSD parent, expressed her displeasure regarding mask mandates, and asked for studies regarding positive outcomes by masking our children.
156. Lovelyn Illigan, Manteca CA, shared that she does not support mask requirements for children to return to school.

157. Daniel Brabec, LVJUSD Parent, implored the Board to enforce necessary measures like mask mandates.

158. Wyatt Du Frane, LVJUSD Parent, asked the Board to follow the advice of scientists and medical experts and comply with masking requirements.

Board President Bueno called for a short recess at 8:25 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:45 p.m.

9.0 INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.1 Start of School Safety and Health Protocols

Chris Van Schaack, Deputy Superintendent, presented the Start of School Safety and Health Protocols, for information only.

Public Comments:

Jackie Cota, community member, citing many scientific studies, stated that she believes that wearing masks for extended periods of time puts the wearer in imminent risk of harm, and that masks are increasing the transmission of infectious disease. She shared her belief that masks are experimental and investigational medical devices, and as such they cannot be mandated without informed consent.

Nicole Thomas, LVJUSD parent, stated she believes the COVID-19 data has been skewed, because many cases of influenza were diagnosed as COVID-19 instead. She advocated for mask choice.

Rachel Gerlovich, LVJUSD parent, asked the Board to remove the mask mandate in Livermore schools, or at least allow parents to opt out. She stated that she is standing up for her kids, and asked the Board not to adhere to the guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

Heather Lombardo, LVJUSD parent, stated that the Board's argument for mask mandates, according to the science she has reviewed, lacks data, evidence, as well as common sense and human decency. She continued by stating that the guidelines are based on political science, not actual science. She noted a comparison between the deaths of children due to COVID-19 and to those of annual influenza deaths, and inquired whether or not there have ever been mask requirements for children due to the flu in the past.

Natalie Burbach, LVJUSD parent, thanked the Board for the work they have done and for taking care of our kids. She stated that the guidelines are not for every child and should not be one-size-fits-all. Her child has a medical condition that makes breathing with a mask more challenging.

** Trustee Wang inquired of staff about the possibility of a mask exemption in certain extenuating circumstances for health or medical reasons. Superintendent Bowers confirmed that it is possible for a doctor to authorize a mask exemption for medical reasons, particularly for students with special needs. Superintendent Bowers shared the forms subsequently with Mrs. Burbach, who expressed appreciation for the follow-up.

Christie Anderer, LVJUSD parent, shared her concern regarding COVID-19 mitigation in the outdoor setting. She suggested that lunch and recess should be organized in a different way and asked that staggered lunch and recess schedules be established; in addition she asked about the possibility of developing cohort schedules, at least during the times of high virus transmission. She also urged compliance with CDC guidelines.

Hannah Pettinichio, LVJUSD parent, stated that as a parent she is trying to do the best for her child. She stated that children are not making one another sick, nor are they making their teachers sick. She urged the Board to let families choose, let children breathe, and let them thrive without masks.

Tina Halvorson, LVJUSD parent, asked the Board to allow parents to opt out of the mask mandate. She mentioned that there are numerous studies that suggest masks are not useful in protecting against COVID-19.

Heather Day, LVJUSD parent and substitute teacher, thanked the Board for protecting her children, as well as all children in the District. She stated that wearing a mask all day at work is not her first choice, but it is the safest choice to protect herself and children who are too young to be vaccinated. She stated that we have a moral obligation to use this simple intervention to keep everyone safe.

Joanne Morrison, community member, thanked the Board for all of the work that has gone into the return to school, and for following CDC guidelines as well as those of local health agencies. She addressed the argument of individual rights and responsibilities, by quoting from a US Supreme Court case related to smallpox vaccinations. She urged the Board to ignore the distraction and continue to do what is right for our kids.

Board Comments:

Trustee Kristie Wang thanked Deputy Superintendent, Chris Van Schaack, and district staff who have worked on the COVID-19 protocols. She noted that her goal for the year is to keep schools open all year, and to keep things as normal as possible, and in order for that to happen mitigation tools like wearing a mask would need to be implemented. Ms. Wang continued by reporting that if wearing masks is what must be done to keep schools open, that's what she would support. She acknowledged the stress on both sides of this issue and stated that she had spent a lot of time reading all of the letters and could feel the passion behind them. She reported that while she supports personal choice in many instances, there are limits to choice when your choice can endanger another person. Ms. Wang concluded her remarks as she expressed support for wearing masks for our schools at this point.

Trustee Emily Prusso thanked all those who spoke and those who have sent emails with their opinions related to masks. She reiterated that the decision related to masking is mandated by the State and County. Mrs. Prusso admitted that she is conflicted, as she understands the arguments on both sides of the issue. She noted that she has more questions than answers, but the one thing she does know definitively is that students need to be in school full time and at this moment the way we do this is with wearing masks. Mrs. Prusso continued by stating that she would rather see students in school full time with masks than reduced time or no time without them. She reported that she will advocate for family choice related to masks in any capacity that she can and she hopes that those

making these decisions at the State and County level more roundly study all the effects these mandates pose. Mrs. Prusso concluded by stating that she hopes that we can learn to make room for all of the perspectives and the fears that we are currently facing and that all voices deserve to be heard.

Trustee Anne White remarked that she thinks it is important to note that while there are those who assert their right to make this decision for their students, it must also be remembered that with rights there are also responsibilities. She continued by stating that living collectively as we do, we have a responsibility to others. Mrs. White noted that there is a broader statement regarding gathering and masking requirements; masking is required in all groups of people who gather. This does not just apply to schools. She commented that we need to continue to ask questions of those who are making the decisions. Mrs. White concluded her remarks by stating that until we have further guidance, we need to do all we can to keep our collective children safe when they come to school.

Trustee Yanira Guzmán thanked the parents and community members who wrote letters, especially those who shared their thoughts with kindness. She noted that after reading the many emails she realized two truths: 1.) We love our children greatly; and 2.) We believe that in-person instruction is the best for our children. Ms. Guzmán reported that she doesn't know anyone who is happy that we are going through a global pandemic. She described that the pain that she felt as a mother was unbearable and stated that there are probably many parents who have similar stories. She shared how she compared wearing a mask to wearing a seatbelt in the car as she talked with her young son. She stated that the seatbelt keeps people in place as best as possible and compared the virus to a reckless driver that doesn't stay in its lane and doesn't care who it collides with. She explained to him that we wear a mask to help protect us and others. Ms. Guzmán concluded by stating that she is angry at this virus because it has altered lives in a very negative way; she encouraged listeners to come together to end the pandemic way of life sooner rather than later.

Board President Craig Bueno noted that while some things are confusing, there is no mystery related to masks. Each type of mask has a different purpose; the intent of the cloth or surgical type mask is to prevent droplets that may contain the virus from being spread. President Bueno thanked all those who took the time to voice their opinions in a cordial manner. He stated that it is clear that there are two distinct opinions relative to the pandemic and subsequent public actions. He shared that his primary focus is to provide the best educational experience we are able for the students of Livermore and that their safety is paramount. President Bueno pledged that he will act to serve our students and carry out his oath and asked that members of the community respect the role the Board is in and contribute to the single goal of this District, providing an excellent education for the students of Livermore.

9.2 Summer 2021 Projects Update - Maintenance, Operations, and Facilities (MOF)

Glenn Sherman, Director of Maintenance, Operations, and Facilities (MOF) presented the Summer 2021 Projects Update - Maintenance, Operations, and Facilities, for information only.

Public Comments: None

9.3 Measure J Bond Program Update

Mrs. Kim McNeely, Bond Director, presented the Measure J Bond Program Update, for information only.

Public Comments: None

9.4 Measure J Series 2021 Proposed Bond Final Issuance

Mrs. Teresa Fiscus, Director of Fiscal Services, introduced Makiko Sato, Isom Advisors, to present the Measure J Series 2021 Bond Final Issuance, for information only.

Public Comments: None

9.5 PUBLIC HEARING: 2021-24 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and Learning Continuity Plan (LCP) in Compliance with California Education Code

Mrs. Melissa Theide, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, presented the 2021-24 Local Control and Accountability Plan and the Learning Continuity Plan (LCP) in Compliance with California Education Code, for information only.

President Bueno opened the Public Hearing

Public Comments: None

President Bueno closed the Public Hearing

9.6 PUBLIC HEARING: 2021-2022 Budget Adoption

Mrs. Teresa Fiscus, Director of Fiscal Services, presented the Proposed 2021-2022 Budget Adoption, for information only.

President Bueno opened the Public Hearing

Public Comments: None

President Bueno closed the Public Hearing

10.0 DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

10.1 Appointment of Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee Members (Measure J)

Mrs. Kim McNeely, Bond Director, presented the Appointment of Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee Members (Measure J), for Board approval.

Public Comments: None

ORIGINAL - Motion

Clerk **Emily Prusso** Moved, Member **Anne White** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion to 'Appoint Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee Members (Measure J).' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was Aye: 5 Nay: 0 The motion **Carried** 5 - 0.

Craig Bueno – Yes
Emily Prusso – Yes
Yanira Guzmán – Yes
Kristie Wang – Yes
Anne White – Yes

10.2 Approval of Resolution No. 001-21/22 Establishing an Account in Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District Foundation Fund for Deposit of Proceeds From the Mary Henriques 1996 Trust to Create the Isabelle Henriques Valedictorian Award for Livermore High School

Superintendent, Dr. Kelly Bowers, presented the Approval of Resolution No. 001-21/22 Establishing an Account in Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District Foundation Fund for Deposit of Proceeds From the Mary Henriques 1996 Trust to Create the Isabelle Henriques Valedictorian Award for Livermore High School, for Board Approval.

Public Comments: None

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **Yanira Guzmán** Moved, Clerk **Emily Prusso** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion to 'Approve Resolution No. 001-21/22 Establishing an Account in Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District Foundation Fund for Deposit of Proceeds From the Mary Henriques 1996 Trust to Create the Isabelle Henriques Valedictorian Award for Livermore High School, for Board Approval.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was Aye: 5 Nay: 0 The motion **Carried** 5 - 0.

Craig Bueno – Yes
Emily Prusso – Yes
Yanira Guzmán – Yes
Kristie Wang – Yes
Anne White – Yes

10.3 Board Policy 6158 Independent Study and Board Policy 6158.1 Independent Study for 2021-22

Darrel Avilla, Director of Student Services, presented Board Policy 6158 Independent Study and Board Policy 6158.1 Independent Study for 2021-22.

Public Comments: None

AMENDED - Motion

Clerk **Emily Prusso** Moved, Member **Anne White** Seconded to approve the **AMENDED** motion to 'Approve Board Policy 6158 Independent Study and Board Policy 6158.1 Independent Study for 2021-22 as the First and Final Reading.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was Aye: 5 Nay: 0 The motion **Carried** 5 - 0.

Craig Bueno – Yes
Emily Prusso – Yes
Yanira Guzmán – Yes
Kristie Wang – Yes
Anne White – Yes

11.0 CONSENT ITEMS - MOTIONS

- 11.1 Approval of Consent Items – Motions
- 11.2 Approval of Employment of Personnel
- 11.3 Approval of Employment of Extracurricular Coaches, 2021/2022
- 11.4 Approval of Consultants
- 11.5 Approval of Leave of Absence
- 11.6 Confirmation of Resignations/Retirements
- 11.7 Approval of Substitute Salary Schedule
- 11.8 Approval of New YouthBuild Job Descriptions
- 11.9 Approval of the July 1, 2021 Minutes of Special Board Meeting
- 11.10 Approval of the July 6, 2021 Minutes of Special Board Meeting
- 11.11 Approval of Gifts to District
- 11.12 Approval of the Purchase Order Summary Reports for June and July
- 11.13 Approval of Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures Quarterly District Report
- 11.14 Approval of Emergency Procurement of Necessary Products and Services for Child Nutrition

Public Comment: None

ORIGINAL – Motion

Member **Yanira Guzmán** Moved, President **Craig Bueno** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Approve Consent Items – Motions 11.2 - 11.14.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5 Nay: 0 The motion **Carried** 5 - 0.

Craig Bueno – Yes
Emily Prusso – Yes
Yanira Guzmán – Yes
Kristie Wang – Yes
Anne White – Yes

12.0 CONSENT ITEMS - RESOLUTIONS

- 12.1 Approval of Consent Items - Resolutions

- 12.2 Resolution No. 002-21/22, Budget Transfers of Funds - Revenues and Expenditures
- 12.3 Resolution No. 003-21/22, Resolution of the Governing Board Declaring Its Intention to Accept Rights of Way Property from the City of Livermore at the Livermore High School Site
- 12.4 Resolution No. 004-21/22, Authorization to Sell Surplus Equipment
- 12.5 Resolution No. 005-21/22, Retirement of Certificated Employee

Public Comment: None

ORIGINAL – Motion

Clerk **Emily Prusso** Moved, President **Craig Bueno**, Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Approve Consent Items 12.2 through 12.5.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5 Nay: 0 The motion **Carried** 5 - 0.

Craig Bueno – Yes
Emily Prusso – Yes
Yanira Guzmán – Yes
Kristie Wang – Yes
Anne White – Yes

13.0 CONSENT ITEMS – MOTIONS REMOVED FOR SEPARATE DISCUSSION/VOTE

13.1 Approval of June 29, 2021 Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting

Public Comment: None

ORIGINAL – Motion

President **Craig Bueno** Moved, Member **Anne White**, Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Approve the June 29, 2021 Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 4 Nay: 0 Abstain: 1 The motion **Carried** 4 - 0 - 1.

Craig Bueno – Yes
Emily Prusso – Abstain
Yanira Guzmán – Yes
Kristie Wang – Yes
Anne White – Yes

14.0 BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND REQUESTS

Trustee Emily Prusso shared that everyone in her household is very excited for the start of school.

Trustee Anne White shared that she attended the August Leadership Institute and learned much about instruction for English Language Learners. She also reported that she has been participating in a Book Club, related to Board Governance, with the California School Boards Association.

Trustee Yanira Guzmán also expressed her excitement for the start of school. She is excited for kids to see one another and be together.

Trustee Kristie Wang shared that she had an opportunity to visit a couple of summer school sites this summer. She took a moment to welcome new teachers, administrators, and staff to our district. She also reported that she had the opportunity to participate in Project Citizen, a renowned Youth Civic Engagement program, which our District hosted this year. Teachers from California, Washington, and Nevada participated, including seven educators from LVJUSD. She is excited to see what the teachers and students do with this program this year. She closed by sharing her excitement for the start of school and by announcing that she would make a secret surprise mascot appearance on the first day of school.

Board President Craig Bueno thanked those who completed some extraordinary work over the summer to prepare facilities for kids to be back on campus for full-time instruction. He stated that students at some sites will be amazed to see the renovated classroom buildings. He closed by thanking those who contributed and worked to make this happen.

15.0 SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Bowers shared that the summer months have flown by with an extraordinary amount of preparation being accomplished by an amazing team of professionals, preparing to welcome our 13,500 students to our campuses. She noted that the Leadership Workshop, Leadership Institute, and New Teacher Orientation had been held over the last few weeks. Superintendent Bowers announced that prior to the Professional Development Day, staff will participate in our second virtual Back-to-School Kickoff. The theme is *Ready to Roll*, and our 1,400+ staff members will gather by sites and departments to rev up for the new year.

Dr. Bowers shared that she is in her 35th year in public education, 23rd year in LVJUSD, and beginning her 12th year as Superintendent of Schools, and yet after so many years, she is still overcome with excitement and exhilaration at the start of a new school year. She closed by stating, ‘Be Well and Stay #LVJUSDstrong! We know we are #StrongerTogether! And we are #ReadytoRoll into the new year.’

16.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, President Bueno adjourned the Meeting at 11:19 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Board President

Board Clerk

Approved and entered into the proceedings of this Board this 7th day of September, 2021.