



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Closed Session 5:30 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, Kristie Wang, and Anne White were present

Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Kelly Bowers, Superintendent; Chris Van Schaack, Deputy Superintendent; Melissa Theide, Assistant Superintendent; Susan Kinder, Assistant Superintendent; 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: Jason Krolikowski, Director of Secondary Education; Steven Martin, Administrator on Special Assignment / YouthBuild Program Manager; and Kim McNeely, Bond Program Director

Student Board Member Representatives Present: Emily Wheeler, Livermore High School

1.0 5:33 P.M. - CALL TO ORDER

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

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; Susan Kinder, Assistant Superintendent; 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: One Case

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)): One case

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 7:01 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, Kristie Wang, and Anne White present.

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 Member Emily Wheeler.
- B. Actions approved in Closed Session - None to report.
- 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 was one change to the agenda.

1. Five 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 Christensen Middle School Office Staff, Michelle Gomes, Francine Laronde, Marette Lee, Mary Stolz, and Christina Villarimo

Superintendent Bowers introduced Christensen Middle School (CMS) Principal, Brian Scharmann, who virtually recognized and honored Michelle Gomes, Francine Laronde, Marette Lee, Mary Stolz, and Christina Villarimo for their outstanding work. Mr. Scharmann noted that no group personifies the “student first” mentality that they strive to achieve every day at CMS more than the incredible women in the front office. He shared that these women are consistently willing to go above and beyond in the ever changing environment of a middle school to ensure that the needs of the entire school community are met every day.

5.2 Recognition of the Livermore Lab Foundation

Superintendent Bowers introduced Assistant Superintendent Melissa Theide, who virtually recognized and honored the Livermore Lab Foundation (LLF) for their very generous contributions and support. This past summer, the LVJUSD partnered with the Livermore Lab Foundation for a two-week virtual high school program. Twenty-two students from all four LVJUSD high schools explored Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) careers through hands-on science and engineering projects. This was a two-week virtual workshop that offered students the opportunity to collaborate on a scientific research team, tour the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) facilities, and present their work at a virtual showcase event. Mrs. Theide offered a special thanks to the LLF and LLNL Supervisors, mentors and staff who dedicated their time and support to this year’s program.

6.0 STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

In the absence of Granada High School Student Board member, Elise Davies, Emily Wheeler read Ms. Davies’ report. She remarked that the tight-knit Granada community has brightened the spirits of students and staff during recent weeks. The Leadership class held a “Back-to-School Bash,” outside in the football stadium. At the Bash, classes competed in games, ASB and class officers were announced, and new teachers were introduced. Ms. Davies called attention to the recent disruptive ‘Tik-Tok Devious Licks’ Challenge, in which students have been encouraged to steal or damage something at school. Students have taken items such as paper towels, paper towel dispensers, soap, and soap dispensers and posted videos on social media. She urged students not to participate in the challenge.

Emily Wheeler - Livermore High School, reported Cowboy Nation is looking forward to a busy couple of months, with a yearlong celebration called *Finally Home*. Upcoming activities include dress up days, the *Finally Home* Rally with a home football game on September 24th. In October, they look forward to the Homecoming Royalty event and the *Finally Home* Dance. She wished good luck to all of the sports teams and concluded her report by stating, ‘Today is a Great Day to be a Cowboy.’

7.0 EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATIONS

Aimee Thompson, Livermore Education Association President, reported that she recently heard a comment regarding teachers and unions that sounded negative as if unions and teachers are bad. In response, she asked several LEA site representatives why they went into teaching. She read many responses, one of which was, “I became a teacher because it is the most important occupation in the world - without teachers there would not be doctors, lawyers, scientists, writers, etc.” Ms. Thompson noted that Teachers’ unions are the collective voice of teachers, advocating for what students need to

be successful. She noted that we are fortunate in Livermore to have a School Board and Superintendent who know teachers are 'the good guys' and support them. She expressed hope that this is the circumstance that becomes the political narrative.

8.0 COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC - via Zoom

A - Audience Communication

Rachel Gerlovich, LVJUSD parent, spoke against the mandatory wearing of masks. Ms. Gerlovich posed several questions regarding the science behind the mandate related to the wearing of masks.

Jackie Cota, Community member, stated that she believes that masks are dangerous, and increase the risk of developing an upper respiratory infection. She offered her opinion that the vaccine reduces the body's ability to prevent infection and that the vaccine has not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration. She stated that the Board should uphold the rights of the students and employees that they represent.

Sydney Cushman, LVJUSD parent, stated that principals, teachers, and staff are encouraging the use of masks with children outdoors, despite the fact that they are not required outdoors. In addition, she reported concerns that the District has allocated funds toward a social justice program.

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.

1. Georgette Thomason, LVJUSD parent, thanked the Board for doing its best to keep our kids safe. She voiced her support for continuing the masking mandate and a vaccine mandate should that be recommended.
2. Margaret Hackney, LVJUSD parent, expressed support for masking mandates in our schools. She urged the Board to follow the science and the facts, as the masks are necessary to keep children and staff safe in our schools.
3. Alameda County Office of Education - Alameda County Office of Education (ACOE) notified the LVJUSD Board of Education that in accordance with Education Code (EC) Sections 42127 and 52070, the ACOE reviewed LVJUSD's 2021-2022 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and Adopted Budget. Based on its review, both the 2021-2022 LCAP and Adopted Budget have been approved.

Correspondence received after the agenda was published.

1. Dede Hahlbeck, LVJUSD parent, asked that the mask mandates be stopped or be implemented only by parent choice.
2. Sydney Cushman, LVJUSD parent, stated that she believes school staff are encouraging students to wear masks outdoors, despite this not being mandated.

3. Erik Cushman, LVJUSD parent, stated his opinion that “breaking down barriers and validating those who live in the margins” and “harnessing intersectionality” are the core aspects of Critical Race Theory.
4. Katherine Koziowski, LVJUSD parent, thanked the Board for keeping children safe and encouraged that masking requirements be maintained. She also thanked the Board for its ongoing commitment to provide age-appropriate diversity, equity and inclusion education at all levels.
5. Heather Day, LVJUSD parent, thanked the Board for its continued support of COVID-19 mitigation measures. She also expressed appreciation of the District protocol related to modified quarantine and rapid COVID-19 testing.

9.0 INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.1 COVID-19 Informational Update

Chris Van Schaack, Deputy Superintendent, presented the COVID-19 Informational Update, for information only.

Public Comments:

Jackie Cota, community member, asserted that it is the job of the District to instruct and educate, not to pay attention to the health of the students. She offered her opinion that the rapid tests have been deemed fraudulent and that the variants will continue because of the vaccines. She continued by stating that vaccines harm the immune system.

Fabian Moreno stated that the District has robbed them of peace with the mask mandates and caused fear and anxiety. He stated that he is the expert of what is best for his child, and demanded choice related to masks.

9.2 Professional Development Report 2020/2021

Assistant Superintendent Melissa Theide presented the Professional Development Report for 2020/2021, for information only.

Public Comments: None

9.3 YouthBuild Overview Presentation

Jason Krolkowski, Director of Secondary Education and Steven Martin, Administrator on Special Assignment / YouthBuild Program Manager presented the YouthBuild Overview Presentation, for information only.

Public Comments: None

9.4 Measure J Bond Program Update

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

Public Comments: None

10.0 DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

10.1 California School Boards Association (CSBA) Call for Nominations for Directors-at-Large

The Board of Education determined that it would take no action regarding the CSBA Call for Nominations for Directors-at Large.

Public Comment: None

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 Leave of Absence

11.5 Confirmation of Resignations/Retirements

11.6 Approval of the Purchase Order Summary Reports for August

11.7 Approval of Gifts to District

11.8 Approval of Consultant

11.9 Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between LVJUSD and the Alameda County Office of Education (ACOE) to Participate in the Standards-Based Grading Teacher and Principal Fall 2021 Cohorts

11.10 Approval of September 7, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Public Comment: None

ORIGINAL – Motion

Clerk **Emily Prusso** Moved, Member **Kristie Wang** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion

'Approve Consent Items – Motions 11.2 - 11.8.' 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. 010-21/22, Authorization to Sell Surplus Equipment

12.3 Resolution No. 011-21/22, Acceptance of the Exterior Painting Project at Vineyard Alternative School - Notice of Completion

Public Comment: None

ORIGINAL – Motion

Clerk **Emily Prusso** Moved, Member **Yanira Guzmán**, Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Approve Consent Items 12.2 through 12.3.' 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

None.

14.0 BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND REQUESTS

Trustee Yanira Guzmán reported that she wanted to focus on the positive things that are happening in our District. She recognized that Livermore High School has had a challenging start of the year, and said her thoughts go out to all. She thanked the Superintendent for her transparency with the community.

Trustee Anne White voiced her overwhelming support for summer programs such as the STEM program the Livermore Lab Foundation provided this year. As a rising senior, she participated in such a program at Purdue and encouraged any rising senior to participate in a summer program.

Trustee Emily Prusso expressed excitement to see kids' enthusiasm to be back on campus for full-time, in-person instruction. Mrs. Prusso reported that she had attended the first Tri-Valley Regional Occupational Program (TVROP) Board meeting of the year, where they celebrated the 50th anniversary of ROP. She expressed her gratitude for our TVROP and the relationships that have been developed between Pleasanton, Dublin, and Las Positas. She also shared that she had attended the

Golden Bell validation visit at Livermore High School with students and administrators involved in the African American Scholars Project. She noted that she had learned a lot about the program and is excited for what it has done and continues to do for our students. Trustee Prusso reported that she had also attended the Health and Wellness Committee, in which nurses and psychologists reported on the physical and mental health of our students. She shared that she always comes away from these meetings with an understanding of the work that has taken place behind the scenes for the health of our students, whether it be related to emotional, physical, or mental health. This team really cares about our students and she expressed thanks to those who oversee the health and wellness of our District. Finally, Trustee Prusso shared that she was excited to attend Livermore High School's first home football game on September 24th.

Trustee Kristie Wang shared that she had a few recent opportunities to be on campus at Livermore High School and expressed appreciation for the administration, staff, teachers, and students for supporting one another and continuing through with positivity during a difficult time. She also reported that she had attended the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Board meeting the previous evening. Mrs. Wang concluded by sharing that all Districts continue to need Special Education staffing and that there were many positions available throughout the region including: paraeducators, speech therapists, and bus drivers.

Board President Bueno shared that his heart goes out to those feeling the loss at Livermore High School and prayers go out to those who are still struggling. He shared that our community always comes together and that's one of the most beautiful things about living in this community. He stated that he would continue to ask folks to be kind and to support our students. President Bueno recognized that there are different opinions in our city, but if people are kind and support our students that will be the community's strength. Students have endured a lot in the last 18 months and it has had a direct impact on them. He shared that people can offer differing opinions but encouraged all to remember that LVJUSD is led by the same people with the same goals to support our students. He noted that people are all experiencing the same thing, but in different ways. It's an opportunity to find common ground over common goals and come out of it stronger. President Bueno concluded his remarks by stating that LVJUSD has a simple goal - to benefit the students of Livermore.

15.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Bowers reported that the first Parent Club Information Council (PCIC) meeting was held via Zoom and COVID-19 protocols and testing were major topics of interest. In addition, she virtually hosted the first Faculty Communication Council of the year, in which every site was represented. She reported that the Livermore Learns program held webinars about the COVID-19 testing measures, both in English and Spanish. There were several hundred logged on for the English webinar and nearly 40 for the Spanish version.

Dr. Bowers stated that there had been a recent disturbing threat of harm at Livermore High School. She commended three students who came forward to share their concern with a trusted staff member, and this resulted in immediate response from the site. A crisis was averted because of the actions of these students and staff. Dr. Bowers shared that LVJUSD is very fortunate and grateful for its

partnership with the Livermore Police Department and she publicly thanked them for their efforts to ensure that any possible threat was neutralized and the campus was secure and safe.

Dr. Bowers remarked that she had the pleasure of being at Livermore High School for the Golden Bell validation visit, along with a few Board members. She noted that she is proud of the African American Scholars Project and all who have contributed to its success.

Lastly, Dr. Bowers noted that District leadership had sent a message to families in conjunction with the Livermore Police Department regarding the Devious Licks social media Tik Tok challenge, which has been occurring in many cities, resulting in damage and vandalism on school campuses. She conveyed that this is particularly concerning as it has occurred in brand new, recently constructed restrooms.

Dr. Bowers closed her remarks by stating, 'Be Well and Stay #LVJUSDstrong! We know we are #StrongerTogether!'

16.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, President Bueno adjourned the Meeting at 9:04 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Board President

Board Clerk

Approved and entered into the proceedings of this Board this 5th day of October, 2021.