



## MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

September 5, 2023

**Closed Session 6:00 PM / Board Meeting 7:00 PM**

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

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**Board Members Present:** President Craig Bueno, Clerk Emily Prusso, Members Steven Drouin, Yanira Guzmán, and Kristie Wang were present.

**Administrative Staff Present:** Chris Van Schaack, Superintendent; Kelly Manke, Assistant Superintendent; Melissa Theide, Assistant Superintendent; Teresa Fiscus, Assistant Superintendent; Amy Robbins, Executive Director of Human Resources; Tracie Christmas, Director of Student Services; Doug D'Amour, Director of Fiscal Services; Chris Connor, Director of Elementary Education; Michelle Dawson, Coordinator of Community Engagement; Geoff Warner, Chief Technology Officer; and Lori Rice, Executive Assistant

**Student Board Member Representative Present:**

### **1.0 6:00 P.M. - CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Bueno.

### **2.0 6:03 P.M. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION**

2.1 The meeting was adjourned to Closed Session by President Bueno. The Board adjourned to Closed Session to discuss items 2.1 through 2.5. Staff in attendance included: Chris Van Schaack, Superintendent; Melissa Theide, Assistant Superintendent; Teresa Fiscus, Assistant Superintendent; Kelly Manke, Assistant Superintendent..

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

2.3 Conference with Labor Negotiator Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6 Employee Organizations: California School Employees Association (CSEA) – Kelly Manke; Service Employees International Union (SEIU) – Kelly Manke;

2.4 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

2.5 Existing Litigation, Conference with Legal Counsel - Pursuant to Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9 (Gov Code 54954.5(c)): One Case

2.6 Conference with Real Property Negotiators (Government Code Section 54956.8)  
Property APN No. 98-357-2 (685 E. Jack London Blvd) in Livermore, California

Agency negotiators: Teresa Fiscus, Kelly Manke, Chris Van Schaack

### **3.0 7:02 P.M. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

3.1 The meeting was reconvened to Open Session by President Craig Bueno with Clerk Emily Prusso, and Members Steven Drouin, Yanira Guzmán, and Kristie Wang present.

3.2 The Pledge of Allegiance was led by our Student Board Member Representatives Kathryn Johnson, Livermore High School; and Amanda Dunmeyer, Granada High School.

3.3 Actions approved in Closed Session -

President Bueno reported that the Board voted 5 - 0 to approve the Statement of Charges for immediate suspension and dismissal of a permanent certificated employee and to direct the Superintendent or designee to serve notice to the employee and to take further action, as necessary, to implement the Board's action to suspend and dismiss the employee.

3.4 The Board of Education will vote on any recommended expulsions - None

3.5 Meeting Procedures - President Craig Bueno reviewed all meeting procedures, including instructions for 8.0 Communication from the Public.

### **4.0 CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

#### 4.1 The Superintendent will announce any changes to the agenda

Superintendent Chris Van Schaack reported that there were no changes to the Agenda.

### **5.0 RECOGNITION**

#### 5.1 Recognition of Livermore Valley Education Foundation

Superintendent Van Schaack introduced Mrs. Michelle Dawson, Coordinator of Community Engagement, who recognized and honored LVJUSD partner, Livermore Valley Education Foundation (LVEF). LVEF Board members present included Dana Rowley, Greg Park, Jean O'Neil-Opipari, Kevin Athey, Lisa Belk, and Sally Esser. LVEF was founded in 1991 after significant funding reductions to public education. Today they continue to be an all-volunteer organization. LVEF's major fundraising events include Harlem Wizards Basketball and Make Time for Music; they also seek grant funding as well as individual donors. Throughout the years, LVEF has generously contributed to our music and athletic programs, Science Odyssey and materials, Math Counts, Library Books, as well as supporting the *So Wise, So Young*, Shakespeare Program for all second grade students. In addition, they generously provide matching funds to Rotary mini-grants each year. Mrs. Dawson expressed her sincere appreciation for the continued commitment of LVEF to the students of our district.

## **6.0 STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS REPORT**

### 6.1 Student Board Members will report on their school activities

Kathryn Johnson - Livermore High School (LHS) reported that LHS has been full of energy and excitement with the return to school. To celebrate, they hosted a back-to-school rally in which students saw amazing performances by the dance and cheer teams, as well as the drumline. Fall sports are underway and doing great, first responders will be honored during the upcoming football game on September 9th; students and guests are encouraged to wear red, white and blue. In addition, auditions for the fall play are in progress, students are looking forward to the production of *Romeo and Juliet*, *Down the Road*. Other upcoming events include: the Belly Flop Fiesta, the Senior Picnic and the Homecoming festivities. Kathryn noted that the August and September Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) focus has been on making connections and in October the theme will be anti-bullying. She reflected that three students were honored for displaying Cowboy HEROES qualities on campus. Kathryn closed her remarks by stating, "Today is a great day to be a Cowboy!"

Amanda Dunmeyer - Granada High School (GHS) reported that Granada is off to a strong start for the 23-24 school year. GHS had just hosted their first football game of the season with quite the turnout. On September 1st, culminating the first spirit week of the year, GHS held its back-to-school rally in which students were introduced to the Associated Student Body (ASB) and the new class officers. Amanda also noted that plans are underway for Homecoming and the famous skits. She closed her remarks by reminding students, "Stay classy Matadors."

## **7.0 EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

### 7.1 Employee Associations will report on activities

Aimee Thompson, Livermore Education Association (LEA) President, reported that there are currently 713 full-time equivalent LEA bargaining unit members. She commented that last year at this time, our district had over 30 unfilled teaching positions in the bargaining unit, and currently have only 10.9 unfilled positions, and noted that the most challenging positions to fill are in special education, math, and science. Ms. Thompson remarked that LEA members appreciated the messaging to staff and families from Superintendent Van Schaack about the intention to set a positive tone on campus for the year with the use of appropriate language and the elimination of hate speech. She closed her remarks by sharing that she participated in an LEA/LVJUSD Joint Advisory Committee to discuss implications of the state budget and looks forward to another productive conversation and learning more about restricted vs. unrestricted funding.

## **8.0 COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC**

### A) Audience Communication

1. Skye McCloud, parent, shared information about Destination Imagination, a non-profit after-school program. She requested space and District support to have an informational meeting for parents to encourage them to bring the Program to LVJUSD.

## B) Correspondence

Board Clerk Emily Prusso summarized the Board Correspondences.

1. Roianne Heath expressed support for renaming the Livermore High School Theater to “The Carol Hovey Performing Arts Theater.”

## **9.0 DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS**

### 9.1 Naming of the Livermore High School Theater

Superintendent Van Schaack presented the Naming of the Livermore High School Theater, for Board approval.

Public Comment: None

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Clerk **Emily Prusso** Moved, and Member Steven Drouin Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion to ‘Name the Livermore High School Theater *The Carol Hovey Performing Arts Theater*.’ 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
Steven Drouin	Yes
Yanira Guzmán	Yes
Kristie Wang	Yes

### 9.2 Approval of the 2022-2023 Unaudited Actual Financial Reports

Teresa Fiscus, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, presented the 2022-2023 Unaudited Actual Financial Reports, for Board approval.

Public Comment: None

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **Steven Drouin** Moved, and Clerk **Emily Prusso** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion to ‘Approve the 2022-2023 Unaudited Actual Financial Reports.’ 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
Steven Drouin	Yes
Yanira Guzmán	Yes
Kristie Wang	Yes

## 10.0 CONSENT ITEMS - MOTIONS

- 10.1 Approval of Consent Items - Motions
- 10.2 Approval of Employment of Personnel
- 10.3 Approval of Employment of Extracurricular Coaches, 2023/2024
- 10.4 Approval of Leaves of Absence
- 10.5 Confirmation of Resignations/Retirements
- 10.6 Approval of Consultants
- 10.7 Approval of the revised California School Employees Association (CSEA) Salary Schedule for the 2023-2024 School Year
- 10.8 Approval of Out-of-State Conference for Four Staff Members to Attend the California Association of Directors of Activities (CADA) State Convention in Nevada, March 6-9, 2024
- 10.9 Approval of Livermore Area Recreation and Parks District Memorandum of Understanding
- 10.10 Approval of Special Education Transportation Contract with First Student Alternative Transportation
- 10.11 Approval of Agreements for Services for Special Needs Students
- 10.12 Measure J Bond Program Contract Amendment/Change Order Ratification
- 10.13 Acceptance of the Roofing Projects - Contract Amendments/Change Order Ratifications
- 10.14 Approval of the August 8, 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

### ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **Kristie Wang** Moved, and Clerk **Emily Prusso** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion to 'Approve Consent Items - Motions No. 10.2 - 10.14.' 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
Steven Drouin	Yes
Yanira Guzmán	Yes
Kristie Wang	Yes

## 11.0 CONSENT ITEMS - RESOLUTIONS

- 11.1 Approval of Consent Items - Resolutions
- 11.2 Resolution No. 004-23/24, Establishing Gann Appropriation Limitations for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024
- 11.3 Resolution No. 005-23/24, Acceptance of the Livermore High School Athletics Complex & Aquatics Center Inc. 2 Project - Notice of Completion
- 11.4 Resolution No. 006-23/24, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Notice of Exemption for the Energy Conservation Measures - Solar/Photovoltaic Array Installation Project at Three Sites
- 11.5 Resolution No. 007-23/24, Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Equipment

Public Comment: None

## ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **Kristie Wang** Moved and **Clerk Emily Prusso** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion to 'Approve the Consent Items - Resolution Nos. 004 through 007-23/24.' 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
Steven Drouin	Yes
Yanira Guzmán	Yes
Kristie Wang	Yes

## 12.0 CONSENT ITEMS REMOVED FOR SEPARATE DISCUSSION/VOTE

13.1 Consent items removed for separate discussion will be placed here and voted on separately

No Consent Items were removed for separate discussion.

## 13.0 BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND REQUESTS

14.1 Board Members reported on their activities and/or made requests to staff.

Trustee Yanira Guzmán reported that from her perspective the school year has gotten off to a great start. Ms. Guzmán remarked that she has attended various events, including: the Kick-Off and PFlag on how we may better serve LGBTQ+ plus students. She closed her remarks by encouraging that we center on students learning and positive experiences for each student.

Trustee Steven Drouin reported that his children were very excited to get back to school this year. He expressed appreciation for our District's commitment to stop hate speech and embrace positive communication on campus. Dr. Drouin remarked that he also attended the PFlag professional learning experience and is looking forward to the Youth Climate Summit on Saturday, September 9th, noting that this event is run by and for students.

Trustee Kristie Wang thanked our Human Resources Department and Amy Robbins, Executive Director, as they have been working in overdrive to fill many positions and get the year off to a great start. Mrs. Wang commented that she attended several events including the new teacher orientation, the Kick-Off, and the first Policy Committee meeting of the year. Trustee Wang expressed appreciation for the Years of Service recognition at the Kick-Off and noted that it was very touching to see. She thanked the City of Livermore and parents at Lawrence Elementary that advocated for much needed improvements to the crossing in front of the campus, and noted that the repairs are nearly finished. Trustee Wang directed community members to the websites: [livermoresafetyplan.org](https://livermoresafetyplan.org) or [livermorevisionzero.org](https://livermorevisionzero.org), to review the goals for the traffic safety plan and provide input. She closed her remarks by stating that Quest Science has several upcoming events this fall and encouraged everyone to participate.

Trustee Emily Prusso, attended many of the same events as her colleagues. She remarked that it was exciting to see the many new teachers who live in Livermore, many of whom also went to school in Livermore and have returned “home.” She expressed appreciation for our Superintendent for the theme of eliminating hate speech, anti-bullying, as well as the new elementary homework policy. Trustee Prusso thanked teachers, parents, students, and staff for the successful first couple of weeks of school.

President Craig Bueno reported that he also attended the Kick-Off at Livermore High School. He noted that he missed a few of the special events to begin the school year as his son got married. He was able to visit Sunset School on the first day of school, and enjoyed watching children and families walking to school and remarked on the importance of traffic mitigation to keep our students safe.

## **14.0 SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

### **15.1 The Superintendent reported on District activities.**

Superintendent Van Schaack reported that the 2023-24 school year began on August 21st with nearly 13,100 students and fifteen hundred employees. He noted that fall sports are underway and we’ve seen some exceptional performances. Mr. Van Schaack remarked that we have incredibly talented students throughout our district and this year projects to be one of the best for our sports, music, and spirit teams. He noted that our district continues to work with City staff to determine ways in which we can provide housing and daycare assistance to staff in an effort to keep our best and brightest working right here in Livermore. He shared that we will continue to look for creative solutions to address those challenges as we recognize some of the financial challenges involved in making the Bay Area home. Superintendent Van Schaack also mentioned that we are looking for community members to serve on our Citizen’s Bond Oversight Committee which is responsible for monitoring bond finances to ensure that public money is spent in accordance with voter approved bond language. He closed his remarks by wishing all a good night.

## **15.0 ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, President Craig Bueno adjourned the Meeting at 8:12 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Board President

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Board Clerk

Approved and entered into the proceedings of this Board this 19th day of September, 2023.