



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

January 11, 2022

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 Assembly Bill (AB) 361, 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: Darrel Avilla, Director of Student Services; Tracie Christmas, Director of Assessment and Accountability; Carla Estrada-Hidalgo, Coordinator of English Language Development; and Kim McNeely, Bond Program Director

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

1.0 5:35 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; and Melissa Theide, Assistant Superintendent

2.1 Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Leave/Employment 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)): 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 7:02 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 Members Elise Davies and Emily Wheeler.
- B. Closed Session Action - None
- 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.

Multiple pieces of formal Board correspondence were received after the agenda was published. Per policy, the cutoff time is 4:00 p.m. the day before the meeting; however, as a courtesy, 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, summarized, and included in the Board Clerk summary.

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5.0 RECOGNITIONS

5.1 Recognition of Emma C. Smith Elementary School Learning Center Model Classroom Teachers and Paraprofessionals

Joe Meunier, proud principal of Emma C. Smith Elementary School, virtually introduced and honored the teachers and paraprofessionals of the Smith School Learning Center Model Classrooms. Mr. Meunier shared that this Learning Center Model is new to Smith School this year, and is designed to support Mild/Moderate Special Education students who were historically enrolled in a self-contained Special Day Class. Under this model, students are enrolled in general education classes, and supported with push-in support to the general education classroom and /or pull out support in the Learning Center. Principal Meunier thanked the teams for their work with this emerging program, shared statements of appreciation from parents, and expressed admiration for the amazing work of the Learning Center Classroom Teachers and Paraprofessionals.

Learning Center Grades TK - 2: Teacher, Sarah Asai; and Paraprofessionals, Lori Rittman, Julie Stotts, Jennifer Macchiano, Jackie Macias, Herwinder Kaur, and Runa Shamsuddin.

Learning Center Grades 3 - 5: Teacher, Noel Richards; Paraprofessionals, Shelby Kandel, Jennifer Vallejo, and Rocio Espinoza.

5.2 Recognition of Cabinet Executive Assistants

Deputy Superintendent Chris Van Schaack introduced and honored the Cabinet-level Executive Assistants. He shared that this group is made up of dedicated and incredibly hardworking professionals whose efforts during the last two years of the pandemic have been especially impressive. A personal quote was shared from the manager of each Executive Assistant. Mr. Van Schaack congratulated and thanked each Executive Assistant for their efforts and support to our District. Our Cabinet-level Executive Assistants include: Tina Gerlach, Bond Department; Sarah DeGroat, Community Engagement; Vanessa Castro, Curriculum and Special Projects; Leslie Lemieux, Human Resources; Mamie Kristovich, Maintenance, Operations, and Facilities; Lilly Lopez, Special Education; Elida Rodriguez, Student Services; Cara Thompson, Information Technology; Jennifer Arias, Administrative Services; Michelle Hill-Gerow, Educational Services; Jodi Robison, Business Services; and Lori Rice, Superintendent's Office and Board of Education.

5.3 Admirable Actions - Post a Positive Drawing

Dr. Bowers introduced the *Admirable Actions "Post a Positive" Challenge* that was created in response to a negative social media Tik Tok Challenge that encouraged students to behave in destructive and non-productive ways and post it online, which was initiated in November. Our District is determined to change this narrative by creating the *Choose Love Admirable Actions "Post a Positive" Challenge*, in which students are asked to 'Post a Positive.' School leaders are encouraged to snap a picture, take a video, or send a message sharing how their student is making positive behavioral choices, acting with integrity, and showing kindness to others and then share that to nominate them. The names of each student nominated so far have been entered into a drawing and each Board member, including student Board representatives, selected a name entrant as a prize winner. The students selected to receive prizes were:

Faith Byington, 12th Grade, Granada High School

Megan Teczon, 10th Grade, Granada High School
Zareena Parhar, 5th Grade, Marylin Avenue Elementary School
Tyler Pittman, 3rd Grade, Arroyo Seco Elementary School
Sierra Vidnovic, 8th Grade, East Avenue Middle School
Claire Buxton, 11th Grade, Livermore High School
Drew Kardy, 11th Grade, Granada High School

6.0 STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Emily Wheeler - Livermore High School (LHS), reported that many students have expressed appreciation for the rapid COVID testing kits that were provided for students prior to winter break. She noted that basketball is in full swing and soon spring sports will begin. Ms. Wheeler also remarked that preparations have begun for Operation Needle Drop and Late Night at Livermore, two very anticipated LHS traditions, as well as several other fun spirit activities and events. She closed her report, by stating that, "Today is a great day to be a Cowboy."

Elise Davies, Granada High School (GHS), reported that students came back to school amidst a rise in COVID cases and teachers have been organizing lesson plans for students who were quarantined at home. Ms. Davies remarked that plans for Spirit Games, an annual week-long event, are underway. Ms. Wheeler also reminded all of our practice *If you see something, say something*, and thanked our Livermore Police Department for investigating what turned out to be a non-credible threat. Elise noted that students can find a list of current scholarship opportunities on the Granada High School website. She closed her remarks by reminding Granada students to "stay classy."

7.0 EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATIONS

Aimee Thompson, Livermore Education Association (LEA) President reported that Livermore teachers are amazing. She stated that our teachers are not planning sickouts, not working to rule, and not demanding school closures. They have said they will work through the Omicron surge to keep our schools open. Ms. Thompson noted that our teachers could use the morale boost of good news from our bargaining table, with a solid offer of competitive compensation.

Stephanie Waggener, California School Employees Association (CSEA), President reported that she is excited that CSEA has completed their successor contract; and thanked the CSEA negotiations team, Deputy Superintendent Van Schaack and Human Resources Director, Kelly Manke for their patience and support.

8.0 COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC - via Zoom

A - Audience Communication

Rachel Gerlovich, LVJUSD parent, expressed opposition to a potential Statewide COVID-19 vaccine mandate. She urged the Board to advocate for choice and push back against the proposed vaccine mandate for students.

Trina Wade, LVJUSD parent, expressed displeasure relative to quarantine protocols. She suggested that the District use antibody tests as part of the quarantine protocol.

Leticia Riccomini, LVJUSD parent, expressed opposition to COVID-19 mitigation protocols and urged the Board to fight for students and push back against State and County health guidelines.

Sydney Cushman, LVJUSD parent, read a statement related to COVID-19 mitigation strategies, including masks, testing, and vaccines, offering her opinion that these are all experimental and under emergency use authorization and therefore cannot be legally required.

Danielle Canning, expressed frustration regarding quarantine protocols. She stated her son was sent home from school to quarantine because another child tested positive for COVID.

Jackie Cota, Community member, shared her opinion that COVID-19 vaccinations are dangerous, and referred to several statistics relative to lockdown and COVID-19 mitigation strategies in 2020.

Christina Johnson, LVJUSD parent and teacher, expressed concern relative to unvaccinated children quarantining at home.

Alexandria Izarraraz, expressed concern relative to vaccine mandates and quarantine protocols. She shared her opinion that it is wrong to mandate vaccines.

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. David Moore, Granada High School Athletic Director, shared the GHS Athletics newsletter.
2. Marilyn Dykstra, Community member, thanked the Board for continuing meetings over Zoom. In addition, she thanked the Board for continuing to implement COVID-19 mitigation measures such as masking and vaccinations.
3. Doreen Aubel, LVJUSD teacher, thanked the Board and Superintendent for implementing COVID-19 mitigation measures as directed by our County and State Health Departments.
4. Suzanne Winters, Community member, stated that the test kits that were distributed to students contain a carcinogen.

****Note:** Deputy Superintendent Chris Van Schaack shared a Reuters article stating that the information related to the carcinogenic sterilizing ingredient was false, and debunking the claim.

5. Fabian Moreno, LVJUSD parent, shared a letter from the 'Let Them Breathe' organization posing several questions relative to masking requirements and vaccination recommendations.

6. Sarah Layton, LVJUSD parent, requested additional information relative to COVID-19 exposure be included on the LVJUSD COVID-19 Case Dashboard.
7. Melanie Petty, LVJUSD parent, stated that COVID-19 vaccines should not be mandated in K-12 schools.
8. Joanne Duncan, Community member, stated that COVID-19 vaccines should not be mandated in K-12 schools.
9. Kelly Calaway, LVJUSD parent, shared that COVID-19 vaccines should not be mandated in K-12 schools.
10. Rachel Gerlovich, LVJUSD parent, stated that COVID-19 vaccines should not be mandated in K-12 schools.
11. Melissa Hanson, LVJUSD parent, stated that she does not support mandated COVID-19 vaccines.
12. Cynthia Chisholm, posed several questions relative to COVID-19 vaccination status and natural immunity.
13. Mark Petty, LVJUSD parent, stated that COVID-19 vaccines should not be mandated for K-12 students.
14. Tawny Alexander, LVJUSD parent, stated that COVID-19 vaccines should not be mandated in K-12 schools.
15. Jamie Olson, LVJUSD parent, requested that COVID-19 vaccines not be mandated for school and to keep campuses open for in-person learning.
16. Jamie Blake, LVJUSD parent, requested that the Board write to Governor Newsom asking him to end masking requirements, COVID testing, and vaccine mandates.
17. Angela Butherus, LVJUSD parent, stated that COVID-19 vaccines should not be mandated in K-12 schools.
18. Dede Hahlbeck, LVJUSD parent, stated that masks and COVID-19 vaccines should not be mandated in K-12 schools.
19. Deena Kaplanis, LVJUSD parent, stated that she is against the vaccine and mask mandates.

20. Anthony Wells, Community member, stated that the COVID-19 vaccine should not be mandated by any school or school board.
21. Renee Lawrence, LVJUSD parent, urged the Board not to approve a mandate for COVID-19 vaccinations.
22. Robert Heaney III, LVJUSD parent, stated that COVID-19 vaccines should not be mandatory for K-12 schools.
23. Ryan Keedy, LVJUSD parent, asked that the District consider allowing students to use their own 'at-home' test kits and adopt the CDC guidelines that allow asymptomatic students to return to class after 5 days, even without a test.
24. Sydney Cushman, LVJUSD parent, stated that masks, vaccines, and testing cannot be legally mandated in schools.
25. Kristen Caron, LVJUSD parent, shared concerns and posed several questions related to exposure and testing for COVID-19, modified quarantine, and masking requirements. She urged the Board not to return to distance learning.
26. Lacey Dawson, LVJUSD parent, expressed concern related to current COVID-19 quarantine protocols.
27. Pam Sana, LVJUSD parent, expressed her opinion that COVID-19 vaccines should not be mandated in K-12 schools.
28. Anna Cleary, LVJUSD parent, thanked the Board for providing at-home COVID-19 test kits for students. She also offered her support of mask mandates.
29. Tamera Buna, LVJUSD parent, asked the Board not to mandate a COVID-19 vaccine for children.
30. Anthony Arsondi, LVJUSD parent, shared his opposition to mandated COVID-19 vaccines for children.
31. Lindsey Bolls, Community member, stated that COVID-19 vaccines should be a personal, medical decision.
32. Nick Mavrakis, LVJUSD parent, stated that he does not support mandated COVID-19 vaccinations.

33. Demitris Kaplanis, LVJUSD parent, expressed his displeasure with masking requirements and vaccine mandates.
34. Kelly Klein, Community member, stated that COVID-19 vaccines should not be mandated in K-12 schools.
35. Heather Lombardo, LVJUSD parent, expressed her opinion that there is no reason to mandate masks or the COVID-19 vaccine.
36. Sierra Clark, Community member, expressed opposition to mandated COVID-19 vaccines.
37. Joanne Morrison, Community member, thanked the Board for continuing to follow safety protocols for students and staff. She urged the Board to keep doing everything possible to keep kids in school.
38. Shirley Petty, Community member, stated that COVID-19 vaccines should not be mandated in K-12 schools.
39. Tara Anderson, LVJUSD parent, stated that COVID-19 vaccinations should not be mandated.
40. Heidi Beck, LVJUSD parent, expressed concern and posed questions relative to COVID-19 mitigation measures and quarantine protocols.
41. Matt & Julie Weingart, LVJUSD parents, encouraged the Board to continue to make the responsible choices needed to protect students.
42. Patrick Spicer, LVJUSD parent, expressed his opinion that the current COVID-19 mitigation measures and modified quarantine protocols are flawed.
43. Christine Gilkison, LVJUSD parent, stated that COVID-19 vaccines should not be mandated in K-12 schools and that schools should offer a modified quarantine option for all students.
44. Jill Pauli, LVJUSD parent, expressed concern relative to the level of COVID-19 transmission in our community and urged the Board to consider allowing students the option to stay home from school for the next couple of weeks either on independent study or virtual instruction.
45. Andrea Garrett, LVJUSD parent, expressed displeasure with COVID-19 mitigation measures and quarantine protocols. In addition, she expressed hope that our District would not return to distance learning.

46. Katherine Koziowski, LVJUSD parent, thanked the Board and Superintendent for their attention to COVID-19 safety measures. She also posed questions relative to testing for student teachers and volunteers.
47. Radoslav Bozinoski, LVJUSD parent, expressed concern with current COVID-19 quarantine protocols.
48. Lindsay Knight, LVJUSD parent, expressed concern with current COVID-19 quarantine protocols and asked that they be reconsidered to allow all students to remain in school regardless of exposure.

9.0 INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.1 COVID-19 Informational Update

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

Public Comments:

Rachel Gerlovich, LVJUSD parent, shared her opinion that students thought that the COVID-19 test kits sent home before winter break were required and not voluntary. She stated that many of the positive cases were as a result of the COVID-19 tests.

Leticia Riccomini, LVJUSD parent, expressed frustration with COVID-19 protocols.

Jackie Cota, Community member, posed several questions related to COVID-19 testing. She offered her opinion that offering vaccination clinics was irresponsible.

Trina Wade, LVJUSD parent, shared her opinion and posed questions related to the use of antibody tests in place of COVID testing and quarantine.

Brian Sheehan, LVJUSD parent, apologized for some comments by those who have spoken before him. He expressed opposition to mandated COVID-19 vaccines.

Danielle Canning, LVJUSD parent, expressed her opinion that the focus should not be on case rates as case rates do not equal symptoms, hospitalizations, or deaths. She also expressed opposition to quarantine protocols.

Erica Badger, LVJUSD parent, expressed appreciation for the responsiveness from Deputy Superintendent Van Schaack. She posed questions to seek clarification on the District COVID Dashboard.

Jen Mar, LVJUSD parent, expressed her opinion that increasing case rates should not be concerning unless they are directed towards hospitalizations or death. She expressed opposition to quarantine protocols.

Edward McCloud expressed support and appreciation for the Board and District for following protocols and acting in the best interest of our children. He posed a question relative to options for distance learning during the current pandemic surge.

Heather Lombardo, LVJUSD parent, expressed opposition to proposed vaccine mandates and mask restrictions. She stated that students should be able to take their mask off inside for indoor physical education.

Sydney Cushman, LVJUSD parent, posed questions relative to COVID testing. She requested a report including a comparison between the tests per week, the positive test results, and identification of which were symptomatic cases.

Suzanne Winters, LVJUSD parent, asked the Board to reconsider COVID-19 mitigation measures such as mask requirements and requested that all measures be stopped. She shared her opinion that masks are causing physical harm to all who wear them.

Jennifer Toro, LVJUSD parent, expressed opposition to proposed vaccine mandates and COVID-19 testing.

Melissa Hanson, LVJUSD parent, expressed opposition to COVID mitigation measures and quarantine protocols.

Alexandria Izarraraz, LVJUSD parent, expressed opposition to quarantine protocols. She expressed her opinion that COVID vaccinations are dangerous.

Deena Kaplanis, LVJUSD parent, expressed opposition to proposed quarantine protocols.

Elizabeth Camilleri, LVJUSD parent, expressed concern with current COVID-19 quarantine protocols.

Andres Sanchez, LVJUSD student, shared his opposition to quarantine protocols.

Joanne Morrison, Community member, expressed concern that so many place their own personal liberties above the common good. She urged the Board to keep following the science and implement common sense policies.

9:51 PM President Bueno called for a short recess

10:02 PM President Bueno reconvened the meeting

9.2 Quest Science Center Presentation

Chris Van Schaack, Deputy Superintendent, introduced Monya Lane, Quest Science Center Chief Executive Officer and Caleb Cheung, Chief Learning Officer, who virtually presented the Quest Science Center Presentation, for information only.

Public Comments: None

9.3 English Learner Reclassification

Tracie Christmas, Director of Assessment and Accountability, introduced Carla Estrada-Hidalgo, Coordinator of English Language Development, who virtually presented the English Learner Reclassification Report, for information only.

Public Comment: None

9.4 Measure J Bond Program Update

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

Public Comment: None

9.5 Proposed Resolution Calling Parcel Tax Election of 2022

Susan Kinder, Assistant Superintendent introduced Charles Heath of TBWBH Props & Measures Strategy Communications and co-presented the Proposed Resolution Calling Parcel Tax Election of 2022, for information only.

Public Comment: None

10.0 DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

10.1 Approval of Board Policy 3516.5 Temporary Emergency Schedules - First Reading

Darrel Avilla, Director of Student Services, virtually presented Board Policy 3516.5 Temporary Emergency Schedules, for first reading and Board Approval.

The Board suggested a revision for incorporation into the policy prior to the next, 2nd and Final Reading.

Public Comment: None

ORIGINAL - Motion

Clerk **Emily Prusso** Moved, Member **Kristie Wang** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion to 'Approve Board Policy 3516.5 Temporary Emergency Schedules - First 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 Leaves of Absence
- 11.5 Confirmation of Resignations/Retirements
- 11.6 Approval of Substitute Salary Schedule 2021-2022
- 11.7 Approval of Gifts to District
- 11.8 Approval of Purchase Order summary Report for December
- 11.9 Approval of School Accountability Report Cards (SARCs)
- 11.10 Approval of Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures Quarterly District Report
- 11.11 Approval of December 14, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Public Comment: None

ORIGINAL – Motion

Clerk **Emily Prusso** Moved, Member **Yanira Guzmán** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Approve Consent Items – Motions 11.2 - 11.11.' 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 029-21/22, Science and Engineering Month
- 12.3 Resolution No. 030-21/22, Approval of the Designation of Specific Material(s), Thing(s), Product(s), or Service(s) for Roof Replacement Projects Pursuant to Public Contract Code Section 3400(c)(2)

Public Comment: None

ORIGINAL – Motion

Member **Kristie Wang** Moved, Clerk **Emily Prusso** Seconded, to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Approve Consent Resolution Items – Motions 12.2 - 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

Public Comment: None

13.0 CONSENT ITEMS – MOTIONS REMOVED FOR SEPARATE DISCUSSION/VOTE

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

13.2 Resolution No. 031-21/22, Reauthorizing Meetings By Remote Teleconference Due To The Continued State of Emergency And Findings Made in Support Thereof

Clerk Emily Prusso asked some clarifying questions of senior staff regarding the proposed Resolution.

Public Comment: None

ORIGINAL – Motion

Clerk **Emily Prusso** Moved, Member **Yanira Guzmán**, Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Approve Resolution No. 031-21/22, Reauthorizing Meetings by Remote Teleconference Due To The Continued State of Emergency And Findings Made in Support Thereof ' 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

14.0 BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND REQUESTS

Trustee Kristie Wang reported that she has spent much time on the phone with both parents and teachers. She thanked and expressed appreciation to school site and District staff, as well as parents and students, for their work to get us through this challenging time.

Clerk Emily Prusso reported that things have been very challenging. Trustee Prusso went on to note that the Board understands that conditions with the pandemic have been especially hard. She expressed hope that the virus will begin to run its course and things will start to look more normal soon. She recognized the challenges for administrators and teachers at all school sites and expressed appreciation for their work.

Trustee Anne White reported that part of the job of the Board of Education is to get as much information as possible. She noted that the Alameda County Office of Education and Alameda County Department of Public Health hold weekly meetings for school leaders, in which Board members and District leaders participate. She remarked that the Board receives clear information regarding quarantine and safety protocols at this meeting. She requested that the Policy and Technology Committees meet at another time to avoid a scheduling conflict.

Trustee Guzmán reported that she has recognized there has been much anxiety with the return to school after Winter Break. She noted that her priority is to keep schools open and she'll do what is necessary in order to do so. She thanked teachers, administrators, and families for doing things they must do, but may not like. Trustee Guzmán remarked that students have suffered through the pandemic and that is evident in certain behaviors and meltdowns. But she's also witnessed the joy students have had in returning to the classroom, along with the willingness to participate in extracurricular activities, as she's noticed a renewed passion and spark for learning. Ms. Guzmán closed her remarks by posing the question 'What are you willing to do for our children until we can get out of this?'

President Craig Bueno noted there is a lot of pressure on people. He remarked that it is easy to focus on the negative, but there is much for which to be grateful. President Bueno requested that when addressing the Board, speakers be respectful, make their point, and center on the one thing that is important, the education of students in Livermore. He noted that we have a lot of wonderful opportunities, and thanked our many Community Partners, including Quest Science Center who reported earlier.

15.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Bowers recalled how she had shared the parable of carrying a glass of water earlier in the year. While the weight of the water may not be significant, the measure of how long one carries the glass makes it feel much heavier. She noted that the glass of water is feeling very heavy for everyone lately and that every person is experiencing the weighty effects of the pandemic in different ways, none of which are joyful.

With the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday coming up, Dr. Bowers remarked that Dr. King's leadership has always been an inspiration to her due to his model of service leadership. She commented that this is more than a holiday, it is a day to remember his fight for freedom, equality, and dignity of all races and people through non-violence. Dr. Bowers went on to share several quotes from Dr. King:

"Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

"I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear."

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

Superintendent Bowers remarked that we work with our students to teach them courage, forgiveness, gratitude, and compassion in action, which is the formula for *Choose Love*. There is also a component for families and parents in the community. She acknowledged that there is frustration, vitriol and anger being expressed at times but we need to try to stay united as a community. She reiterated that want to work with everyone so that we can find a more peaceful way to interact. We need to stay the course and keep plugging away.

Dr. Bowers closed her remarks with one final quote from Dr. King, *“We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.”* Despite setbacks, let’s remain hopeful; we need to redouble our efforts to do what we know is right because that has proven to work. There will be light at the end of the tunnel. Let’s continue to work and come together. Because we’re **#StrongerTogether!**

16.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, President Bueno adjourned the Meeting at 11:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Board President

Board Clerk

Approved and entered into the proceedings of this Board this 1st day of February, 2022.