



Los Alamitos Unified School District

Operations Steering Committee
April 3, 2019

MEETING SUMMARY

Superintendent Dr. Sherry Kropp called the Operations Steering Committee to order at 6:36 p.m. in the District Office Training Room.

Attendees

David Boyer	Sherry Kropp	Andrew Pulver	Nancy Nien
Chris Vlasic	Amy Belsha	Nathan Loesch	Kiva Spiratos
Erin Kominsky	C. J. Knowland	Cathie Severin	Gary Willems
Brett Lorber	Kathy Morelli	Cheryl O'Neil	Cara Vienna
Megan Avalos	John Spiratos	Theresa Blankenstein	Danny Salas
Kelli Boyles	Tamara Smith	Shelley Riekenberg	David Sacks
Evelyn Garcia	Wendy Wood	Nicole Moya	Tanya Doby
Ondrea Reed	Darielle Tom	Amy Laughlin	Susie Kim
Shoshana Dornblaser	Stephanie Wyatt		

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Kropp welcomed the committee and introduced Dr. Andrew Pulver who has been selected as the next Superintendent. Dr. Pulver also welcomed the committee.

Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee

Dr. Nien reported that the first Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee meeting took place on March 5. The committee members are:

- Parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the District – Chad Stuart
- Parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the District and active in a parent-teacher organization – Janet Murphy
- Active in a business organization representing a business located in the District – Trini Jimenez
- Senior citizens' organization – Marilyn Poe
- Bona-fide taxpayer association – Jeff Barke
- Community at large – Craig Cartozian, Keith Crafton, Alexandra Ito, Brett Lorber, Michael Brady Metcalfe, Lorraine Navarro

Janet Murphy was appointed as the initial chair by Dr. Kropp. Dr. Brett Lorber was nominated and elected as vice chair. The committee members drew lots to determine the length of their terms. Five members will serve one-year terms and six members will serve for two years. Once terms expire, former members may reapply along with other interested individuals. Staggered term lengths provide continuity from year to year with only half the members leaving the committee at one time. David Casnocha from Stradling, Yocca, Carlson & Rauth provided

training for the committee regarding the committee's function and responsibilities. The next meeting is scheduled for May 9, 2019 when a representative from the Orange County Taxpayer Association will be present to provide additional training for the committee.

Dr. Kropp added that going forward the committee will elect its own chair. Applicants were interviewed and, due to the large number of interested community members, the committee was expanded to 11 members.

Bonds Rating and Sale

Dr. Kropp and Dr. Nien met with representatives from Standard and Poors resulting in an increase in the District's long term credit rating from AA to AA+ which is the second highest designation of credit worthiness. They also met with Moody's who affirmed the District's Aa1 rating which is Moody's second highest designation of credit worthiness. The first bond sale of \$50 million will take place on April 16 and the proceeds should be received in May. The improved credit rating will reduce the cost of borrowing and result in taxpayer savings. Board member Dave Boyer added that current market conditions are favorable and interest rates should remain low.

Facilities Projects Update

Dr. Nien reviewed the current projects and the associated costs:

- LAHS Infrastructure – in process
- LAHS Multistory Building – design complete
- LAHS Aquatic Center - preconstruction
- LAHS Second Gym - This is still a concept which will be going out to architects shortly.
- LAHS Scoreboards (3) – This project has immediate results that the students and community will appreciate.
- Additional Restrooms at LAE, Hopkinson and LAHS – The architects are currently determining the ideal locations at each site.
- Replacement of Preschool/Kindergarten Playgrounds – Rossmoor and Weaver are the next projects that will go out to bid.

Dr. Kropp reminded the committee that this project list doesn't include projects such as the Performing Arts Center which could be funded through grants and/or matching funds. This type of funding takes more time to come through. In the past, the District received \$30 million in State matching funds. The District has applied for \$10 million in matching funds and is in the process of applying for an additional \$10 million. These applications can be submitted as projects are finished.

C.J. Knowland provided an update of current Facilities projects. The High School Master Site Plan shows a separation between the academic and athletic portions of the campus. Separate entrances for each area provide additional security. The design phase of the multistory building was completed several weeks ago and the District is currently working with the contractors on the logistics details. The new building will consist of 83,200 square feet and include 14 new science classrooms, 13 new general education classrooms and Career Technical Education (CTE) Classrooms/Spaces. A total of 26 portable classrooms will be removed from campus. The District has applied for two CTE grant. The Computer Science grant has been approved and the Sports Medicine grant has been appealed after making some revisions to the application.

The pool was bid out about last month and last week a pre-construction meeting was held with the contractor. District expectations and standards were set. The project involves substantial soil

modification and the goal is to get all the soil remediation completed during the summer to minimize the impact to the campus. The project is scheduled to begin on April 29 and should take about 12 months to complete.

The new gym will provide the face of the athletics portion of the campus. The scoreboards will be installed over the next few months beginning with the baseball scoreboard, followed by softball and track/football.

The replacement playground at Lee Elementary is nearly finished and the District recently received DSA approval for the playgrounds at Rossmoor and Weaver.

Dr. Nien reviewed the District's Revenues and Cash Flow. The initial bond sale will bring in \$37.5 million from Measure G and \$12.5 million from Measure K. Additional Measure G bond sales are planned for June 2022 (\$24.25 million), June 2024 (\$24.25 million) and June 2026 (\$11 million). The sales are spaced out as 85% of the funds must be spent within three years of receipt. Other sources of funds include Developer Fees (approximately \$100,000 per year) and state matching funds. Last year the District received \$4.9 million in state matching funds for the Oak and Weaver projects that were completed five or six years ago. The Special Reserve for Capital Outlay, to which the Board has committed \$2 million per year, will fund ongoing maintenance and improvements so that the District will not have to go out for bonds in the future. Each year the District will go back to a site that has already been modernized and make any needed upgrades. This has already been completed at McGaugh. McAuliffe is underway and Los Alamitos Elementary is next to be updated.

School Accountability - California Dashboard

Ondrea Reed shared information on tools for understanding school performance. From 1999 through 2016 the California Department of Education released the Academic Performance Index (API) which was scaled score between 500-1000 that ranked schools on a number continuum between 1-10. The ranking was based on performance on the California Standardized Test (CST). In 2013 the CST was eliminated and the State replaced the API with the California Dashboard which is an online tool that is updated every December showing how districts are performing based on new indicators. This tool gives parents access to a school's academic performance as well as other information such as attendance, suspension rates, English Learner progress, graduation rates and college/career readiness. It compares school districts based on their own growth or decline. The California Dashboard can be accessed at www.caschooldashboard.org.

Summer Learning Opportunities

Ondrea outlined the Summer Learning opportunities available to students:

- Summer Academy – Provides continued instruction and application of grade level skills in prescriptive reading and writing and math intervention for kindergarten to 4th grade.
- Middle School Summer Bridge – Provides opportunities for incoming middle school students to bridge to the curriculum and standards of the next grade level.
- Los Alamitos High School – A Biology, Algebra I and Humanities bridge for 8th graders coming into high school is available as well as Bridge to Advanced Placement and Credit Recovery courses.
- LAEF – Summer Enrichment Institute which offers at grade level and above enrichment courses serving students Pre-K through 12th grade.

Closing Remarks

Dr. Kropp shared that Ondrea Reed was chosen the District Administrator of the Year and also the ACSA Administrator of the Year. Dr. Nien thanked everyone for attending and offered to answer questions.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the District Office Training Room