



Community Transmittal

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Dear Lompoc Community,

LUSD in the News

<https://www.ksby.com/news/local-news/central-coast-schools-struggling-to-find-substitute-teachers>

Reopening Schools

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-04-06/newsom-expects-k-12-schools-to-be-open-full-time-in-fall>

CalMatters: For moms, back to school is not back to normal

School grounds are filling up at recess again as more students ditch virtual learning and return to brick-and-mortar classrooms. But for the many mothers who had to cut back on work during the pandemic as kids stayed home, back to school has not meant back to normal. From sidelined businesses and lost income to night shifts and delayed health care, moms have paid a higher price during the pandemic. Among working mothers who lived with a partner, 45.3 percent were providing all the care for kids at home, up from 33 percent before the pandemic, according to a USC study that analyzed survey responses last fall from 3,100 couples in the U.S. Just 8.7 percent of dads were the primary caregivers both before and during the pandemic, the study found.

Thousands of parents are still waiting for California schools to reopen safely. Despite Gov. Gavin Newsom's plan to provide \$6.6 billion in funding to help schools with the task, most plan to reopen only partly for the months until summer. For many mothers, having a few days of in-school classes without care before or after class isn't enough to bring back normalcy. California last week enacted supplemental paid sick leave for up to two weeks, which will be retroactive. But for many moms, recovering lost income and getting their careers back on track are the priority — and even partial school reopenings help.

The New York Times: Online schools are here to stay, even after the pandemic

A year after the coronavirus set off a seismic disruption in public education, some of the remote programs that districts intended to be temporary are poised to outlast the pandemic. Even as students' flock back to classrooms, a subset of families who have come to prefer online learning are pushing to keep it going — and school systems are rushing to accommodate them. The districts are racing to set up full-fledged online schools even as concerns mount that remote learning has taken a substantial toll on many children's academic progress and emotional health. Parents and lawmakers, alarmed by the situation, have urged schools to reopen. Last month, Gov. Phil Murphy, a Democrat, went so far as to say there should be no remote learning option for children in New Jersey this fall.

Even so, at least several hundred of the nation's 13,000 school districts have established virtual schools this academic year, with an eye to operating them for years to come, education researchers said. Unlike many makeshift pandemic school programs, these stand-alone virtual schools have their own teachers, who work only with remote students and use curriculums designed for online learning. Yet a surge of online schools comes with risks. It could normalize remote learning approaches that have had poor results for many students, education researchers said. It could also further divide a fragile national education system, especially when many Asian, Black and Latino families have been wary of sending their children back to school this year.

EdSource: Many English learners reluctant to return to in-person instruction at California schools

Students who are learning English as a second language have priority to return to in-person class at some school districts in California, but many are still staying home because their parents fear the risk of COVID-19 infection is too high. For English learners, live instruction and small groups can offer more opportunities to practice English, a critical part of learning the language. Teachers have tried to maintain the additional communication that English learners most often benefit from — speaking and interacting with peers and teachers — in order to help them learn to speak, read and write fluently. But it remains a difficult task to virtually recreate the level of support that English learners need as they learn a new language.

To help support English learners, the state named them one of the groups of students' school districts must prioritize for in-person learning. They also included students who are homeless, in foster care or who have been chronically absent from online class. In some districts, English learners are among the only students in middle and high school allowed to return to school. In others, English learners were able to come to school for supervised distance learning from a classroom before many other students returned to school. Still, many families contacted by EdSource are choosing to keep their students at home for the remainder of the school year because they fear infection, even as they gain access to vaccines that protect against COVID-19 infections.

STATE NEWS

Newsom doubles down on call to reopen schools in the fall

Gov. Gavin Newsom has called on schools to reopen for full-time in-person instruction in the fall, though it remains unclear whether the state will require it. "We must prepare now for full in-person instruction come this next school year. That's foundational, and that's principal," Newsom said during a tour of Santa Rosa's **Sheppard Elementary School**. He said he is working with the Legislature to formalize what districts will be required to do in the fall, since the trailer bill that accompanied the 2020-21 budget included a provision for distance learning. The trailer bill, which details budget and policy changes accompanying the budget, allows distance learning as an alternative to in-person instruction and will sunset at the end of the current school year. Newsom also urged districts to consider extending the school year and use the influx of one-time state and federal money to "extend learning opportunities, extend the school day, extend the school year."

EdSource. The Desert Sun. Bakersfield.com. San Francisco Chronicle

Superintendents Meeting

At this week's Superintendent Meeting we discussed vaccines and the number of vaccines administered in Santa Barbara County to date. We also discussed the changes to rules for student and staff testing. We reviewed which districts in SBC will be going back to full time in-person instruction and which districts will remain status quo. Additionally, we talked about SBC moving into the Orange Tier and what that means for schools and businesses.

Vaccines

We have approximately 900 staff members who have had at least one of their two doses of the vaccine, leaving a total of 200 staff members who have not yet had the vaccine. We continue to reach out those who need the vaccine when we are contacted by the local pharmacies that have remaining doses. LVMC and SBCEO are no longer scheduling first-dose appointments just for educators. So we will continue to work with our local pharmacies to assist staff in securing appointments, should they want the vaccine.

COVID Funding

LUSD will qualify for federal funding from the CRRSA-CARES Act from December 2020 as well as the recently signed state funding from AB 86. CRRSA will be \$8.2 million to support in-person learning, distance learning, structural school upgrades, and learning loss. AB 86 is portioned into \$3.1 million for in-person instruction and \$6.9 million for expanded learning opportunities. Unfortunately, for districts, AB 86 is not new funds as it is a reapportionment of funds from a June deferral. A plan for expanded learning opportunities will be presented to the board prior to June 1.

21st Century Classrooms – Using COVID Funds

I organized a meeting with Cabinet and representatives from Caldwell Flores Winter (CFW) to meet and hold an initial discussion about the recent federal ESSER II and ESSER III funds. As a reminder, CFW is the firm that previously conducted the facilities assessments and has identified costs and needs for each site. CFW is a multidisciplinary, integrated firm that serves the needs of school districts throughout California. In the K-12 education sector, their company is an innovator in the development of 21st century learning environments, with a focus on student achievement. At this time, LUSD and CFW held preliminary discussions on the facility assessments that would be allowable using ESSER funds in order to mitigate learning loss and have the highest impact on student learning. We are considering whether to spread the 21st century upgrades evenly throughout the schools or decide whether to fully upgrade a couple of schools (classrooms, libraries, labs) and use them as demonstration sites of what could be done with a future funding. Of course, we will need to identify how much of our one-time funds we will use toward this work. We believe this is a way to make a good investment for long term instructional value and really enhance the learning environment for our students.

Elementary Counselors

We have all heard about the social-emotional toll that the pandemic has had on our students, especially our youngest students. Even before the pandemic we had a need for social-emotional support that was greater than what our contracted FSA counselors could meet. The Board has also expressed concerns for our students' mental health and providing them support. Based on all these factors, we are hiring elementary counselors to be able to provide support for our students. After asking elementary principals about how they would best like to support their campuses, we have

decided to have one counselor at each elementary. Providing our students with the skills to handle adversity will not just benefit them while at school, but for the rest of their lives.

Orenda Action Plan

We have been working with Orenda to methodically unpack the results of their equity study and what we can do to learn from the results and improve for the betterment of our students. We do not want to present the results without a plan for moving forward. We believe that results, without an action plan, can be frustrating or even make staff feel overwhelmed because they don't know what to do next. We will soon be presenting our results with corresponding action steps to you. We have asked that Orenda also ensure that any professional development that is provided is in alignment with our four-year PLC plan. One of their key findings is around the need for teachers to use data and collaborate around how to use it to inform their instruction.

Legal Trainings

This week we attended trainings to learn more about the "Beyond the Blueprint" and the Governor's plan for June 15 and beyond. The plan will remove the tiered system in California and all business sectors would be allowed to reopen. Masking would still be required and remote work encouraged whenever possible. In addition, for in-person events proof of vaccination or testing may be required.

Ethic Studies Curriculum Update

There is currently no statewide or local mandate for teaching ethnic studies, although a model curriculum has been approved by California Department of Education. There is a state legislature bill that would create a graduation requirement in ethnic studies that may take effect in 2030, requiring courses in ethnic studies by 2025-2026; however, this is a proposal by CDE. LUSD administrators will be reviewing the curriculum and working closely with all stakeholders before adopting any new materials for programming at all levels.

Distance Learning for 2021-2022

Based on the Governor's guidance and recommendation that all schools reopen in a more traditional school day next year, we are working to develop options for families. We will have in-person schooling, but also want to offer Distance Learning to those families who may be interested next year. We have sent a survey to families to see how many would prefer Distance Learning for school year 2021-2022. We are also looking for locations for the Distance Learning teachers to be housed, should this seem to something that some of our families prefer. This would be a great way for us to retain students and keep our ADA more stable. We will continue to keep you posted.

Interviews

During Spring Break, we held interviews for Literacy Specialists, Special Education, and Spanish teachers. This week, we held interviews for an Art teacher, Elementary Teachers, Speech, Nurses and Counselors. After the most recent rounds of interviews, the positions we have remaining are Elementary, Mild/Mod Special Education and Adaptive PE.

TSP Update

Type of Coaching This Week	Total Number of Occurrences by End of Week
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New Hire/Teacher Contact: Zoom Class Visits and/or One on One Coaching Sessions	67 out of 68 teachers (1 out ill)
Staff Meetings/PLC	10 district or site meetings attended
Professional Development:	11 different PDs were attended this week.

First 5 CA

First 5 CA has allocated funds to hold a special book distribution to Lompoc Unified for TK/K English, Spanish-speaking, and Dual Language children. All LUSD Elementary sites will be distributing a small bundle of three to five books for each family at their upcoming Kinder registration events. The bundles will include hard books, board books, toddler/preschool books and bilingual books as well. We are grateful for our partnership with First 5 and supporting early learning.

Lower Elementary SDC Classes

With TK, K, and 1st grade, LUSD also began in-person instruction for lower elementary SDC classes across the District (K-2, K-3, or K-4 Special Day Classes for students with Mild/Moderate or Moderate/Severe disabilities and K-6 GROW). Classes at Crestview, Fillmore, Hapgood, La Cañada, La Honda, Los Berros, and Clarence Ruth began a transition period to accustom students to the new safety procedures at school. The Transportation Department has been very flexible in scheduling these students into cohorts and flexible days of classes.

LUSD Community Collaboration

On Tuesday, March 9 the Pupil Support Services Department met with local community organizations to discuss student health and well-being, as well as provide updates regarding distance learning and re-opening of in-person learning. The representative from LVMC could not attend as the hospital is busy with implementing the vaccines. The community agencies expressed thanks for the efforts of the district in returning students to school. Updates were provided regarding the reopening plan, school athletics, vaccines, and testing of students and staff.

Attendance

The SARB board met with 14 students this week due to excessive absences. The commonality in each of the cases was that most of the student's attendance had improved since they returned to in-person learning. Six schools were supported in the SARB hearings with services such as FSA, Behavior Wellness, and many additional school interventions to the students and families.

CTE

The Carl Perkins Grant is currently being worked on which supports some of our CTE programs and teachers. This grant is due May 14. The CTEIG Grant RFA has also just been released which will be due June 2 and this too supports our CTE pathways and teachers.

Safety

A safety meeting was held this week with all site administrators. Topics discussed included:

- Emergency drills
- Adding emergency shut off procedures to the safety plan

- Adding emergency contact information to the safety plan
- The need to do a possible relaunch of the StopIt App
- Trying to link the new PBIS referral forms currently being created to Q (our data management system)
- A new idea came up about posting a map of the school at the entrances at each school for law enforcement and/or fire in case of an emergency to assist them in locating certain buildings.

Pupil Support Services/ Special Education

Both departments held a meeting with all secondary co-administrators to give them time to collaborate and discuss topics in common to them all. Topics included IEPs, substitutes, attendance codes, and some discipline incidents.

LCAP Update

The Parent Advisory Committee met on Monday, April 12 to discuss the Expanded Learning Opportunities grant plan and to review the results of the LCAP survey. The presentation can be viewed on the LUSD website under Parent Advisory Committee:

<https://www.lusd.org/departments/curriculumandinstruction>

A review of the LCAP survey results will be provided to the School Board at the April 20, 2021 meeting.

Expanded Learning Opportunities Grant

LUSD is working on the Expanded Learning Opportunities grant plan as directed by AB 86 and will provide LUSD with funds to supplement instruction and support students. LUSD will expand learning opportunities through summer programming and accelerate progress to close learning gaps. Examples of what will be included in the plan include: Tutoring, learning recovery programs and materials, training for staff and paraeducators, mental health supports and services, family resources, support for credit deficient students, and additional academic and social-emotional learning services. A draft has been reviewed with the Parent Advisory Committee and a brief survey will be shared with stakeholders next week for additional input. The plan will be brought forward to the School Board for approval prior to June 1, 2021.

Super Saturday Sports

Together with the Boys and Girls Club, Lompoc Unified School District intends to offer Super Saturday Sports and Fitness Programs at Fillmore, La Honda and Hapgood from June 5 - August 14. Through this program, high school athletes will have an opportunity for temporary summer employment and elementary school students will have a chance to spend a few hours on Saturdays staying safe, social and physically active. Providing students with a positive group to interact with and be physically active will hopefully be one more step in combatting gang violence in our community. Please see attached flyers. ATTACHMENTS #1 and #2

New Technology

In the last three weeks, the District received 150 Poly audio/video bars, and 310 interactive 75" TV's on carts. Each pallet of four TV's weight 500 pounds, and each pallet of 10 – 11 carts weighed 900 – 1000 pounds. IT staff worked very diligently to get the new tech delivered to sites. IT staff are already experimenting with and learning the fantastic capabilities these items give for

hybrid and in-person instruction. IT staff is working to get all 310 TV's fitted with Wi-Fi access cards to ensure the TV's have their maximum capabilities. Calling these devices TV's doesn't give the full picture of their capabilities. In reality, they are 75" Android-based tablet computers. They can download apps, have internal memory and processors, and can run Zoom meetings, YouTube live streams, cloud based apps, etc. independent of a connected computer.

iPads

The arrival of all of the new technology pushed the iPads to the back burner. The TV's, racks, and Poly's could be kept in the warehouse, so their delivery became top priority. However, iPads are back on the docket, and we will be trying to get them out to all sites for first and second grade in the next week.

Chromebooks

More than 1,000 new Chromebooks have arrived in the warehouse this week. IT staff will be setting these up and distributing them to sites next week. These are our first new Chromebooks since June, as they have been on a national backorder for eight months. These arrived just in time to be of assistance with our more limited, but still required state testing regime.

Hotspot Exchange

We are still working with Verizon to swap out the hotspots, but new hotspots have not yet arrived. We will make a concerted effort to exchange the hotspots once they are provided by Verizon. The plan is to use Parent Square and sites to communicate with families who wish to exchange their hotspots.

New Phone System

The new phone system is officially complete, closed by both AMS Inc., and LUSD. It was a long, sometimes difficult process, but it is complete. Our phone system is far more stable, and had vendor support to ensure that any issues, hardware, or software related are covered.

M&O Update

We have one open position in the maintenance area and one open due to a worker working out of class. We also are in the process of recruiting for our turf and pest control position.

The Maintenance Direct online work order system lists a total of 494 open work orders. Our maintenance team is busy taking care of the many work orders put out to reopen for in-person instruction. Our custodial teams have made final adjustments and are supporting teachers with students back in the classroom. Among a variety of issues, here are some of the problems our M&O team have been solving:

- Multiple key and lock issues - District-wide
- HVAC issues - District-wide
- The maintenance crew is constructing bleachers for the LHS softball field (see attached pictures)
- HS grounds crews are maintaining sports fields now that sports have returned

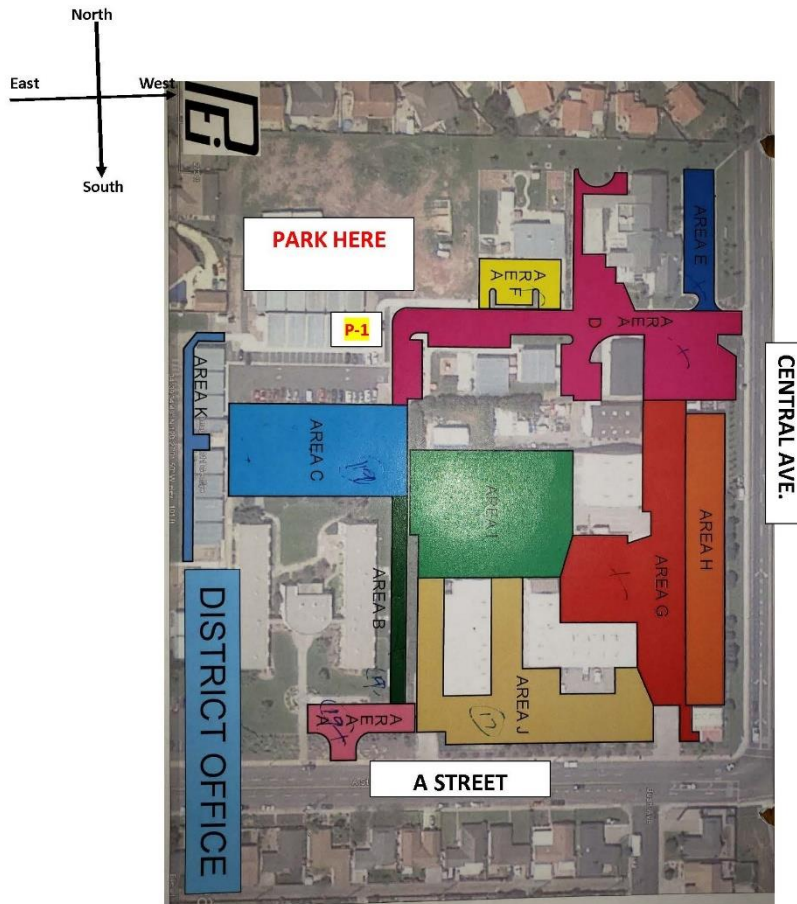
Construction

- Furnace, boiler, and pool heater replacement projects at LHS and CHS - LHS will wrap up this week
- Irrigation Smart-Controller installations - complete and are awaiting IP addresses
- CHS solar array has mobilized and started. Solar panels have been installed and now they will need to wire everything together.
- Ed Center complex asphalt project continues. Asphalt striping was completed on Friday, and the parking lots to the West and East of the Ed Center will be accessible on Monday for staff parking (areas A, B & C designed in map below). Following that, our crew plans to begin demo and concrete work around the Central Services buildings the first week of May. See photos below.
- El Camino licensed server and installation of seven security cameras will roll out next week
- The IEEEEP portable classroom move has been approved and is awaiting DSA approval









Reporting

This time of year the Payroll Department is running many reports for outside agencies, such as the SIA Salary Report, the Government Compensation Report, Transparent California, and J-90 to name a few. We are very grateful for the assistance of the Santa Barbara County Office of Education.

Open Enrollment

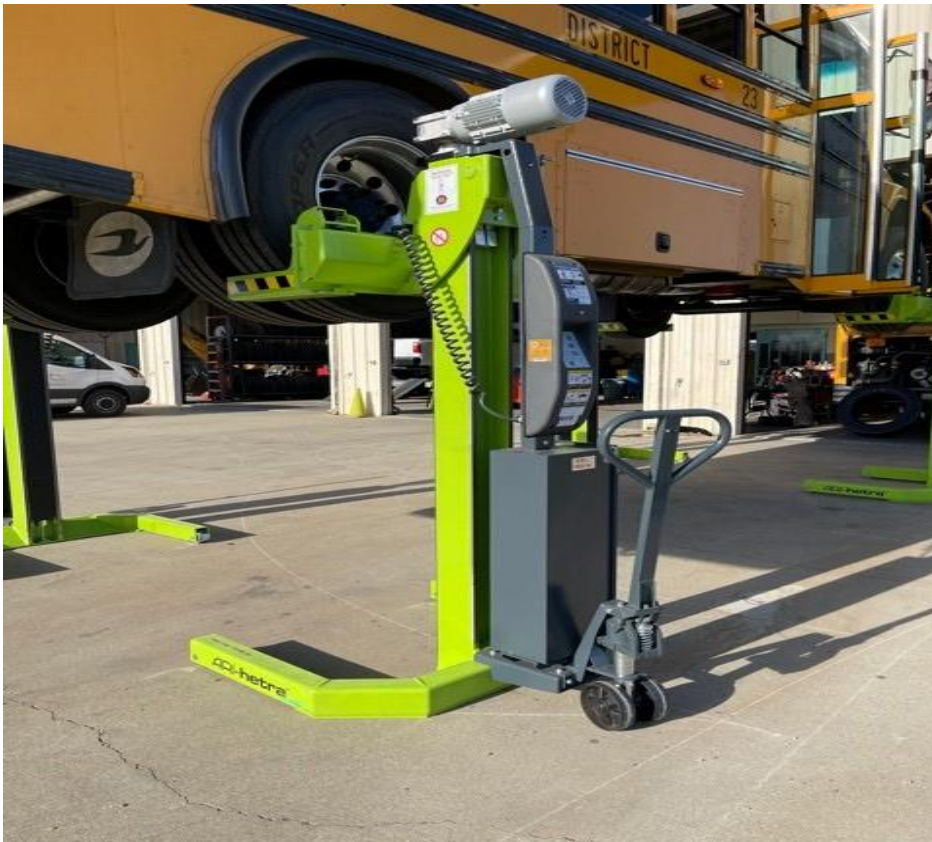
Next, Payroll will begin preparation for open enrollment for employee benefits.

Lift Demo

The Transportation Department was able to use this lift free of charge for one week. The lift can accommodate any and every piece of LUSD-owned equipment. See photos below

CHP Inspection

Transportation completed a CHP inspection of our 16 buses and all passed with flying colors!



Thank you for your support.

Trevor McDonald
Superintendent of Schools