

# Western Placer Unified School District

Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees

**January 12, 2022**

Lincoln High School – Performing Arts Theater

790 J Street, Lincoln, CA 95648

## MINUTES

**2021-2022 Goals & Objectives (G & O) for the Management Team:** Component I: Quality Student Performance; Component II: Curriculum Themes; Component III: Special Student Services; Component IV: Staff & Community Relations; Component V: Facilities/Administration/Budget.

All Open Session Agenda related documents are available to the public for viewing at the Western Placer Unified School District Office located at 600 Sixth Street, Fourth Floor in Lincoln, CA 95648.

### **Board Members Present:**

Damian Armitage, President

Jason Price, Vice President

Criste Freymond, Clerk

April Nitsos, Member

Kris Wyatt, Member

### **Others Present:**

Kerry Callahan, Superintendent

Scott Pickett, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services

Audrey Kilpatrick, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations

Cliff De Graw, Assistant Superintendent of Personnel Services

Maria Gonzalez, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

Emma Oehler, Communications Coordinator

Due to the Governor's recent universal mask mandate, **masks are required for all individuals in all public settings, regardless of vaccination status from December 15, 2021 through February 15, 2022.** Therefore, **masks will be required by all** in order to enter the School Board Meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** Should this Board Meeting encounter any security breach or inappropriate issues, the meeting will be ended immediately.

### **5:00 P.M. START**

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Lincoln High School – Performing Arts Theater

2. **◆ ACTION ◆ DISCUSSION ◆ INFORMATION**

2.1 Action **Page 5 – RESOLUTION #21/22.14 AUTHORIZING USE OF REMOTE TELECONFERENCING PROVISIONS (AB 361) – Callahan (21-22 G & O Component I, II, III, IV, V)**

Kerry Callahan stated that due to the recent surge in the Omicron virus in Placer County and after meeting with the County Health Officials, who reissued their health warning and recommended to all of the school districts, if at all possible to hold all meetings virtually. She met with

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President Armitage about the possibility of having a resolution signed so that it would allow for the board at any point, if they decide to, to switch to a virtual meeting for the Board Meetings. It does not require the board to go virtual now, it just allows the board to shift at any point to a virtual meeting per AB361 if they choose too due to health and safety reasons. It would require that the board re-evaluate every thirty days if there is a need. Since we have returned back from winter break we saw 215 cases last week of COVID, and we have 175 to date this week. We have a lot of staff out and have had to close classrooms at the elementary level

Damian Armitage wanted to clarify that our next meeting is still in person. Mrs. Callahan stated, yes and restated that approving the resolution does not mean we have to go virtual, it just allows the board to decide if at any time they need to go virtual due to health and safety reasons.

Members of the public, community members, teachers, students and parents shared in person verbal comments and concerns including the following: they like the passion that people have at the meetings and worried that if meetings go virtual they will not return to back in person meeting. A request to have the resolution read. Would like to see the meeting remain in person due to the emotions and the response they get in person. One person stated how they could not find anyone in Placer County to say one bad thing about Board Member Kris Wyatt. Offered gratitude to Mrs. Wyatt and everything she does and believes she will do the right thing. Please keep board meetings in person. Some hybrid meetings are difficult, you have to request access and it may not work. Request that the Oath of Office be read at every meeting and need to get a constitutional attorney. Parents have been uncomfortable with their children, time for Board Members to be uncomfortable as well. Parents need to be heard in person. Parents would rather come to a meeting and be seen. Some found this move suspect and feel like they are removing their ability to come forward. Appreciate parent involvement. Some do not have good internet and wouldn't be able to be part of the meeting. Vote against going virtual. Their should be an option for in person and virtual. It's the right of the people to be heard. No reason to cancel in person, you can wear a mask or use plexi-glass. No forced mask and no more voter fraud. Kids attend school, the they can attend board meetings. There is a need to return to normalcy, enough is enough and teachers need to teach. The following spoke during the meeting: Marc Moran, Ray Leftwich, Marjorie Proffitt, Gus Murphy, Susan Martineau. Brian Hutchinson, Jeffrey Perrine, Colleen Mizzi, Keith Harwood, Kevin Aube, Hillary Chavis, Jolene Schaaphok.

Criste Freymond feels it is very important to have in person meetings because there are very passionate people here and she doesn't want them to feel like they don't have a voice because every parent in our district should have a voice. If it is the board's direction to go virtual, then she would like to be here in person and have a hybrid option.

April Nitsos agrees with what Criste said and she appreciates the proud boy for a much kinder presentation today showing that we can unite for a common cause. We have to stick together. She supports a hybrid format.

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Jason Price stated that he was under the impression that we would still be able to see each other in the virtual. He was under the impression that the impetus for this was to do our part in helping clear these spikes. The disease is a disease and the virus is a virus and these quarantines are affecting staffing and that is his challenge. His understanding is that we are just trying to avoid these high numbers of quarantines. This is not an attempt to silence anyone. He has watched others shout at others who do not agree with them and he has been shouted at as well. This would give others the opportunity to attend the meetings. His chief concern right now is staffing levels and keeping everyone safe and healthy. This would allow for an option of moving to virtual if needed.

Kris Wyatt – Her biggest concern is that she wants them to have a voice, not to close down the meeting. We can use this down the road if needed. She is in agreement with going virtual and also being able to be in person. There are people that do not want to come to these meetings and this would give them an option to attend.

Damian Armitage – he has concerns that people in outlying areas may find it more difficult to access these meetings due to internet issues. There is the availability of using telephones but it still limits their access. He heard a lot of good reasons as to why they should keep the meetings in person and he agrees with a lot of those reasons. He is leaning towards not passing this. He stated, he does reserve the right to bring this back to the board if conditions get so much worse, we are closing schools and a lot more students are out.

Motion by Mr. Price, seconded by Mrs. Wyatt and did not pass by a 1-4 (*Ayes: Jason No: Nitsos, Wyatt, Freymond, Armitage*) roll call vote for Resolution 21/22.14 for Authorizing use of Remote Teleconferencing Provisions (AB361)

**3. COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC**

There was no communication from the public

**4. CLOSED SESSION – Lincoln High School – Room 24**

**4.1 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION -**

Legal counsel pursuant to government code section 54956.9- anticipated litigation regarding COVID-19

**5. ADJOURN TO OPEN SESSION – Lincoln High School – Performing Arts Theater**

The Board of Trustees will disclose any action taken in Closed Session regarding the following items:

**5.1 Page 11 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION -**

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Legal counsel pursuant to government code section 54956.9- anticipated litigation regarding COVID-19

No action taken

**6. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEXT MEETING(S)**

The President will establish the following meeting(s):

➤ **January 18, 2021** 6:30 P.M., Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees – Lincoln High School Performing Arts Theater, 790 J Street

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:39pm



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Damian Armitage, President



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Criste Freymond, Clerk



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Kerry Callahan, Superintendent



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Maria Gonzalez, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

**Adopted:** February 1, 2022

**Ayes:** Nitsos, Wyatt; Freymond, Armitage

**Noes:**

**Absent:** Price

**Accommodating Those Individuals with Special Needs:**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Western Placer Unified School District encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the public meeting process. If you have a special need in order to allow you to attend or participate in our public meetings, please contact the Office of the Superintendent, at (916) 645-6350 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting you wish to attend so that we may make every reasonable effort to accommodate you, including auxiliary aids or services.