

LAS VIRGENES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
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SUPERINTENDENT

**LAS VIRGENES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

January 12, 2023

Present: Ms. Lesli Stein, Board President
Ms. Linda Menges, Board Member
Dr. Dan Stepenosky, Superintendent
Dr. Ryan Gleason, Assistant Superintendent/CBO
Dr. Steve Scifres, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Ms. Kim Patterson, Director of Secondary Education
Ms. Brenda Cho, Director of Finance/Accounting
Dr. Stephanie McClay, Principal, Agoura High School
Mr. Garrett Lepisto, Assistant Principal, Agoura High School
Ms. Amy Aviv, Principal, Calabasas High School
Mr. Tyler Lee, Assistant Principal, Calabasas High School
Ms. Diane Hawe, Senior Accountant
Ms. Dawn Quevedo, Accounting Technician
Ms. Nanci Karas, Accounting Technician, Categorical Grants
Ms. Ali Lloyd, Permits Coordinator

The meeting came to order at 10:05 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves and Dr. Gleason shared the agenda with the committee.

Budget Update and Forecast:

Dr. Gleason shared that the consumer price index is continuing to fall and inflation is going in the right direction, slowing for the fifth consecutive month.

Dr. Gleason spoke about the Governor's Budget and Proposition 98 withdrawals. Dr. Gleason shared that forecasters expect inflation to moderate somewhat after 2022-2023. He also shared future COLA estimates for the next three years which are:

- 5.3 percent in 2024-25,
- 4.5 percent in 2025-26, and
- 4.2 percent in 2026-27.

Dr. Stepenosky asked if the COLA will drop if inflation drops and Dr. Gleason replied that it could.

Governor's Budget - Initial Read

Dr. Gleason shared findings from the initial read of the Governor's Budget. The COLA is the highest in history. Dr. Gleason also spoke about the LCFF Equity Multiplier which includes the \$300 million ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund to establish an equity multiplier as an add-on to the LCFF. Dr. Gleason noted that this is not very helpful to the District.

Dr. Gleason also shared updates in the areas of TK, Literacy, Math and Special Education, noting that there are adjustments to TK enrollment estimates of \$690 million in 2023-24 for estimated TK ADA expansion to serve children turning 5 from September 2 to April 2. He also shared that the budget suspends the \$550M in Facility investments until 2023-24.

Dr. Gleason shared there is \$1.5 billion one-time money for the Educator Effectiveness Block Grant and \$7.9 billion for the Learning Recovery Block Grant. The budget also has a \$50 million one-time for professional development for educators on learning acceleration in mathematics.

Dr. Gleason noted that in Special Education, prior investments will be held even and will be adjusted by the 8.13% COLA. Several programmatic changes are proposed that will be major topics of debate as they make their way through legislative deliberations. The budget also limits the amount of additional funding that Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPAs) are allowed to retain for non-direct student services before allocating special education base funding to their member LEAs.

Dr. Gleason shared that the budget includes \$600 Million for Counselor Residency Programs, \$125 Million for Classified Teacher Development Programs, and \$500 Million to attract teachers to high vacancy areas (SPED, Math, BCLAD, etc.).

Dr. Gleason went on to share that Proposition 28 was recently passed which includes \$1.2B for the Arts, Music and VAPA. He also shared that \$1.2B has been repealed from the Arts and Instructional Materials Block Grant. Dr. Gleason spoke about a new program which will provide \$200 per 12th grade student, for a total of \$100M that will provide high school seniors with access to cultural experiences such as museums and theatrical performances.

Dr. Gleason shared that Universal Meals will continue next year and he recognized the excellent work of the Child Nutrition team. Ms. Menges shared she was pleased that Universal Meals are continuing but expressed concern over having the information of what families qualify for free or reduced lunch. Dr. Gleason stated that the District will depend on the sites to have their families complete the applications. Also receiving continuing funding is the ELOP Grant, while funding for the State Facility Program will decrease by \$100M. Included in the budget is a \$15M Commercial Dishwasher Grant which will provide dishwashers for schools.

Initial Enrollment Projections

Dr. Gleason shared conservative projections for grades TK-5 and grades 6-12. Data is from the most recent census. Dr. Gleason stated that trends indicate a decline in enrollment but that the District will have strategies in place to increase that number. Dr. Stepenosky shared that 88% of school districts in California are experiencing a decline in enrollment.

Athletic Programs

Assistant Principal Lepisto spoke about the challenges of funding transportation for student-athletes. He also noted that the price of buses has increased as well as the price of gas. Assistant Principal Lee shared that they are also seeing a difference in fundraising between teams and want to make sure that all teams get the funding they need.

Dr. Gleason shared that the transportation funding that the District receives is based on what was received in 1979. He stated that a new bill would reimburse 60%. Ms. Stein asked if waivers need to be signed if parents drive their own students and Assistant Principal Lepisto stated that they do. Ms. Stein also said that all of transportation needs to be addressed, not just for athletics. Principal McClay stated that the sites need to consider what to do if parents are responsible for transporting their students and are unavailable and cannot travel with other families. The District, along with the sites, will continue to look for ways to improve transportation.

Dr. Scifres shared that both high schools have proposed making their Athletic Directors full-time. Assistant Principal Lepisto shared that their site has 80-100 coaches and currently, the Athletic Director is allocated just two sections to his athletic duties. He proposes allocating five sections and modeling what other districts who have full-time athletic directors do. Ms. Menges asked if new job descriptions would be required and Dr. Scifres said they would to memorialize increased duties. Dr. Scifres shared that having full-time Athletic Directors would provide more oversight of

coaches, provide academic and safety support. Ms. Stein asked when this would be implemented and Dr. Scifres and Dr. Gleason both stated that the change would happen in the fall. Ms. Patterson shared that research has shown a positive influence on students who participate in activities in high school. The committee approves moving forward with full-time Athletic Directors.

Finance and Accounting Updates

Ms. Cho shared that she and Dr. Gleason meet weekly to review the District's finances. She shared that their current focus areas are preparation for the Second Interim Budget and quarterly reports. Preparation for Second Interim includes the analysis & monitoring of spending, salary validations, and reviewing site allocation & budgets. Quarterly reporting includes federal stimulus funds, taxes and 1099 reportings.

COP's and Developer Fees

Dr. Gleason shared the history of COP's and Developer Fees, He shared that currently, the principal plus interest of the COP's is \$764,250.14. Dr. Gleason stated that the COP's were last refinanced in 2017 at a 3.18% interest rate. The maturity date is 11/1/2036 and the principal balance is \$8.8M. As of 11/10/22, there is \$8.4M in Developer Fee Fund 25. Dr. Gleason shared that he is currently working with Tim Carty and David Casnocha on the next steps for paying off the COP's.

Categorical Grant Updates

Dr. Gleason shared an update on categorical grants. He spoke about the Kitchen Infrastructure Grant which will be an approximate \$150K award to LVUSD and the Kitchen Equipment Assistance Grant which will be an approximate \$100k award to LVUSD. Dr. Gleason invited the committee to tour the Child Nutrition facilities.

Dr. Gleason spoke about the CTE Incentive Grant as well as Prop 56 which rejected the initial plans submitted for Covered 6. Those plans are currently being re-worked. Dr. Gleason shared that the Arts Instructional Materials Block Grant Plan will be brought before the Board at the January 31 meeting.

Measure S Updates

Dr. Gleason shared that the deadline to submit an application for the Citizens' Oversight Committee is Friday, January 13 and will need to be extended given that not enough applications were received.

Dr. Gleason also stated that a resolution entering the passage of Measure S will be brought to the Board at the January 17 meeting,

Transportation Plan

Dr. Gleason shared that a transportation plan will be brought before the Board in

February and noted that it is a contingency for 60% reimbursement.

Facility Use Fee Study

Dr. Gleason shared that a facility use fee study was conducted comparing District rates to those of neighboring districts. It looked at average facility use fees versus LVUSD fees. It was found that LVUSD charges significantly less for gyms and fields. This relates to more use and more expense for the District as more maintenance is required for these facilities.

Other Business

Dr. Gleason shared an update regarding current rental and lease agreements. Dr. Gleason also shared an update regarding *Growing Outdoors*, the company that the District has been working with for enrichment programs. They are currently meeting with elementary schools.

Dr. Gleason shared Child Nutrition data which shows the amount of meals that have been served the past few months. The meals have increased by almost 1,000 since August 2022.

The meeting came to a close at 12:20 p.m.