



Los Alamitos Unified School District

Operations Steering Committee
March 22, 2023

MEETING SUMMARY

Assistant Superintendent Elvia Galicia, called the Operations Steering Committee to order at 6:32 p.m. via Zoom teleconference.

Attendees

Diana Hill	Andrew Pulver	Elvia Galicia	Joe Fraser
Ryan Weiss-Wright	Jason Farvour	Evelyn Garcia	Laura Trotter
Wendy Wood	Mayra Gonzalez	Annie Ryu	Todd Schmidt
C.J. Knowland	Melissa Davis	Debbie Kaub	Shoshana Dornblaser
Darielle Tom	Wendy Hernandez	Cindie Hoefflin	David Sacks
Kathy Morelli	Tamara Smith	Kerri Pallone	Randy Hill
Ashley Davitt	Kyle Roddy	Emma Leach	Vicki Bragg
Stephanie Tellez	David Sacks	Jenny Wampler	Mitch Banales
Zac Benavidez	Ada Jaspers	Christina Wiitanen	Beth Pearson
Kim Baldwin	Matt Maya	Olaina Anderson	Michelle Anderson
Kristie Kuehnast	Amanda Armendariz	Carlos Pelayo	Doreen Gertjeansen

Welcome

Elvia Galicia welcomed the committee and Board of Education members Diana Hill and Scott Fayette. Superintendent Dr. Pulver also greeted the attendees and explained that a wide range of topics are presented to this committee and staff is open to suggestions for future topics. Ideas for future agenda items can be sent to Elvia Galicia.

Universal Transitional Kindergarten Update

Melissa Davis provided an update on Universal Transitional Kindergarten. Prior to the Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010, a 4-year-old could attend kindergarten provided they would be five years old by December 2 of that year. Beginning in 2012 children had to be five years old by September 1 to enroll in kindergarten. Transitional Kindergarten serves children whose birthdates fall between September 2 and December 2 who cannot attend kindergarten as a 4-year-old.

Assembly Bill 130 included a provision expanding Transitional Kindergarten to Universal Transitional Kindergarten (UTK). The age eligibility expands in two birth month increments over a period of four years resulting in eligibility for all 4-year-olds by the 2025-26 school year. This bill also requires that UTK programs operate with a teacher-student ratio of 1:12.

In addition to a multiple-subject teaching credential, UTK teachers will be required to have ECE or Child Development units and/or professional experience with preschool children beginning with the 2023-24 school year. UTK promotes play based activities that are connected to theme-based, integrated curriculum. The curriculum aligns with the Preschool Learning Foundations and the California Kindergarten Common Core Standards. Los Alamitos USD offers three

programs for 4-year-olds: California State Preschool, Child Development Center and Transitional Kindergarten.

Food Service

Annie Ryu, Food Service Director, provided an overview of the District's Food Service Program. Breakfast was added to the cafeteria offerings during the 2018-19 school year. In 2020-21 breakfast and lunch participation were nearly equal due to the fact that families picked up breakfast and lunch at the same time. Meal participation has been increasing as universal feeding continues, allowing all students to eat without charge.

Food Service is funded through federal and state funding, not from the District's General Fund. Nutrition programs receive meal reimbursements for meals served based on students' meal application statuses. Based on family income, students may qualify for free or reduced cost meals. Data from meal applications is also used for the District's Local Control Funding Formula which affects funding provided to the District. The Keep Kids Fed Act was created to address increased rates of food insecurity and supply chain breakdowns. It also increased breakfast and lunch reimbursements by \$0.15 and \$0.40 respectively. This increase in funding expires in June 2023. A small percentage of the Food Service budget comes from Entitlement dollars based on the previous school year's lunch participation.

The California Universal Free Meals program mandates free meals for all students regardless of a student's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals. This program covers breakfast and lunch with the California State Legislature allocating funds to cover the cost. Summer meals for students participating in a school day for purposes of classroom instruction fall under the Universal Free Meals legislation.

Annie shared a breakdown of the reimbursement rates for breakfast and lunch. Currently the State is covering the difference between the federal reimbursement and the full reimbursement amount. The Governor's budget committed \$1.4 billion in ongoing funding for the universal meals program.

Annie also gave an overview of the current nutrition standards. In order for a meal to be considered reimbursable the student must take a full entrée and a half cup of fruit and/or vegetables. Milk is offered at every meal, but not required for the meal to be reimbursable. Entrees are not sold a la carte because second entrees must follow "Competitive Foods" regulations which are stricter than the USDA meal pattern guidelines. Proposed USDA School Meal Standards would affect nutrition standards for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program and NSLP Afterschool Snacks with respect to added sugars, flavored milk, whole grains, sodium among others.

Facilities Projects

C.J. Knowland shared the latest District facilities updates. During Spring Break the 400, 500 and 600 portables will be removed from the high school campus. Some of these will be moved to the west side of campus to be used for maintenance storage. The interim housing will be removed this summer opening up for space in the quad area.

The 100 building at Los Alamitos High School is currently vacant and roofing repairs will start at the end of March or early April. The 150 building roof will be repaired and the roofs of the 300 and 400 buildings will be replaced this summer. Pilot classrooms have been staged for the high school classroom renovation project. These classrooms have finishes similar to the ones in the new multistory STEM building.

The LAHS Second Gymnasium project was submitted to the Division of the State Architect (DSA) for approval on December 9. Initial comments from DSA are anticipated in early April. The District interviewed a panel of four different contractors who will submit proposals in May 2023. Construction will start at the end of Summer 2023 and will take approximately 18 months to complete.

C.J. shared photos of the completed Well Space at Los Alamitos High School as well as a drawing of the layout of the outdoor garden. Construction of the outdoor garden has just begun. LAEF will assist with the landscaping and furniture for the garden.

The mailroom at Los Alamitos High School was recently renovated. The new mailroom occupies a space that previously housed two offices. Casework, cabinets and flooring match the new STEM building as well as the classrooms that are being renovated.

The Districtwide Solar Project is a power purchase lease agreement that will cut the District's energy costs for the next 30 years. There was no cost to the District to construct and install the solar panels. Construction of the solar arrays is substantially complete at all sites. There have been supply chain issues in securing the switchgear component for the high school, but it is expected to arrive this summer. The final connections which include a power shutdown are still needed at McGaugh, Lee, Los Alamitos Elementary, LAHS and the District Office. ADA parking and striping work at LAHS, McAuliffe, Oak and McGaugh were delayed due to inclement weather. This work will be completed during Spring Break, weather permitting.

Upcoming deferred maintenance projects include replacement of the McAuliffe roof and Hopkinson playground asphalt slurry, both of which are scheduled for Summer 2023. AB841 (CalShape) allows for reimbursements for upgrades to HVAC controls. These Pelican wireless thermostats control the outdoor air flow, monitor HVAC units for maintenance, detect classroom CO₂ levels and improve energy efficiency on the campuses. The remaining sites needing installation of these units are Rossmoor, Lee, Weaver and Hopkinson. These installations will start during the summer, but may continue into the next school year with work being done after hours. HVAC units will also be replaced on portable classrooms that are over 15 years old.

Closing Remarks

Elvia Galicia thanked the committee for attending encouraged everyone to send her any future topics of interest or any questions.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.