

LAS VIRGENES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

4111 LAS VIRGENES ROAD  
CALABASAS, CALIFORNIA 91302  
Telephone: (818) 880-4000  
Fax: (818) 880-4200  
www.lvusd.org



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LAS VIRGENES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PATHWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING

February 15, 2023

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Present: Ms. Lesli Stein, Board President  
Mr. Dallas Lawrence, Board Clerk  
Dr. Dan Stepenosky, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Ryan Gleason, Assistant Superintendent | Chief Business Officer  
Ms. Kim Patterson, Director of Secondary Education  
Ms. Jana Davenport, Director of Elementary Education  
Ms. Angie Falk, Director of Pupil Services  
Mr. Jim Klein, Chief Technology Officer  
Ms. Darci Miller, LVEA Representative  
Ms. Amy Aviv, Calabasas High School Principal

The meeting came to order at 1:02 pm.

**Student Achievement Data Update:**

Dr. Gleason, Ms. Patterson, and Ms. Davenport shared the focus areas that the Pathways Committee has been working on to date. These focus areas include instruction, attendance, and student mental health and wellness.

Staff shared an overview of student achievement, student attendance, and Special Education identification data. The data was presented along with plans for continuing to grow student achievement. Specifically:

- **Attendance:** Student attendance data reflects approximately a 20% chronic truancy rate district-wide. This reflects 1 in 5 LVUSD students being absent for more than 18 days of the school year and is likely a product of the post-COVID mindset of school. The committee discussed a need for a comprehensive approach that includes a deeper data dive, parent communications, family outreach, and ongoing training. Ms. Falk will be bringing a plan to an upcoming Safety/Wellness and Pathways Committee meeting.
- **CAASPP Participation:** CAASPP Participation data reflects that students in higher-level ELA and Math courses are disproportionately opting out of the exam. This is likely having a significant impact on overall achievement results. The committee discussed an information campaign being launched regarding the importance of participation and the correlation between the district's rating and college acceptances. Ms. Aviv shared that this campaign has already begun at CHS with staff, students, and parents.

- **Special Education Identification:** Ms. Falk presented an overview of the Special Education and 504 assessment data. The data reflects a sharp increase in assessments and identification of students. Her staff will continue to work closely with Educational Services staff to develop systems of intervention prior to these assessments.
- **English Language Arts (ELA):** Ms. Patterson, Ms. Davenport, and Mr. Klein shared an overview of ELA data based on the 2022 CAASPP assessment. The data reflects a “Middle School Slide” that is evident post-COVID. Staff noted that strong investments in TK-5 ELA are reflected in the data. That said, there is a need to focus on writing across the curriculum, disciplinary literacy, and communicating reasoning. Ms. Patterson and Ms. Davenport shared a need for deeper professional development in these areas as curriculum adoption committees are assembled.
- **Mathematics:** Ms. Patterson, Ms. Davenport, and Mr. Klein shared student achievement data relating to math. The data reflects a decline in students meeting or exceeding standards from grades 3 to grade 12. Staff discussed a range of reasons for this:
  - **Curriculum:** The existing curriculum does not have high marks from independent analysts for being standards-aligned, especially in grades 6-12. An adoption committee is being formed in TK-12 to review existing curricula and identify a recommendation for the Board in the 23-24 SY.
  - **Assessments:** Ms. Davenport and Ms. Patterson shared a desire to use standards-aligned assessments provided by CAASPP quarterly in place of RENSTAR. Currently, elementary schools use RenStar to identify students needing intervention.
  - **Professional Development:** This spring, three full days of professional development will be provided for secondary math teachers in the areas of the California math standards and math practices.
  - **Sequencing:** High school course sequencing is being revised by Ms. Patterson and the secondary leadership team. The sequencing involves consolidated and clearer pathways for students to progress through mathematics. These courses will be brought for formal adoption to the Curriculum Council and the Board of Education thereafter.

### **Production Engineering Academy:**

Dr. Gleason and Ms. Aviv shared an update on the Production Engineering Academy.

Specifically:

- Plans are to launch the Academy at Calabasas High School next year.
- The Performing Arts and Education Center will be integral in this program that brings together theater, production engineering, broadcasting, and costuming/make-up trades. The program will continue to be supported by the CTE Incentive Grant.
- Plans for courses, curriculum, facilities, and pathways will be brought to the March Pathways Committee meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 pm.