

LAS VIRGENES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**LAS VIRGENES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
PATHWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING
March 15, 2023**

Present: Ms. Lesli Stein, Board President
Mr. Dallas Lawrence, Board Clerk Via Teleconference
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. Amy Aviv, Calabasas High School Principal
Ms. Courtney Peoples, DEI TOSA
Mr. Bill Garrett, Theater Teacher
Ms. Adrian Noack, Theater Production Manager, PAECs

The meeting came to order at 1:05 pm.

Student Achievement Data:

Staff shared an overview of student achievement data by population subgroups, emerging growth areas and the need for better assessment protocols for supporting staff and students in a timely and effective manner to improve student achievement. The data consisted of any student with a D or F in ELA or math and illustrated subgroups are not graduating with A-G requirements to the degree that our overall students are. The following data points were reviewed:

- **D/F Lists**
- **Demographics**
- **Graduation rates**
- **Median Years in District**
- **Absenteeism Pre and Post COVID**
- **Absenteeism vs. GPA**

Ms. Patterson shared the Educational Services' plans and focus areas to improve this data which includes utilizing Ms. Courtney Peoples in her role as DEI TOSA, continuing her partnership with sites to provide support to elementary and implementing the following initiatives at secondary sites:

1. Data: Analyzing to determine when achievement lapses, looking more closely at the subgroups who are spending a shorter time enrolled in the District, and gaining more understanding on parents' beliefs and their point of view of what is happening.
2. Systems and Processes: Monitoring A-G progress for student subgroups, training staff on how to use data, alignment of curriculum adoptions and pilots to data findings and coaching principals to support strategies at the site level.
3. Student and Parent Voice: Ms. Peoples provided an update to the Committee on the plans to facilitate focus groups and 1:1 interviews to understand issues, obstacles and challenges, and to identify areas of opportunity for greater inclusion and support.

Staff highlighted the impactful work that Ms. Peoples has facilitated this year and commended her on the difficult and sensitive conversations she has been successfully mediating with our stakeholders.

Educational services will work closely with Ms. Falk and the Pupil Services team to best support students with special services.

Staff will continue to update the Pathways Committee on the following continuing efforts: reviewing qualitative and quantitative data with the administrative teams to inform DEI initiatives, formulating future LCAP planning with an emphasis toward improving student outcomes and closing equity gaps, working with school site administrative teams to incorporate equity focused goals into their School Plans for Student Achievement (SPSAs) and continuing to work at the elementary level on culturally-sensitive pedagogy and appreciation of diversity.

Ms. Davenport shared that building elementary capacity around mastery based teaching and learning will also be an important element tied to our mastery based grading and improving our student outcomes.

Production Engineering Academy:

Dr. Gleason and Ms. Aviv shared an update on the Production Engineering Academy. The official name for this pathway is to be determined. Specifically:

- Principal Aviv, Adrian Noack, and Bill Garrett have been working together to reimagine how Calabasas High School could be a vibrant visual and performing arts academy that has elements of production and leans in to LVUSD's award-winning theater programs, and can build back some of the courses that have been lost in this A-G area, such as costuming and make-up.
- The goal is to attract enrollment and sustain our CTE incentive grant funding structure.
- The ask is to potentially take the CPAEC offline for rentals and have it be utilized for students only.

Principal Aviv shared an update to the Committee on their efforts to incorporate the Arts, Media and Entertainment Academy, the existing arts (instrumental, dance, theater, a capella) and

production engineering (to include lighting, audio and bringing robotics into curriculum through the machine shop). This will incorporate performing arts, film and broadcasting, and production design into an overall entertainment interdisciplinary approach. Students will be able to focus specifically on one area or they can get a wider breath in all the areas. Additionally, students will be able to graduate with industry certifications in certain areas to offer a career readiness advantage as these certifications enable students to be employed in audio and lighting for live events and productions. Students who are participating in sports will be able to take their sport after school which can open up a period during their school day to enroll in an elective class.

Dr. Gleason shared an update on the vision and fiscal structure for the academy which includes updating existing spaces (the CHS lecture hall and the wellness counseling spaces) to house the new academy classes. The plan is for these renovations to take place after next year while the program is being expanded. The wellness counselors will be moved to the second floor counseling space with wellness and academics in close proximity but having separate wings. Since they will be physically close, they can offer each other support and be cross trained. The team is exploring how to position this academy to the community and how this will sustain or expand the CTE grant funding to supplant the funding which individual fundraisers have accrued. Another advantage is these programs offer the potential to provide the means to attract out of district students who want to permit into LVUSD.

Mr. Garrett discussed the strands that would be part of this program and explained the benefits of the embedded interdisciplinary approach. In the proposed model, students will take an arts based course or production design class and be cohorted into English classes for project based learning opportunities. These courses will utilize spaces such as the costuming and make-up areas, to their fullest potential and in the manner in which they were built to be used.

The plan is to kick off theater as the first pathway next year. Course development is underway for after school A-G and/or honors course options in theater production and the fundamentals in production engineering. These will incorporate project based learning within their framework which could include creating short form media, documentary work, and/or an individualized programs (i.e., student directed shows, lighting design projects, etc.) working closely with the PAEC staff specialists to guide students in their areas of expertise.

Marketing efforts to grow enrollment and the program will include school tours, school visits to feeder schools, school showcases, visits to local festivals, in addition to a comprehensive advertising plan including social media. Shifting the narrative that these buildings are an investment in enrollment and great experiences for students is an important element to position LVUSD as a performing arts hub.

The plans for the APAEC are also in the stages of development, however they are slightly behind the CPAEC planning stages.

This update will be presented to the full Board at the next Board of Education meeting.

Ms. Patterson cited that there is great research that participation in the arts and sports boost student achievement and she would like to continue to look at these through an equity lens.

Summer School:

Ms. Patterson shared an update on summer school. About 300 students have already been signed up for the Freshman Seminar classes. All high school students who need credit recovery (have earned a D or F) will be enrolled in content course recovery through APEX. Counselors are communicating with students and parents on which classes would be most beneficial for students to concentrate on recovering, and they are creating lists to reach out to these families. Assistant Principals from both high schools (Ms. Diana, Mr. Dobson, and Ms. Worth) will be sharing the role as principals to lead summer school.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:03 pm.