



**LAS VIRGENES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING**

January 31, 2024

Present: Jason Busby, Keesha Amezcua, Steve Birnbaum, Chad Bloom, Brad Boelman, Kirby Brock, Julie Carrillo, Jana Davenport, Walte Del Olmo, Brian Edelman, Sheri Given, Robin Hassan, Tina Johnson, Kevin Kane, Kristy Kimball, Suzanne Kirkhope, Tyler Lee, Thomas Liu, Krista Lucas, Sandra Maloney, Katia McCusker, Jessica Mejia, Linda Menges, Darci Miller, Kim Patterson, Courtney Peoples, Shelly Pimstone, Lesli Stein, Michael Strickler, Dominique Vargas, Ella Walsh, Leighton Westerberg

The meeting came to order at 4:00 p.m.

Ms. Davenport welcomed everyone and the committee members introduced themselves.

Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Curriculum Update

TK is rolling out over a five-year period to serve our youngest students, eventually including all students turning four years old. The TK teachers have been reviewing materials and have piloted three sets of curriculum:

- *The Creative Curriculum* by Teaching Strategies
- *Three Cheers for PreK* by Savvas
- *PreK On My Way* by Scholastic

Until other materials are available to review, the TK Curriculum Adoption Committee is working together on a homegrown curriculum and sharing best practices. They hope to bring their curriculum for review to the Curriculum Council and, with its recommendation, to the Board of Education for approval sometime next fall.

4th/5th Grade Human Growth and Development

Ms. Peoples thanked the grades 4/5 science team for their efforts to review and update the current materials. The grades 4/5 science team has worked diligently to develop new materials aligned with the content standards to bring forward for review. Ms. Kirkhope, grades 4/5 Science Department Chair, shared that the existing materials included good information but were outdated. The team vetted and chose the best videos that closely align with the state health standards for these grades. Each of the grades will be getting four new videos. Each video is about four minutes long.

4th/5th Grade Human Growth and Development (continued)

Regarding a concern about eating disorders and negative perceptions around food, Ms. Carillo, a secondary science teacher, commented that the new nutrition materials provide essential information for students to make informed choices. Ms. Davenport shared that these lessons can be a jumping-off point for conversations at home or with a trusted adult like a school counselor if students have questions or concerns.

Approval of 4/5 Grade Human Growth and Development

Motion to Approve: Darci Miller

Second: Kristy Kimball

Approved: Unanimously

Course Proposal: Spanish 2 for Spanish Speakers

Ms. Patterson reminded the Committee that when a course is approved by the Council and the Board of Education, it can become a course option at both high schools. Ms. Brock introduced the representatives of her world language department. She shared that this course proposal is part of their effort to support students in the LVUSD dual immersion language program with their language fluency at the high school level. Senior Del Olmo shared that this course will be a pathway to build more advanced options for Spanish speakers. It will be taught entirely in Spanish. Senorita Mejia added that the Lindero students who enter high school with advanced language skills are losing some of their Spanish because they are currently mixed with the students who do not have those skills. Ms. Brock shared that this course would be a good fit for any students who have been part of the dual immersion program and students whose Spanish is their first or second language at home.

Approval of the Spanish 2 for Spanish Speakers Course

Motion to Approve: Sheri Givens

Second: Julie Carrillo

Approved: Unanimously

Freshman Seminar

Ms. Brock provided a brief history of Freshman Seminar. It was created and adopted as a graduation requirement in the District in 2017. The intention was to offer a course to welcome students to the high school environment and support the learning skills needed for success. It embedded some health, healthy relationships, and nutrition standards into the curriculum. Social science teachers currently teach this course, which is offered to freshmen during the school year and summer school. The recommendation is to sunset the Freshman Seminar course and graduation requirement at this time and incorporate some of the units into other freshman classes.

Course Proposal: College Prep (CP) Human Geography

Ms. Patterson introduced CHS assistant principal Tyler Lee, the high school social science department chairs Brad Boelman and Jason Busby, and social science teacher Katia McCusker to present the course proposal for CP Human Geography.

Course Proposal: College Prep (CP) Human Geography (continued)

Mr. Boelman shared that adding CP Human Geography would provide the following benefits to high school freshmen students:

- Adding a Human Geography graduation requirement will allow students to continue honing historical thinking skills in ninth grade to prepare them to be global citizens.
- The state has social science graduation requirements to be taught in the 2025-2026 school year. Human Geography will provide the course framework for these requirements.
- The high school teams have observed that incoming students have a limited understanding of the 21st century. This course will provide a broad overview of global topics, facilitate a robust understanding of the 21st century, and cover world history, US history, and current events.
- The course material would use the AP Human Geography textbook as a starting point. The team will work to align the material with a college prep curriculum. In addition to the textbook, teachers can add supplemental materials to provide context and connect current events.
- Offering AP Human Geography is an excellent introduction to Advance Placement (AP) courses for freshmen. Parents and students will be excited to have access to take an AP course as a freshman if desired.
- This course will become a graduation requirement to replace the current Freshman Seminar requirement.

Approval of the CP Human Geography Course

Motion to Approve: Darci Miller

Second: Krista Lucas

Approved: Unanimously

Other Business

Summer School

Ms. Brock shared that historically, LVUSD students have taken courses during summer school for advancement and to open up class periods during the school year so that they can take an AP or an elective course within their schedule.

There are no plans to offer Human Geography CP or AP over the summer for advancement. However, LVUSD allows for concurrent enrollment over the summer for specific courses for advancement, so students can still open up periods within their schedules if desired. Concurrent enrollment paperwork must be submitted within the timeline following the site Concurrent Enrollment Process and pre-approved by a counselor or administrator.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.