

**LAS VIRGENES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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

February 28, 2024

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**Present:** Eric Anhalt, Steve Birnbaum, Chad Bloom, Kirby Brock, Jana Davenport, Carina Diana, Dana Dickson, Kristen Dizon, Jill Gaines, Robin Hassan, Michelle Hayashida, Tina Johnson, Kevin Kane, Thomas Liu, Liberty Logan, Krista Lucas, Linda Menges, Kim Patterson, Courtney Peoples, Shelly Pimstone, Nina Rawlinson, Mike Roberts, Christina Simon, Carrie Trupp, Leighton Westerberg, Bennett Wutkee

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

Ms. Davenport reported that the Board of Education had recently approved the new high school courses, Spanish 2 for Spanish Speakers and Human Geography CP, as well as updated materials for grades 4/5 Human Growth and Development. She thanked the Council for their work in bringing those forward.

**Entertainment Pathway Update**

Calabasas High School Principal Bennett Wutkee presented some focus areas for the new Entertainment Pathway, including providing more industry experiences through field trips and implementing industry guest visits to campus. This spring, theater students will be visiting Will Geer Theatrical Botanicum, and broadcasting students will be going to Warner Brothers Studios. The team is in the process of developing an Introduction to Arts Media & Entertainment course so students can dabble in different areas before choosing their pathway. The Broadcasting Pathway is very popular. Dr. Roberts and the team recently visited Arcadia and Newbury Park High Schools, whose campuses offer similar programs, to survey their broadcasting studios. Those visits helped inform the development of two new broadcasting classrooms, which will be housed at CHS in rooms PA6 and PA7. Mock-ups and details of these spaces and some of the challenges they are addressing were presented to the Council. Mr. Wutkee reported he has initiated alumni outreach to help with this studio development and is also coordinating campus visits so industry professionals can share their experiences with current students. A student-created hype video is featured during school tours and the CHS preview night to promote this Pathway. Staff is also organizing a mentor lunch to bring industry professionals to introduce their fields and specializations.

The following courses were started this year:

- Costumes and Makeup. This class is supporting the spring play at CHS and preparing for the Shakespeare Festival.

- Play Production & Play Production Honors
- Production Engineering and Design

This pathway is designed to inspire student collaboration across artistic disciplines. The CHS Haunted House and student film festival were cited as examples of this collaboration.

### **Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA)**

Agoura High School Music Director and VAPA Department Chair Chad Bloom shared a few District performing arts highlights:

- An AHS theater student designed production has been selected by the Foundation for New Musical Show Search Competition at UCLA to be performed with UCLA students at an upcoming UCLA event.
- The AHS Studio Jazz ensemble was one of the top 15 schools to be selected for the Essentially Ellington Competition. About 22 students will be traveling to Lincoln Center to participate in May.
- CHS student and bassoonist Zachary Piesner has been in the CODA (California Orchestra Directors Association) for six years and performed recently on an NPR podcast, From the Top.
- AHS student composer Marvel Roth was selected as the apprentice composer of the National Youth Orchestra and will be touring South America in that capacity this summer.

Mr. Bloom reported that LVUSD created a VAPA Strategic Planning Committee this year consisting of district staff and elementary, middle, and high school teacher representatives. The intent of this committee has been to work with representatives of the Los Angeles County Arts Education Collective Grant to create a five-year districtwide VAPA Strategic Plan. In addition, the team has had monthly collaborations with elementary VAPA teachers and programmed professional development for all secondary teachers.

Proposition 28 funds from the state will provide approximately \$1.2 million starting this year for funding and expanding VAPA initiatives across the District. The strategic plan goals, action components, and site funding breakdowns were presented. Prop 28 funds have already provided support to music programs across the district by purchasing new instruments. The district has been conducting facility walk-throughs to determine which sites may be in need of improvements. The district will be able to roll over the remaining funds to the following year. Auditing requirements are expected to be delivered in April. Funding will be allocated year to year in the following manner:

- 80% certificated teachers, classified personnel, teaching aides, and other musical avenues
- 20% materials and supplies (1% of the 20% can be spent on administrative costs)

Ms. Davenport shared that the most recent history of VAPA funding had been provided by grants. This enabled the district to fund elementary VAPA teachers temporarily; however, that funding runs out this year. Moving forward, the District will be able to provide elementary VAPA at a little more than 50% of its current model using Proposition 28 funds to supplement and ensure equitable programming based on site enrollment numbers. Students will have fewer minutes of Visual and Performing Arts instruction, but they will still experience those arts.

### **Dual Immersion Update**

Sumac Elementary Principal Liberty Logan, Lindero Canyon Middle School Principal Eric Anhalt, and Agoura High School Assistant Principal Kirby Brock provided overviews of their dual immersion programs. Ms. Logan shared that Sumac's program is full dual, meaning students spend 50% of their day learning in English and 50% of their day learning in Spanish. Sumac has two full TK classes this year and two classes projected for next year. There is a 2024-25 UTK waitlist, so they may have three Kinder classes. There has been a 20% increase in students transitioning to Lindero Canyon Middle School.

Principal Anhalt shared that about 10% of the middle school population is dual. Lindero Canyon has two full-time staff members. Dual students receive their social science instruction in Spanish in grades 6-8. If students prefer, they have an opportunity to take a second Spanish class as their elective choice by taking a zero-period PE class. This option opens up a class in their schedule to take the second elective. The elective Spanish class offered is a Language Arts course, which in addition to core grammar, incorporates literature circles, cultural components, outings, and opportunities to apply language skills into the curriculum. 95-98% of the dual students take both of these Spanish classes. There is a waitlist for next year's zero period. All classes are focused on reading, writing, and speaking in Spanish and incorporate field trips that are unique to their grade level.

The pathway for Agoura High School has been slowly growing. They are starting to see cohorts large enough to begin planning to offer classes outside of only Spanish language classes. Spanish 2 for Spanish Speakers was recently approved by the BoE as a new course that will be offered at Agoura High School next year. This is the appropriate foreign language course for 8th-grade dual students to take as freshmen as well as students who come to high school already bilingual or whose first language at home is Spanish. AHS hopes to continue to build its pathway and is exploring other options, such as Advanced Placement language and literature courses and IB courses because they can be taught in other languages. Students can also receive the State Seal of Biliteracy on their high school diplomas if they have mastered four levels of a language.

Ms. Logan shared that the District communications team has been doing a great job marketing this program, and sites are seeing positive results from this targeted effort. Sumac tours for potential parents for the 25/26 school year have been well attended. They are building parent engagement and relationships with two local dual immersion preschools in the area to raise awareness about this program.

### **Advanced Placement (AP) Textbooks Update**

Ms. Tina Johnson presented textbook updates for AP Psychology and AP Statistics. She shared that the District is constantly evaluating textbooks to make sure students have the best tools. In 2021 the District adopted AP Psychology. They knew at that time that the new textbook would not be available until 2024, so the decision was made to use digital curriculum and wait to purchase the new textbook when it became available. Ms. Johnson presented a similar scenario with the AP Statistics textbook and they will be purchasing the new edition textbook to replace the 2015 version that students are currently using.

### **Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:44 p.m.