



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

March 20, 2024

Present: Keesha Amecua, Steve Birnbaum, Steven Birnbaum, Chad Bloom, Brad Boelman, Kirby Brock, Julia Carillo, Jana Davenport, Carina Diana, Dana Dickson, Kristen Dizon, Melissa Gillespi, Sheri Given, Ian Godburn, Robin Hassan, Michelle Hayashida, Tina Johnson, Kevin Kane, Kristy Kimball, Sheryl Kolker, Thomas Liu, Krista Lucas, Sandra Maloney, Katia McCusker, Linda Menges, Kim Patterson, Courtney Peoples, Shelly Pimstone, Madhuri Raum, Nina Rawlinson, Mike Roberts, Vanessa Savich, Christina Simon, Lesli Stein, Dominique Vargas, Ella Walsh, Leighton Westerberg

The meeting came to order at 4:00 p.m. Ms. Davenport thanked the Council for their contributions in guiding curriculum decisions for LVUSD students.

AP Language: Literature & Composition Textbook Pilot

Calabasas High School Teacher Ian Godburn provided background and context for the Bedford, Freeman & Worth *Literature & Composition* textbook pilot, which took place in the AP Literature class. Mr. Godburn and Calabasas AP Language teacher Nicole Connolly are both trained and teach sections of the course. They both felt that anchoring the class with a single textbook, which they could build upon, could assist in providing equity and equal learning opportunities for students. A goal of theirs was to have an infusion of new texts that were vetted and approved by the College Board and would better prepare students for the AP exam. They piloted both hard copy and digital versions of the text during the 1st semester. Students favored the textbook over the digital version.

Mr. Godburn highlighted the textbook features:

- Built-in alignment to the AP course.
- Nine chapters, each aligned with the AP course units.
- Presents a wide variety of new voices balanced with classical texts.
- Constant reinforcement of AP skills. FAQs (frequently asked questions) are incorporated to help prepare students for the AP exam.
- Continuity to AP Language

DELAC (District English Language Advisory Committee)

Calabasas High School English Department Chair Michelle Hiyashida provided a DELAC update to the Committee. The District just held their second meeting of three this year. Topics covered were:

- Schools are starting to administer the ELPAC summative test, which will show students' growth in language acquisition and determine if they can be reclassified.
- Parent concern was communicated about the inability of students to take an elective class when they are required to take the ELD (English Language Development) class.

DELAC (District English Language Advisory Committee) continued:

The Committee brainstormed and will follow up with each site administration team to determine how this may be addressed.

- A review of the reclassification process to discuss how LVUSD meets students' needs to reclassify as proficient in English and if the District follows the EL Plan.

ADL (Anti-Defamation League) *No Place for Hate*

Ms. Peoples reminded the Committee that our partnership with the *No Place for Hate* Program requires schools to participate in three schoolwide activities in demonstrating respect, anti-bullying messages, and how to be an ally. LVUSD elementary school counselors agreed to coordinate these activities because they aligned with the lessons counselors were already engaging in at their sites. Bay Laurel Elementary School Counselor Melissa Gillespie shared highlights from students' experiences and images from the lessons at her school. These included a visit from *Big* author Vashti Harrison, an activity that asked students to add post-its to a giant board with positive words they would use to describe themselves, and they enjoyed a Lunar New Year celebration featuring a performance from ACA Lion Dance, UCLA's premier lion dance troupe.

A.E. Wright Counselor Sheryl Kolker shared some of the activities that took place at A.E. Wright relating to anti-bullying and bias. During kindness week, students signed the *No Place for Hate* pledge and wrote letters to staff members who they felt had made a difference in their lives. Ms. Kolker also shared that the LA Rams and cheerleaders who partner with **Everfi**, a program LVUSD utilizes to educate students about the power of their words and actions, will come to school during a lunch period to entertain the students on April 12th.

Human Geography CP (College Prep) Textbook

Calabasas High School Social Science Department Chair Brad Boelman reported that he has been working with Agoura High School Social Science Chair Jason Busby and AHS AP Human Geography teacher Katia McCusker to review potential Human Geography CP textbooks. The team met with additional high school representatives including AP Human Geography teachers familiar with Human Geography content, Freshman Seminar teachers informed about the college prep rigor level needed for 9th grade students, and potential CP Human Geography teachers for next year. They reviewed eight textbooks and unanimously favored the Pearson *Contemporary Human Geography* textbook. Several team members also attended an Ethnic Studies conference and reviewed resources to potentially supplement the curriculum next year. The social science team brought *Contemporary Human Geography* to their departments during the staff development day. The decision was unanimously in favor of the text due to how the concepts are presented with supporting images, appealing visuals, and very digestible content. Every two-page spread is a new lesson. Each unit offers a few guiding questions and includes data analysis tools. It brings in a needed 21st-century context. The team mapped the book and determined the entry points where they could connect the required Ethnic Study frameworks with supplementary curricula. If approved and adopted, this textbook will be used for the Human Geography CP summer school course.

Approval of Pearson AP Human Geography Textbook

Motion to Approve: Carina Diana

Second: Michelle Hiyashida

Approved: Unanimously

AI (Artificial Intelligence) Overview

LVUSD CTO Jim Klein reported that the District lacks a shared common understanding of AI use and expectations among teachers and students. Mr. Klein, Ms. Tina Johnson, and AEW teachers Kristy Kimball and Lisa Hatfield have been busy putting together resources and tools for teachers. The District offered AI training last summer, and the technology team has shared guidelines and policies. Staff have self-guided activities and are planning additional professional development with Ms. Lisa Hatfield. Three priorities are:

- Staff Development: Two upcoming sessions are scheduled during the remaining school year, and there will be an opportunity for summer training as well.
- Teaching to create from AI. Empowering teachers to utilize AI skills and technology.
- Teaching responsible use of AI and how to cite sources accurately.

Core Literature

Currently, new core literature is being approved every few years. Ms. Tina Johnson shared a rubric and process for the District to implement in an effort to review core literature requests through more universal screening and facilitate bringing forward core literature titles for approval on an annual basis. The rubric will consider aspects such as the reputability of sources, availability of teacher resources, and if the book has been critically praised/won awards, among others. Each title will be vetted by at least two staff members.

Elementary Health Curriculum

Ms. Davenport reported that there is a K-5 health curriculum pilot underway with two publishers, *The Great Body Shop* and *HealthSmart*. At least one teacher from each school site is piloting. The team hopes to bring their recommendation to a Curriculum Council meeting and to the Board of Education for their consideration in the near future.

Other Business

No other business was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.