



Los Alamitos Unified School District

Operations Steering Committee
November 8, 2023

MEETING SUMMARY

Assistant Superintendent Elvia Galicia, called the Operations Steering Committee to order at 6:31 p.m. via Zoom teleconference.

Attendees

Abraham Camacho	Ada Jaspers	Adrienne Monroe	Amy Coltey
Andrew Pulver	Ashley Davitt	Blake Hyepock	Catherine Dunkel
Chelsey Lindbloom	Cindie Hoefflin	Cindy Julien	C.J. Knowland
Cynthia Lee	Darielle Tom	Deena Beach	Diana Hill
Eddie Courtemarche	Elvia Galicia	Elyse Copeland	Emily Ledterman
Emma Leach	Erin Fuller	Evelyn Garcia	Fawn Farner
Gary Willems	Jacob Arnold	James Alvarado	Jason Farvour
Jennifer Reese	Jenny Wampler	Jenny Padilla	Joanne Coudriet
Johan Dodge	Julie McMahon	Justin Hill	Kathy Morelli
Lakisha Quiller	Matt Fulton	Matt Maya	Mayra Gonzalez
Nisha Pagan	Ondrea Reed	Priscilla Hargraves	Rebecca Nadell
Ryan Weiss-Wright	Sarah Coley	Scott Fayette	Shannon Reilly
Sheryl Casas	Shoshana Dornblaser	Tamara Smith	Tiffany Penick
Tiffany Smith	Tina Fenner	Todd Schmidt	Vicky Vu
Vincent Lenon	Wendy Wood	Wendy Hernandez	

Welcome

Elvia Galicia welcomed the committee. Dr. Pulver also greeting the attendees and Board of Education members Diana Hill and Scott Fayette. Diana Hill thanked the members for attending and for sharing information from the meeting with the sites and the community. Attendees will be sent a survey after the meeting asking for input on future topics and time/location of meetings.

Facilities Projects

C.J. Knowland provided updates on current facilities projects. The interim housing at Los Alamitos High School that was using during the construction of the STEM building has been removed. Administration is currently exploring options on how to best utilize this space.

Phase 1 of the classroom renovations has been completed for buildings 100, 150, 300 and 400 at Los Alamitos High School. The 48 classrooms were repainted and had new flooring installed, as well as new ceiling tiles. Additionally, the wiremold was removed and electrical, data and A/V were rerouted through walls. Full height tackwalls were installed. A/V connections were connected at teachers' desk locations and teaching walls. Each room now has new 5x8 white boards allowing for a larger projection images. Window tint and safety film were also applied. In the Life Skills classroom casework and appliances were installed.

The District received DSA approval for the second gymnasium project at Los Alamitos High School. The plans are available to general contractors for bidding with the bids due on November 9th. The project is being bid out as a lease-leaseback with a bid component. The weight room is being bid as an add alternate. If the budget allows, the weight room will be built at the same time as the gymnasium. Construction is scheduled to begin in January 2024 and should last approximately 18 months. Portable classrooms and maintenance sheds currently in the new gymnasium's footprint will be relocated and repurposed to serve as storage areas. This work will begin during Winter Break.

Deferred maintenance projects completed over the summer include roof replacements at Los Alamitos High School and McAuliffe Middle School and CalShape & HVAC replacements. All schools have been retrofitted with Pelican thermostat HVAC controls which allow for remote monitoring and improved air circulation. Portable classroom HVAC replacement units have been ordered and will be replaced over Winter Break.

The Los Alamitos High School Wellness Garden is now open. The project scope included replacement of existing dirt and subgrade, installation of planter areas, river rock, concrete land bridge and outdoor furniture. There is a water feature and outdoor power for lighting. Decorative wood fencing was also installed. The total cost of the project was approximately \$130,000, paid for with donations from LAEF and a \$45,000 donation from the Sethi Family. LAEF completed the planting and outdoor furniture installation. The ribbon cutting ceremony was held earlier this year.

Another deferred maintenance project completed this summer was the asphalt slurry and restriping at Hopkinson Elementary School.

Phase 2 of the LAHS Classroom Renovation Project is scheduled for Summer 2024. The scope is similar to Phase 1 with additional specialized art rooms in the 600 building. Drawings are being created and walks are being scheduled with teaching staff to review teaching wall locations, projector locations, teacher desk locations and other individual requests made by staff. This project will go out to bid in February 2024.

Two new display boards have been installed at the LAHS Performing Arts Center and walks are being scheduled with various audio and visual consultants to design and create a scope for other improvements. Input will also be garnered from the user groups.

This summer the high school's synthetic turf will be replaced and the track will receive a new top coat.

Proposition 28 – Arts & Music Education

Deputy Superintendent Ondrea Reed gave an overview of Proposition 28 which was approved by California voters in November 2022 and provides additional funding for Arts Education in public schools. This funding is equal to one percent of the constitutionally required state and local funding the public schools received the year prior. Proposition 28 defines art programs as dance, media arts, music, theatre, visual arts, graphic arts/design, animation, music composition/ensembles, script writing, costume design and film/video.

Funding is allocated using an equity formula of 70% based on enrollment and 30% based on the share of economically disadvantaged (Title 1) students. Local Education Agencies will receive approximately \$110.50 per student plus \$78.42 per Title 1 student. Funds will be apportioned by school site and are anticipated to be received in February 2024.

At least 80% of the apportionment must be used to hire school district staff, either certificated or classified employees. The remaining funds may be used for training, supplies/materials and arts educational partnership programs. No more than 1% may be used for administrative costs. Schools have three years to spend the funds. The funds must be used to supplement funding for arts education programs and may not replace existing expenditures. This plan stipulates that the school principals determine how funds are spent and also allows for combined funding which can benefit multiple schools.

Arts teachers were surveyed in May 2023 to determine interest in combining funding for use across multiple sites. In July 2023, Phase I was implemented, releasing 18% of the projected apportionment to sites for supplies. At the beginning of the school year principals met with the Arts teams to determine how to best utilize the 18% of released funds. Phase II of the plan will be taken to the Board of Education for approval when funds are received in February.

Next steps for Prop 28 are forming a PK-12 Arts Committee and writing a Universal TK-12 Arts Plan. Although projections have been provided, the exact dollar amount and the timing of the funding is unclear. Staff will be hired once there is more clarity.

Enrollment Update

Dr. Ryan Weiss-Wright provided an update on enrollment. California public school enrollment has declined for the sixth straight year losing more than 310,000 students (5%) since Fall 2019. Kindergarten, grade 7 and grade 11 enrollment have begun to stabilize, but all other grade levels are lower than last year. The state also noted a year-over-year decline in private schools' enrollment. Factors contributing to the decline are rising housing costs, declining birth rate and trends at the state and county level.

Los Alamitos USD originally projected enrollment of 8,787 students for the 2023-24 school year which is a decline of about 140 students. Dr. Weiss-Wright shared enrollment data from the prior five years comparing Los Alamitos USD to Orange County. The county as a whole experienced a 1.6% decline and Los Alamitos USD's decline was 2.2%. A comparison of 2022-23 enrollment to 2023-2024 enrollment for Los Alamitos shows a decline of 36 students at the elementary level, an increase of 78 in the middle schools and a decrease of 45 in the high school resulting in a districtwide decrease of only 3 students from the prior school year.

Closing Remarks

Elvia Galicia thanked the committee for attending and reminded everyone to complete the survey which will help determine the time of the next meeting as well as whether it will be in-person or virtual.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.