



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

May 15, 2024

Present: Keesha Amecua, Emily Austin, Caryl Benner, Chad Bloom, Brad Boelman, Kirby Brock, Julia Carillo, Jana Davenport, Carina Diana, Marlene Didierjan, Jill Gaines, Tiffany Garrison, Sheri Given, Ian Godburn, Michelle Hayashida, Christina Heredia, Julie Herrera, Karin Inglis, Tina Johnson, Kevin Kane, Linda Kaplan, Mika Kryger, Noa Kryger, Thomas Liu, Krista Lucas, Leslie Martinez, Jessica Mejia, Linda Menges, Darci Miller, Kim Patterson, Courtney Peoples, Shelly Pimstone, Nina Rawlinson, Christina Simon, Lillian Spratt, Lola Stone, Michael Strickler, Tiffany Thomason, Carrie Trupp, Amy Walsh, Ella Walsh, Adam Weinstein, Leighton Westerberg

The meeting came to order at 4:00 p.m. Ms. Davenport thanked the Council for its contributions in guiding curriculum decisions for LVUSD students and acknowledged the three outgoing community members: Ms. Ashanti Blaize Hopkins, Ms. Krista Lucas, and Mr. Thomas Liu.

Elementary ELD (English Language Development) Curriculum Recommendation

ELD teachers Ms. Amy Walsh, Ms. Tiffany Garrison, and Ms. Linda Kaplan presented their recommendations for adopting two programs, *Buzz* and *Oxford Discover*, which will tie together well to provide a comprehensive ELD curriculum.

1. *Buzz* is a teacher-led, student-focused 7-level course for lower to upper elementary with the following features:
 - Strong emphasis on speaking, listening, vocabulary, and grammar
 - Real-world context
 - Themes of community, inclusivity, togetherness
 - Colorful photos, lively songs, stories, real-world texts
 - Supports social and emotional well-being
2. *Oxford Discover* is a 6-level course for elementary to middle school students with the following features:
 - Units begin with a BIG IDEA Question with embedded videos to facilitate conversation.
 - Units cover word study, reading, comprehension, grammar, writing, listening, and speaking.
 - Videos, audio, and games are embedded into teacher and student digital displays.
 - Real-world connections

Approval of ELD Curricula: *Buzz* and *Oxford Discover*

Motion to Approve: Michelle Hiyashida

Second: Kirby Brock

Approved: Unanimously

Elementary K-5 Health Curriculum Recommendation

Ms. Courtney Peoples introduced Health Committee Members Tiffany Thomason and Kelli Finigan to present their recommendation for the K-5 Health Curriculum adoption, *The Great Body Shop*. Curriculum strengths the Committee highlighted were:

- Skill-based lessons targeting different learning styles and levels.
- Ten monthly issues are provided for K-5 instruction.
- Up-to-date print and digital student/family materials in four languages.
- Culturally diverse lessons, characters, and puppets.
- Materials focus on “connection to home.”
- Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) activities are embedded in every unit.

Ms. Peoples added that *The Great Body Shop* is a comprehensive health education curriculum aligned with the California Health Education Content and National Health Education Standards. It is age-appropriate, culturally sensitive, medically accurate, and will ensure inclusivity.

Approval of K-5 Health Curriculum: *The Great Body Shop*

Motion to Approve: Kirby Brock

Second: Michelle Hiyashida

Approved: Unanimously

AP Literature Textbook

Calabasas English Teacher Ian Godburn presented the AP Literature textbook, *Literature & Composition*, for curriculum approval. He shared that all of the classes that participated in the pilot favored this textbook. Key attributes of the textbook presented were:

- Designed specifically for AP Lit
- Skill Building Chapters
- Variety of Classic and Contemporary
- Fiction, Poetry, Drama, Non-Fiction, Visual Texts, Full-Length Works
- Engaging Thematic Anthology
- Differentiated Learning
- Aligns to AP Course and Exam

Approval of AP Literature Textbook *Literature & Composition*

Motion to Approve: Carina Diana

Second: Krista Lucas

Approved: Unanimously

Honors Social Justice Leadership Course

Ms. Patterson introduced Calabasas High School Social Science teacher Adam Weinstein to present the Honors Social Justice Leadership Course. Mr. Weinstein shared that this course will offer opportunities for students to take on additional leadership roles and mentoring, and they will also be able to coordinate lessons for students taking the CP-level course. The course will utilize two additional texts, *Just Mercy* and *How the Word is Passed*, to build on the concepts students will cover in their Human Geography class. This course is aligned with the District *No Place for Hate* initiatives and covers the LVUSD Social Justice Standards.

Approval of Honors Social Justice Leadership

Motion to Approve: Darci Miller

Second: Krista Lucas

Approved: Unanimously

Honors French III and Spanish III Courses

Agoura High School Assistant Principal Kirby Brock introduced the high school World Language team: Ms. Marlene Didierjean, Ms. Jessica Mejia, Ms. Caryl Benner, and Mr. Del Olmo to present the Level III Honors courses. The team explained that both schools felt they needed a level III course to offer a cohesive pathway and to enable students to successfully participate in the deeper conversations that will take place in their higher-level classes. They illustrated the multiple pathways that adding this course will provide from level I language to AP and IB courses, as well as providing more access for students to earn a Seal of Biliteracy when they graduate.

Approval of Honors French III and Honors Spanish III

Motion to Approve: Julia Carillo

Second: Darci Miller

Approved: Unanimously

Peer Tutoring Course

Agoura High School Assistant Principal Brock introduced the AHS Peer Tutoring Advisor, Ms. Karin Inglis, and the Peer Tutoring Student Leadership Team, Mika Kryger, Lillian Spratt, and Noa Kryger, to present their proposal for a Peer Tutoring course. The Peer Tutoring Club President, Mika Kryger, shared the history of the club's development, which was formed this school year. The club has offered AHS students academic tutoring and help to develop their study skills. This year, 18 tutors volunteer their time during support periods or are embedded in a support classroom. Over 700 students have signed in to receive tutoring or participate in study sessions for AP tests and upcoming exams. The club has also started tutoring at Lindero Canyon Middle School. Next year, they would like to extend tutoring to A.E. Wright Middle School.

While the club will remain an option for all students, offering a class will provide these additional benefits:

- Teaching tutors how to work with students 1:1 to identify what students are struggling with.
- Building capacity in leading small group sessions
- Building a toolbox of study skill strategies
- NHS (National Honors Society) Designation is available for students who are interested. NHS designation requires contributing 60 hours per semester and must address these four pillars: Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Character.

Approval of Peer Tutoring Course

Motion to Approve: Carina Diana

Second: Darci Miller

Approved: Unanimously

Core Literature Addition

Calabasas High School English Teacher Christy Heredia presented the 11th-grade core literature title for approval: *Mirror My Freedom* by Olaudah Equiano. Mr. Equiano is most famous for his slave narratives. This text is blackout poetry written in verse, which students really like.

It has passages that interrupt the verse to provide historical context and information, which facilitates sustaining the truth of the narrative while filtering it. This makes it more student-friendly.

Approval of Core Literature Addition *Mirror My Freedom*

Motion to Approve: Kirby Brock

Second: Darci Miller

Approved: Unanimously

CHYA (California Healthy Kids Act) Curriculum Recommendation

Ms. Courtney Peoples summarized CHYA, which requires school districts to provide students with integrated, comprehensive, accurate, and unbiased sexual health and HIV prevention education that must be taught at least once in middle and high school. The Education Code requires that the curriculum meet the following:

- Be age-appropriate.
- Be medically accurate and objective.
- Be appropriate for use with pupils of all races, genders, sexual orientations, and ethnic and cultural backgrounds.
- Be appropriate for and equally available to English language learners.
- Be appropriate for and accessible to pupils with disabilities.
- Affirmatively recognize different sexual orientations and be inclusive of same-sex relationships in discussions and examples.
- Teach about gender, gender expression, gender identity, and the harm of negative gender stereotypes.
- Encourage students to communicate with their parents/guardians and other trusted adults about human sexuality and provide skills for doing so.

The Health Committee that reviewed the CHYA curriculum included representation from educators, administrators, the district nurse, the district librarian, science teachers, and special education teachers under the supervision of the Director of Secondary Education. They met for over six months and spent over 50 hours reviewing curriculum options.

There was strong interest from the CDC, county offices of public health, and the Department of Education in developing comprehensive health standards. The ASHWAG (Adolescent Sexual Health Work Group), in collaboration with the CDC and public health, vetted and evaluated the programs that aligned with these standards. The Health Committee reviewed two of their recommended Programs and chose to bring *Positive Prevention Plus* forward as their recommendation for adoption. AE Wright Science teacher Julie Herrera provided background on *Positive Prevention Plus*. Some of the highlights shared were:

- 14-day curriculum (10 lessons) that will be uniform and consistent districtwide.
- Medically accurate
- Easy-to-follow slides for teachers who may not be comfortable teaching this subject matter
- LVUSD is interested in involving counselors in these lessons
- They will provide a 2-day training session for staff and offer multiple webinars for the public to learn more about this curriculum.
- It provides an opening animated video introducing topics that lead into lessons.
- It ends with a trusted adult.

- Families can opt out of these lessons.

Approval of CHYA Curriculum Recommendation *Positive Prevention Plus*

Motion to Approve: Darci Miller

Second: Kirby Brock

Approved: Unanimously

Other Business

No other business was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.