



Los Alamitos Unified School District

Operations Steering Committee
March 25, 2026

MEETING SUMMARY

Assistant Superintendent Elvia Schnur, called the Operations Steering Committee to order at 6:04 p.m. via Zoom teleconference.

Attendees

Abraham Camacho	Amy Coltey	Andrew Pulver	Annie Ryu
Beth Pearson	Blake Hyepock	Brandi Murdock	Catherine Severin
Cindy Jen	Cynthia Pollard	David Sacks	Diana Hill
Eddie Courtemarche	Edwin Munguia	Elvia Schnur	Emma Wood
Gary Willems	James Alvarado	Jeannette Andruss	Jennifer Katz
Jenny Padilla	Joan Brown	Joanne Coudriet	Jorge Gutierrez
Julia Stockman	Kerri Pallone	Lauren Shah	Lauren Sosenko
Lindsey Dick	Martin Valenzuela	Matt Bragman	Mehul Parekh
Melissa Davis	Merwin Trinidad	Michelle Anderson	Olivia Sease
Rena Immer	Ryan Weiss-Wright	Sarah Coley	Shoshana Dornblaser
Sonia Aldana	Stacy Sanchez	Tamara Smith	Tenele Bennett
Tim Golden	Todd Schmidt	Wendy Dunlap	Wendy Hernandez
Wendy Wood			

Welcome

Elvia Schnur welcomed the committee. Dr. Pulver also greeted the attendees and introduced Board of Education members Diana Hill and Matt Bragman who thanked the committee members for their participation.

Budget Update

Elvia Schnur presented an updated budget overview based on the second interim report. The district's 2025-2026 budget reflects cautious optimism with improved financial positioning since the first interim report, balancing enrollment challenges and rising costs.

- Improved Financial Position and Budget Updates
 - Revenues increased by \$456,000 and expenditures decreased by \$260,000 since first interim.
 - Ending fund balance improved by approximately \$716,000, reflecting active budget management.
 - The district remains above the state-required 3% minimum reserve, with combined reserves around 7.5%.
 - Continued monitoring and budget refinements will occur through the year.
- Key Budget Assumptions and Challenges

- Cost of living adjustments (COLA) for years 26-27 and 27-28 declined slightly from earlier projections.
- PERS rates adjusted lower, slightly easing expenses.
- Health benefits costs continue to rise, posing ongoing budget pressure.
- Enrollment decline moderated to a loss of 79 students, better than the originally projected 180 students.
- The unduplicated pupil percentage dropped due to fewer free and reduced meal applications, reducing supplemental LCFF funding and impacting instructional resources.
- The District encourages families to complete applications to maximize supplemental funding and access benefits like free transportation.
- Multi-Year Financial Projection and Risks
 - Projected deficit of \$2.9 million in 25-26, amid the enrollment decline, with stabilization and modest recovery expected in subsequent years.
 - Ending fund balance remains above the minimum, but risks include enrollment trends, declining supplemental funding, rising health benefits costs, state budget uncertainties, and pending collective bargaining impacts.
 - The May state budget revision will be critical for updated projections and adjustments.
- Salaries and Negotiations Context
 - Tentative salary agreements reached with two employee groups at about 1.3% increase plus additional health and welfare contributions.
 - These salary costs are not yet reflected in the current budget projections but will be incorporated upon formal adoption.

AI Committee

Dan Bennett, Educational Technology Coordinator, provided an update on the development of AI policies and instructional guidance.

- Strategic AI Committee Structure and Goals
 - There are three workgroups covering preschool–5th grade, 6th–12th grade, and a policy subcommittee focused on reviewing the CSBA recommended policy.
 - The focus includes ethical AI use, protecting student data, enhancing instruction, and maintaining learning integrity.
 - The policy aims to be adaptable, potentially evolving into an "emerging technologies" policy to cover future tools.
 - Deliverables include a board policy by end of the school year and a comprehensive resource package for teachers by 2026-2027.
- Pilot Programs and Instructional Use
 - Pilots include Gemini Gem, an AI tool that can be programmed for specific tasks which then supports student feedback without completing work for them. It is showing positive reception from students and teachers.

- Revision History is a Google Docs tool that helps teachers review writing development timelines to detect pasted AI-generated content.
- Emphasis on preserving the productive struggle of learning and preventing AI from undermining skill development.
- Policy, Academic Integrity, and Training
 - Current academic integrity enforcement relies on teacher classroom management plans prohibiting unauthorized AI use.
 - The forthcoming district AI policy will integrate with existing academic integrity and homework policies to provide consistent guidance and consequences.
 - Training is planned for teachers on using AI detection tools and handling integrity challenges with support from administrators for second-level review.
 - Board and district leadership emphasize AI as a tool to enhance learning, promoting ethical use and citation practices.
- Community and Stakeholder Engagement
 - Parent involvement in AI policy work is planned as a next phase, inspired by models from other districts.
 - Student focus groups may be established at the middle and high school levels to gather direct input on AI use.
 - Ongoing communication with staff and families aims for transparency and shared understanding.

Facilities Projects Update

Edwin Munguia, Director of Facilities, Maintenance Operations and Transportation gave an update on current and upcoming facilities projects.

- Recent and Upcoming Projects Overview
 - A PTA-funded playground at McGaugh Elementary was completed and is now in use. A parking lot paving project at Hopkinson Elementary is also finished.
 - Upcoming projects include campus-wide restroom renovations at the high school beginning in April.
 - Additional asphalt replacement at Hopkinson will take place over the summer.
 - Roofing replacements are planned for Oak Middle School and Hopkinson Elementary with bids secured for summer work.
 - Deferred maintenance continues with roof repairs, asphalt maintenance & repairs, and HVAC replacements.
- Performing Arts Center (PAC) Modernization vs New Construction
 - The initial modernization plan faces challenges due to extensive structural/accessibility/fire code upgrades, loss of use during construction, modern PAC functionality may be limited with an older concrete building and replacement would need to stay under 50% of the replacement cost per DSA requirements.
 - Modernization is estimated around \$12 million originally; current hard construction costs are about \$10.2 million and likely to increase.

- The alternative plan proposes building a new PAC (~20,000 sq ft) behind the existing PAC, enabling demolition of old building post-completion.
 - Potential funding includes up to \$5.3 million in seismic mitigation grants and up to \$3 million in CTE facility grants, raising the total available funds to approximately \$18.5 million.
 - The new building design may include retractable seating to reduce costs and increase flexibility.
 - WestGroup Designs architects are continuing the schematic design and are consulting with user groups. A board decision is expected in April or May.
 - The structural analysis has been submitted which is required to be eligible for the seismic mitigation grant. WestGroup Designs is also developing a thorough schematic design with square footage budget costs estimates to determine the feasibility of a new building.
- Other Facility Priorities and Funding Context
 - Future projects include kitchen renovations at the high school, sports field upgrades, and campus promenade improvements subject to funding availability.
 - In addition to the completed parking lot asphalt replacement at Hopkinson, asphalt replacement will take place this summer with a budget of \$400,000 for remaining work including a new ball wall. Bids have been secured with an award forthcoming.
 - State funding for facilities is limited. Community support via bonds and local taxes remains critical.
 - Annual routine restricted maintenance is budgeted at 3% of general fund expenditures (~\$3 million), with \$750,000 allocated to deferred maintenance.

LCAP Process Update

Melissa Davis, Director of Education Services presented an update of the District's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP).

- LCAP Purpose and Funding Overview
 - LCAP outlines actions and goals funded by LCFF supplemental dollars targeted at low income, foster youth, English learners, and redesignated English learners (unduplicated count).
 - Supplemental funds constitute about 3% of the district's annual budget, approximately \$3.5 million.
 - Unduplicated students represent about 17.63% of the district population, a relatively small proportion compared to other districts.
- Development Cycle and Stakeholder Engagement
 - The LCAP follows a three-year cycle; currently in year two (25-26 school year) with year three planning underway.
 - The annual process includes needs assessments, advisory committee input, site council alignment with goals, and iterative revisions.
 - Key milestones include a draft presentation to advisory committees in May and board approval in June.

- A district-wide survey for input launched recently, closing April 3rd, to help shape priorities and actions. The survey targets parents, staff, and community members to provide feedback on district priorities and services.
- Alignment and Accountability
 - LCAP goals align with state priorities and the School Plan for Student Achievement at each school site.
 - The plan specifies both goals and detailed expenditures to address student needs, emphasizing transparency and accountability.
 - The district strives to optimize the impact of its relatively small supplemental funding pool on student outcomes.

Closing Remarks

Elvia Schnur and Dr. Pulver thanked the committee for attending and for their support of the district. Diana Hill thanked Elvia for her service to the District and wished her well in her retirement. The next meeting will be scheduled for October of 2026.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.