LOS CERRITOS MIDDLE SCHOOL
SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL MINUTES
October 7, 2026

IN ATTENDANCE:
Present at the meeting were: Brandy LaRue, Paige Gonzales, Karen McCarthy, Jessica Garcia, Kanela Artavia, Austin Arnoldus, Shirin Loo, Graham Justice, Tamia Bragar, Mellanie Guardado, Gina Sillers, Shane Haas, Alexa Modry, Katie Dahm, Ashley Marth

Call to Order:
Meeting was called to order at 7:35.

Approval of Minutes
Minutes were approved as written.

Student's Report
6th Grade Report – Austin Arnoldus & Shirin Loo:

- Everyone is really excited about Sport-O-Rama which is Friday. The teams have been posted.
- Lunch Clubs have started.
- Luka was here and his message was really good.
- The Volleyball team is really fun and we have games every Monday.
- 6th graders are getting along during passing periods and lunch time. Getting used to switching classes as well as teachers.
- In English I started reading a new book called “Number the Stars”.
- Social Studies - learning about World War II.
- Science doing vocabulary and learning about the solar system.
- In Math, learning about multiplication and dividing decimals and fractions.

7th Grade Rep – Mellanie Guardado & Henry St. Clair:

- In English we are going to start a new book called “Forget Me Not”.
- In Math we are learning about relationships in terms of patterns, tables, and graphs.
- In Choir, we had our first concert and it went well. Very hot with no A/C.
- I heard the rally was really fun, but I didn't go to it.
- The Assembly yesterday was pretty fun. I didn’t win anything though.

8th Grade Rep – Graham Justice & Tamia Bragar:

- We are doing a lot in English.
- In Spanish we are learning a lot.
- In Social Studies we are learning about We The People.

Counselor's Report – Karen McCarthy:

- Done two of our classroom lessons
  - 6th grade lesson on time management
  - 7th grade lesson on peer relationships
- Daniel from Ludington came for Principal’s Coffee. It was about resilience and AI.

- Doing a financial literacy lesson for 8th graders.
- Busy with 504 meetings in the mornings. We have a new process and it's a learning curve.

DAC Report – Katie Dahm:

- Reviewed DAC handbook
- We talked about sharing info with parents. DAC notes are available on the website under "Stay Informed", parents and community.
- Got into groups and talked about tech updates, bus permits and lightspeed.

SEDAC Report – Shane Haas:

- Special Education Study Findings presentation
  By Special Education Directors, Dr. Shanda Lee Ghaffary and Steve Barnes, and Asst. Superintendent of Instruction and Student Services, Kenny Loo
- SEDAC Committees - anyone from the public can join a committee, please fill out the committee interest form to learn more or join
  - Connections: Engagement, Outreach and Coaching
  - Events: Plan a fun, district-wide event for families
  - Inclusion: Academic & Social Inclusion and Ending Ableism
- Thank you to the Rainbow Connection Family Resource and Empowerment Center for hosting a resource table prior to our October meeting, and to the students and staff from Conejo Oaks Academy for having coffee and treats available for all of our attendees to purchase
  - Join us before our November 3rd meeting starts to visit the Conejo Oaks Academy coffee cart and meet Melbourne Aquino from the Ventura County Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA). Grab a warm drink and learn how SELPA supports families of students with disabilities from early childhood to postsecondary through direct IEP support, workshops, resources like the Parent Guide to Special Education, and services like Alternative Dispute Resolution and more
- October Community Reports - a collection of current resources and happenings for families who have students who are neurodivergent and/or have disabilities
  - Access For All: Bilingual Advocacy and Resource Navigation - Autism Society Ventura County
  - November 12th, 5:30-7:30pm - Virtual Fall Transition Fair - hosted by Ventura County Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) - register to attend by 11/17
  - November 18th, 5:00-7:00pm - Virtual The Parenting Playbook: Five Essential Skills to Help Neurodivergent Kids Navigate School and Life - hosted by Ventura County Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) - register to attend
- Special Education Directors Report
  District staff attended the F3 Legal Symposium and Inclusive Practices Collective at VCOE, staffing updates, and upcoming parent/caregiver opportunities; including CVUSD's Transition events for preschool to TK/kinder, elementary to middle school, and middle school to high school

GATE DAC Report – Kanela Artavia:

- First meeting of the year so going over bylaws and what we do as a group.
- Great speaker, Cindy Dickman - spoke of the gifted brain and how they process information.
  - She highlighted a book called "Living with Intensity".

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- Broke out into groups and talked about creating goals for the year and collaboration with teachers/staff.
- Lack of funding for GATE students. How to provide more support.
- Conejo Schools Foundation - grants available to teachers.
- Mr. Pyle should return soon.
- Debate club is now going.

ELAC/DELAC Report – Manuela:

- Not present.
- Paige - ELAC meeting next Thursday.

LGBTQ+ Representative – Bailey Jaynes:

- Not present.

PTSA Report – Kanela for Kanela:

- Leopard Fund challenge was best one yet - congratulations to winners and Ms. Ballards class.
- Student PTSA club has started.
- Looking for banner sponsors. Willing to prorate if anyone is interested.
- Reflections is back and about had 10 entries.
- Fall Raffle fundraiser is coming Oct. 19 - 23. Donations are welcome. Tickets are $1 each.
- Spooktacular Halloween event is coming too.

Boys & Girls Club Report – Brandy for Wendy Gomez:

- There are currently 98 students who are enrolled at the Club. They can go before and after school and at lunch. For after school, they can accept 80 students and are currently at 50, if interested there is availability.
- Lots of activities are coming up.
- Every Friday you can bring a friend, and also do raffles on Friday.
- Went over the newsletter - they do member spotlights as well. They have great classes coming up.

Teacher Reports:

- Garcia - this is my favorite time of year. Starting Outsiders for 8th graders and they have We the People. Important time for 8th graders.
- With department chairs, we are starting to form a book club to refresh our memories about PLT practices and district goals.
- Most departments have data and things look good so far this year.
- Modry - 6th graders began working on fractions. 7th grade looking into assessments this week, test on Thursday on fractions boxes and number lines.

Principal's Report – Brandy LaRue:

We survived the year of September.

Academics:

We received an award for improvement in Math CAASPP proficiency for the 25-26 school year.

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Baseline data reported by our math & English departments:
English CommonLit Pre-Assessment Grade 7: 52% proficient
English CommonLit Pre-Assessment Grade 8: 51% proficient

Math: 7CP Unit 1: 91.3% (really used the "second look" opportunity to fix their own mistakes)
7H Unit 1: 91%
Alg 1H Chapter 1: 86% (this is lower than previous years)
6th Math CP Unit 1 Assessment (Numerical Expressions & Factors): 92.4%
6th Math H Unit 1 Assessment: 98.4%

Science – using exit tickets to check for understanding
8th grade: 75-97% proficient in metric measurement
7th grade: 83-97% proficient in characteristics of life

366 students being recognized for Renaissance (spring semester, 25-26 school year)
Quarter 1 ends October 16 – special minimum day schedule

Attendance:
Current enrollment is: 776
September was Attendance Awareness month and we had fun with Friday trivia and awarding classes with 100% attendance.

Athletics:
TC sports is off and running! Thank you to parents who volunteered to coach this year.
We have 2 7th grade boys bb teams this year.

Activities:
Hosted our school-wide assembly with Lucca who spoke about tapping into affirmations. Leadership students will continue to bring these back to the forefront throughout the year. They made posters (twice) with 14 (?) different affirmations that will rotate and be highlighted. Lucca will be visiting at lunch 4 times throughout the remainder of the school year.
Fall Y'all Choir Concert – a great success
Band – having a fall concert tomorrow.
Sport-O-Rama is Friday!

HVAC update: the chillers they put in 7 years ago, went with lowest bid. Costly to repair. It is going to be $39,000 to repair.
Concerns:
Tuesday all-call regarding student behavior at the shopping center on minimum days: number of students

riding E-bikes in the parking lot, weaving in and out of traffic. Traffic was called and students were spoken to/cited/bikes impounded. Taco Bell employee report: students spill soda, leave their trash, are rude.

Old Business
No Old Business.

New Business
Single School Plan update - Magic School got pulled. Ms. Garcia will take on the Tech Committee. It needs to be board approved.

Public Concerns
No Comments.

Adjournment
Meeting was adjourned at 8:15am.
Respectfully submitted, Gina Sillers, SSC Clerk