

**LAKE HAVASU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.1**  
2200 Havasupai Blvd., Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

**Governing Board Minutes**

December 15, 2020

Until further notice we will be enforcing the Governor's limit of 50 people for in-person gatherings. In order to comply with executive orders, entrance to the building will not be permitted once the number of attendees reaches fifty (50). If audience comments are permitted, there will be a five (5) minute time limit for any person speaking during an action item. We are providing an email address for questions, comments or concerns: [boardmeeting@lhusd.org](mailto:boardmeeting@lhusd.org). Email submissions must include full name. Emails sent to this LHUSD email address are not monitored. Only emails received the day of a scheduled REGULAR public board meeting may be read during the board meeting, as time permits in the order they are received. There will be a five (5) minute time limit on each email. Meeting can be viewed live at [www.lhusd.org/boardvideos](http://www.lhusd.org/boardvideos).

**REGULAR MEETING:**

1. Routine Opening of Meeting - Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of Lake Havasu Unified School District No. 1 was called to order by Governing President, Lisa Roman, at the Lake Havasu High School Performing Arts Center, 2675 Palo Verde Blvd. S., Lake Havasu City, Arizona at 6:00 p.m., on December 15, 2020.

1.1 Moment of Silent Prayer or Reflection

1.2 Roll Call

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Lisa Roman, President  
Kathy Cox, Vice President  
Nichole Cohen, Member  
Archana Aliyar, Member  
John Masden, Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Dr. Rebecca Stone, Superintendent  
Michael Murray, Director of Business Services  
Aggie Wolter, Director of Special Services  
Jaime Festa-Daigle, Director of Personnel/Technology  
Nina Mersing, Interim Principal, Smoketree Elementary  
Corey Triassi, Principal, Starline Elementary

Others: 16

Terry Fleming, Secretary

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

1.4 Call for an Executive Session – none.

2. Call to the Public

- Jason Loramore with request to have schools reopen.

Emails with questions, concerns, and remarks were read, with Superintendent, Directors and Board responding when appropriate:

Doug Schuster; "To the distinguished members of the LHUSD Board, I would like to start by thanking each one of you for your commitment to education in our schools. I appreciate your willingness and understand the great deal of time put forth in your efforts. I'm sure you will agree that this has been a very trying year for most of us. We have seen measures put in place that have been unprecedented. There is a growing frustration among parents with perceived inconsistencies and I share in this frustration. I am asking for a logical explanation that I can share with my son when he asks me yet again the following questions. Why are the elementary schools full time and we at the middle school are not? Why is the High School allowed to play sports and we are not? You see not only do I not have an answer for him, I see first hand how ineffective his current level of learning is. Packets of assignments with due dates are at best busy work, and are potentially harmful to those who are more than just academic learners. My son and all students deserve to be afforded the same opportunities. These kids have cabin fever and I am alarmed that the fall out from these drastic regulations, edicts, and orders may far outweigh the hazards of the virus itself as it pertains to our youth. In closing I would ask that you provide an answer to my questions, and consider returning to normal operations

across the district. Thank you for your time and happy holidays.”

Phil Nielsen; “If the high school can go everyday for 3 periods a day, why can't the middle school do the same? At least the kids would be in school even if it is for a few hours every day. Also, if no cases have been reported in the school there is no reason why the kids can't go back full time on Jan. 4th. This whole thing makes no sense and all you are doing is messing with the kids well being. Get our kids back in school full time and stop playing politics. A Very Frustrated Parent”

- Wayne Cohen spoke of his appreciation of his wife, Nichole Cohen, and what she has done will being on the board.

### 3. Recognition of Visitors

- Recognition of retiring Governing Board Members Nichole Cohen and Kathy Cox. Each received a plaque thanking them for their years of service. Dr. Stone shared some good things that happened while Nichole (2015-2020) and Kathy (2017-2020) have been on the board. Former Superintendent Diana Asseier and Mrs. Roman thanked Mrs. Cohen and Mrs. Cox for all they did while on the Board.

- Lake Havasu City Education Association (LHCEA) Carol Nowakowski gave shout outs and thank yous to everyone watching the board meeting, and thanked Mrs. Cohen and Mrs. Cox for their years on the Governing Board.

### 4. Consent Agenda

#### 4.1 Approval of Consent Agenda

##### 4.1.1 Approval of Minutes:

Regular Session of November 17, 2020

Work Session of November 18, 2020

##### 4.1.2 Approval or Modification of Agenda

4.1.3 Personnel Report: Certified; Employment, Separation, Exception to Policy, Long Term Leave, Other. Support Staff; Employment, Separation, Exception to Policy, Long Term Leave, Other. Stipends.

4.1.4 Acceptance of Gifts and Donations to the Lake Havasu Unified School District in the amount of \$17,717.02 and to Student Activities Organizations in the amount of \$100.00.

*A detailed list of donations can be viewed as background material by contacting the District.*

4.1.5 Approval of Travel - none

Stone

4.1.6 Approval of Agreement between Northern Arizona University and Lake Havasu Unified School District #1 for Northern Arizona University Student Placement

Festa-Daigle

4.1.7 Approval of Attached Statement of Assurance Form for Teacher Evaluation System Status – FY 2021-2022

Gardner

Mrs. Cohen moved, seconded by Mr. Masden to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aliyar: YES, Cohen: YES, Cox: YES, Masden: YES, Roman: YES

### 5. Old Business – none.

Mrs. Roman stated that Item 6.5 would be moved to first on the agenda.

### 6. New Business

#### 6.5 Discussion and Action Regarding Expansion of Core Knowledge Curriculum at all PK-6 Elementary Schools

Dr. Stone recommended that the Governing Board approve the expansion of the Core Knowledge Curriculum for Language Arts, Science and Social Studies to all LHUSD PK-6 Elementary Schools.

In December 2018, the Governing Board approved the Core Knowledge curriculum to be used as part of the Oro Grande Classical Academy. Core Knowledge is a foundational curriculum that is intended to provide a coherent, content specific foundation of learning for all students. The curriculum builds on knowledge from year to year preventing repetitions and gaps in instruction.

Every LHUSD student deserves access to a guaranteed and viable curriculum. Our elementary schools have been lacking in curriculum for a number of years. While we are not expanding the classical education model, this expansion of the Core Knowledge curriculum allows all LHUSD students access to the same curriculum materials, which specify what each child should know. This in turn allows teachers to devote their time to creatively planning how to teach the content, which will become the focus of our grade level and articulation planning meetings. This will also support our work in developing meaningful professional

development with a common resources.

The District provided information about Core Knowledge to principals and teachers, which included access to the materials already in use at Oro Grande Classical Academy and a question and answer session with Oro Grande teachers. After review of the presentations and materials we surveyed 111 teachers and received 80 responses. Out of the 80 who responded 82.5% said yes to expanding the Core Knowledge curriculum for Language Arts, Science & Social Studies to all elementary schools.

Expansion of this curriculum will support our mission to provide an aligned and guaranteed curriculum for every child PK-6. We are working through the process of procuring resources and materials from the vendor and will bring specific costs associated with this expansion to the Governing Board in January for approval.

Mrs. Cohen moved, seconded by Mr. Masden, to approve item 6.5 as presented.

Mrs. Asseier spoke in support of Core Knowledge.

Emails with questions, concerns, and remarks were read, with Superintendent, Directors and Board responding when appropriate (any offensive statements and profaning has been removed):

Brett Miller; "Hello, Thank you for your time and leadership through a tough period. Regarding the Classical Curriculum being considered for the elementary schools: Originally, the stated goal of the curriculum at Oro Grande was to entice home schooled and charter school students to come back to the district. The curriculum was expanded to K-6 at Oro Grande after the first year. How many students did the program bring in from home schoolers or charter schools? Where can this data be found? The classical academy was also to be a pilot for other specialized curriculums. One of the ones mentioned for future consideration was a STEM magnet program. What is the status of this? Will adopting the district wide classical curriculum present an obstacle to a STEM based curriculum in the future?

If the desired outcome of a curriculum is to drive student performance, what evidence do you have that it has done this since there has been no standardized testing since the expansion at Oro Grande? I understand that the district has been without a basic curriculum at the elementary level. What other curriculums were considered in addition to the classical one? Why were those deemed to be insufficient? Thank you for you time."

Tia OHalloran; "Vote YES on offering the "Core Knowledge" curriculum to ALL of our elementary schools. Oro Grande Classical Academy has this curriculum for almost two years and the students have had such remarkable results from this. As a parent I've considered moving my student to OGCA just for this curriculum!"

Stephanie Stimett; "Members of the Governing Board, The curriculum "extension" should be discussed with the community before adopting it into all of district elementary schools. The community has not been made aware of this change. I've spoken with teachers who said they had very little time to view the curriculum, just for one day it was at their school. Why is the district not being forthcoming about this decision? The CK curriculum is not suitable for everyone, as it's clearly modeled for a classical academy, traditionalism. If I want my children to have a watered-down, listless education, I'd probably teach them from my old textbooks."

Mrs. Cohen shared that this would be a great addition to our district on today the '1791 Bill of Right's Day'.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aliyar: YES, Cohen: YES, Cox: YES, Masden: YES, Roman: YES

#### 6.1 Approval of Revised Budget 2020-2021

Mr. Murray recommended that the Governing Board approve the 2020-21 revised budget and any over expenditures in any of the following programs within the M&O budget for the fiscal year 2021, while not overspending the overall budget limit.

Regular education

Special education

Pupil transportation

The revised budget includes financial adjustments to the overall budget limit based upon funding changes that have occurred since the adoption of the budget last July.

The district does not expect an over expenditure in any of the funded areas mentioned above at this time; however, per A.R.S. §15-905 G., if there needs to be an over expenditure in any of the funds, we must have board approval prior to the end of the fiscal year. The maintenance and operation expenditures will not exceed the overall budget limit.

The revised budget and summary sheet were provided to the Governing Board for review at the December 15, 2020, board meeting. The hearing notice was posted on the Arizona Department of Education website prior to this meeting.

Mr. Masden moved, seconded by Mrs. Cohen, to item 6.1 as presented.

Mr. Murray reviewed a power point presentation. He shared the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act: Relief Fund Award Notification Letter awarding the district \$1,348,756.21 federal funds. Mr. Murray explained what budget capacity means. There were no public comments.

Board thanked Mr. Murray and Gina Flores, district webmaster, for having the budget on our district website for anyone to review.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aliyar: YES, Cohen: YES, Cox: YES, Masden: YES, Roman: YES

6.2 Approval to Purchase Furniture for the New Front Office Building at Lake Havasu High School

Mr. Murray recommended the Governing Board approve the purchase of furniture from Arizona Furnishings for the new front office building at Lake Havasu High School, at a cost not-to-exceed \$70,000.

The front office building at Lake Havasu High School is nearing completion. The new building is approximately 3,500 square feet and will require furnishings for a lobby, receptionist area, attendance office, conference room, staff workroom, storage and records room, as well as eight offices.

Arizona State Contract ADSPO18-211723 was utilized to obtain pricing shown in the attached quote.

Pricing includes all requested furniture/fixtures, delivery, unboxing, setup, installation, removal and disposal of packing materials/boxes, and tax.

Capital and/or other approved funds for making capital purchases will be used. This item has been reviewed by LHHS High School Administrators and Purchasing.

Furniture quote and layout drawings were sent electronically to the Governing Board prior to the board meeting.

Mr. Masden moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve item 6.2 as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aliyar: YES, Cohen: YES, Cox: YES, Masden: YES, Roman: YES

6.3 Approval of Sale / Disposal of Vehicle Assets

Mr. Murray recommended that the Board approve the sale/disposal of vehicle assets listed below.

A review of Fixed Asset items has identified the following for sale / disposal due to dependability/reliability and/or cost to repair or maintain.

The items were identified by the Transportation Department and reviewed with the Business Office.

B-17	Sped Bus	'00	146,000 miles	unit old and outdated
B-24	Rte Bus	'03	170,164 miles	A/C system not repairable
B-25	Act Bus	'03	265,654 miles	High Mileage and not reliable
B-29	Act Bus	'05	202,388 miles	High Mileage and not reliable
B-30	Act Bus	'05	244,283 miles	High Mileage and not reliable
B-31	Rte Bus	'05	166,641 miles	Needs major engine repair
B-33	Sped Bus	'06	220,691 miles	Needs a Transmission
M-36	Ford Utility Truck	'96	157,910 miles	Old and not reliable
M-42	Ford Truck	'01	121,978 miles	Old and not reliable
C-28	Ford Taurus	'98	96,732 miles	Old and not reliable
C-30	Ford Taurus	'98	118,630 miles	Old and not reliable
C-34	Ford Taurus	'00	97,053 miles	Old and not reliable
C-52	Ford Crown Vic	'01	115,486 miles	Old and not reliable

This item has been reviewed by Purchasing and Fixed Assets.

Mr. Masden moved, seconded by Mrs. Cohen, to approve item 6.3 as presented.

Mr. Murray stated that in 2 to 3 weeks there will be a link on our website to the public surplus sales website if anyone was interested in purchasing these vehicles.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aliyar: YES, Cohen: YES, Cox: YES, Masden: YES, Roman: YES

6.4 Approval of Vouchers, Student Activity Funds, and Auxiliary Funds

Mr. Murray recommended the approval of:

Approval of Vouchers – Vouchers for November 2020 / \$6,604,634.81

Student Activity Funds for K-12 for October 2020 / \$271,341.73

Auxiliary Funds for October 2020:

Smoketree	\$ 17,707.33
Thunderbolt	\$ 137,875.86
Havasupai	\$ 12,821.48
Starline	\$ 23,455.15
Nautilus	\$ 15,141.69

Oro Grande	\$ (3,275.72)
Jamaica	\$ 25,251.86
High School	\$ 492,494.39
District Office	\$ 4,606.89

K-12 Student Activities Funds Report and the Auxiliary Reports for each school for October 2020 were emailed to the Board prior to meeting.

Mrs. Cohen moved, seconded by Mr. Masden, to approve item 6.4 as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aliyar: YES, Cohen: YES, Cox: YES, Masden: YES, Roman: YES

7. Informational

\* Superintendent

- Dr. Stone thanked the teachers, principals, and staff for their hard work over the first semester.

\* Directors

\* Governing Board Members

- Board thanked and gave appreciation to the staff and teachers for going far and above to serve our students.

- Mrs. Cohen stated that it was an honor and privilege to serve the community and staff.

8. Call to the Public – none.

9. Communications

- The next regular board meeting will be Tuesday, January 19, 2021.

10. Adjournment

Mrs. Cox moved, seconded by Mr. Masden to adjourn at 7:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aliyar: YES, Cohen: YES, Cox: YES, Masden: YES, Roman: YES

Video of the entire meeting may be seen on the District website [[www.lhusd.org/boardvideos](http://www.lhusd.org/boardvideos)] under Governing Board.

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Minutes of the Regular Governing Board meeting of December 15, 2020, are approved as submitted.

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Lisa Roman, Board President

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Kathy Cox, Board Vice President