

Meeting Minutes

Date 09/12/2023 | *Meeting called to order by* Jen at 6:06pm

In Attendance –

Emily Austin, Jen Vandenburg, Kelly Vice, Laura Garcia, Lauren West, Angie Glucksman, Beth Mellick, Ashley Marmaro, Taylor McGregor, Rachel Tabek, Christal Kass, Marni Deckter, Nicole Pecharsky, Ali Lapidus, Melanie Maslan, Jana Davenport, Shawn Vudmaska, Scott Mcalister, Julie Abott

Welcome –

* Thank you for coming. Please sign in.
* We have Special guests from LVUSD and we will get to them first
* Emily acknowledged that school is a personal experience and some have long relationship with the school. We have huge investment in our children. This can be a charged issue and it is personal for parents.
* Let’s be respectful, listen, have grace and the best intentions.

Facilities Update from LVUSD

* Exner: 2 weeks ago PFA Presidents met with Principal and had questions about classrooms. She recommended that the experts come to the meeting.
* Julie Abbot – Director of child nutrition
* Shaun Vudmaska – involved in projects throughout district,
* Scott Mcalister – from management background, logistics
* Jana Davenport
* Guest speakers started the discussion on Portables on campus
* TK programs were required on all schools (state law) and schools have to accommodate.
* TK classrooms have requirements: Restrooms in classroom and they are not allowed to be in portable rooms.
* TK into K, K into 1st, etc.
* State agency
* Governed by DSA – Division of State Architect
* District goes to DSA to get permit, not the city
* Have to hire architect; Architect takes plans to DSA
* They survey the land to decide the best location on Round Meadow for portables. Where do we have utilities?
* Blacktop is a firelane so they cannot go on the blacktop.
* Facilities committee meets twice a month, open to public.
* Parents are welcome to come to the facilities meeting
* Committee approves and then it goes to board. If board approves then foundation goes in and other things start
* We walk with the Principal to see how it will affect what you do on campus.
* Question from parent: When did it start?
* Response: It started in April
* Question: Is there a reason information didn’t get to parents
* Response: Don’t know; We do it in public forums
* Question: How many TK classrooms?
* Response: 3
* We have 2 now, TK in K1 and K2
* The Kinder class moved to Kaplan intervention room
* Mellick’s room will be a TK room next year
* TK/K compound: Cho, Saylor, Pennel, Iaccino
* 3 TK classes will start in 2025-2026
* Question: We have split classes, so how are we justifying additional building?
* Answer:
  + We are Moving Carpenter
  + We want a Maker’s space
    - Ms Gasser and Principal Exner have chatted.
  + Mellick is next to speech room (Wolf) and book room; those 2 rooms will be a bathroom
  + We Will need a place for Mellick and Iaccino
* Question: Art teacher shared before. Does she need a full class?
* Response: Hoping to avoid art on a cart
* Question: We are giving up part of field space?
* Response: Kids use front half of the field now; Kids will be able to access all of the field
* Question: When will the turf be happening?
* Response: No control of timeline
  + Did not know they would be this far behind.
  + The entire state is making space for TK
  + Willow has 2 classrooms and bathroom
  + Classroom and bathroom at Bay Laurel
* Guest Speaker: Have to plan what your growth will be
  + By time the growth needed, will have what is needed
* Question: Are we growing from our neighborhoods?
* Response: Our own kids, Younger siblings
  + Some kids miss the date for TK
* Question from chat: Safety behind building?
* Response (Exner): Placement of aids on campus addresses that concern
  + Ms Susan watches the kids where the fountain is
  + There is a rotation.
  + We have the bodies
* Question: Who did safety assessment?
* Response (Guest Speaker): Sheriff did safety assessment
  + Facilities committee talks about these.
* Question: Are kids as safe in a portable as a regular classroom?
* Response: DSA approved building
  + They were not tested for shootings, they were tested for earthquake.
  + No building is safe against some of these weapons. They do not test them for shooting.
  + The portables were built in 2019; they have not been used.
* Question: When they expand, do they just do portable?
* Response: The bond has plans to build new perm.
  + Things are expensive
  + Trying to use money in best way
* Question: Is there time to contribute to decision?
* Response: You have time to contribute to decision; they could be removed in the future.
  + Portables will be here for at least 3-4 years
* Question: Can Round Meadow be closer to top of list because of how old it is? It seems like our Measure S is going to A/C, other newer schools are getting better?
* Response: Painting exterior this year.
  + Hopefully the turf will go in, waiting on DSA
  + All natural organic turf
* Question: Why do the portables have to be done now?
* Response: Have to secure the buildings.
  + Have to procure the portables now.
  + Purchased them on a lease, to sit on a yard
  + They could come as soon as next week.
  + We cannot use them when they get here.
  + We try to do construction during breaks
* Question: Are there parents at facilities meetings?
* Response: Periodically
* TK/Combo is on the measure. We didn’t know that it was portable
* Measure S website on LVUSD, by school
* Comments:
  + Never knew that the field would be taken away
  + Parents touring the school did not like portable. They look ugly
  + Why could we not have added to existing building?
* Response:
  + Portables are temporary.
  + No one likes portable (district does not like them)

Comments:

* 480 kids now; before there were 600 kids
* There were 2 tiny portables in garden, that may have been before 600?

Comments from Principal:

* Theater room was too small, so cut into workroom. Workroom is too small
* Students with needs, need learning center.
* Adaptive PE
* TK-5th all need support
* Question: Why is blacktop so big?
* Response:
  + Restroom 12 by 40 with deck landing and stairwell (3 of those)
  + 5 foot clearance for A/C units
  + We will have boy, girl, and staff restroom facing us.
  + 13 feet past
* Additional Comments from Principal:
  + Adding 24 TK
  + Some miss the TK cutoff
  + 3TK classrooms and 4 Kinder classrooms is the plan
  + Ms Wolf has full room for her speech.
  + There will not be empty rooms
  + We plan to have a Maker’s room
  + Kaplan is in middle room. She may have to be in bungalow.
* Question: What are projections for enrollment made of?
* We have 3 Kinder classrooms, 70 something in Kinder right now
* Response (Guest Speaker):Need to have room for people in our boundaries.
  + Part of this is that you got surprised
  + Facilities and business team is trying to keep website updated
  + We were not clear what TK//K combo meant and we apologize.
  + Sometimes we think something is getting done over summer and then DSA changes it, so then people ask how come it didn’t happen.
  + If we don’t tell and then it happens to move quick and it happens next week (for example).
  + Not trying to sneak past
  + Jdavenport@lvusd
* Exner: Round Meadow only has so much room for modular.
  + We think about your kids all the time and went through all of the options.
  + Putting modular building back there, it cuts into play area and didn’t work with firecode.
  + Upper grade area doesn’t work because of firecode
* Comment: This has been going on since April and we did not know about trailers.
* Principal Exner: I Understand
* Concern about transparency
* Exner:
  + Not hiding
  + Feel terrible that because of DSA, nothing was done over the summer
  + Happy to have more TK 4 year olds.
* Question: Does the website have the dates with the meetings?
* Response: Yes
* Comment: On Movie night there were armed security guards and we were not informed
* Response:
  + Website has a lot of pages
  + Board meeting has information
  + Covered 6 was on trial before being armed
  + All security teams have been armed. Just recently allowed Covered 6 to be armed
  + They were at facilities
* Chat question: does district have limit on permits?.
* Response: Yes, eye on permits, not too many permits
* Question: Are decisions being made in long term health of school or for compliance?
  + Parents have choices in affluent area.
  + Adding portables does not add value.
* Response (Exner): Can agree on that.
* Question: Are we quickly fixing problem?
* Response (Guest Speaker): We have to fix the problem now and then plan for the future
* Question: Has planning started for long term?
* Response (Guest Speaker): We get money from Measure S, spending on improvements
  + Next step is 2025 Series B
  + Discussions will be down the line for issuance B
  + Go to Website, go to Facilities meeting
  + Talk about what you want.
* Question: Have plans been drawn up?
* Response: Still in issuance A
  + Solar had to go in by 2024 to get correct rate
* Question: Measure S Round Meadow 2025 completion date for replacing portables, is that accurate?
  + “New classroom, replacing portable, manage portable quad”
* Response: Do not know
* Question: How are portables paid for (Measure S or TK/K)?
* Response: Do not know
* Regarding Solar:
* Oak park schools, Brookside elementary – those schools wanted shade
* As part of solar project, put solar on field for shade for PE
* Same thing will happen here
* At drop off, shade for where kids are waiting to get picked up.
* Solar over turf and track
* Solar does not take up space on field and provides shade
* Chat question about how many permits we have
* Response: Do not know.
  + Could find out.
  + 10% -ish permits district wide
  + Do not know if they are evenly distributed
* Comment:
* Baseball diamond – we park on it and play kickball
* City of hidden hills uses it – they say they do
* City has keys
* Response: City did not have an issue.
  + Went to DSA, goes to urban wildlife,
* Comment: Karen from facilities? had shared previously that Gates cannot be locked at all times because Hidden hills has access.
* Chat Q: How will we deal with traffic and parking.
* Response:
  + A lot of the new kids are siblings
  + Also have Buttercup kids (Buttercup was TK)
  + We don’t have any more parking
* Guest Speaker: People pulling people out. Why would they stay?
* Response: Communication, engagement in long term planning, investment in school
* Comment: Older grades are thinning out.
* Comments:
* Need parking and long term planning
* Want permanent buildings get rid of portables
* Transparency
* We didn’t know this was happening.
* Guest Speakers: We don’t know how to tell.
* Response: Tell the PFAs
* Question: Empty or underutilized classrooms get poached for charters in LAUSD
* Response (Guest Speaker Davenport): Can say No to charter if it is for TK/K expansion
  + Down the line, we would pull the portables if the extra space were no longer needed.
* Question: Health check on portables? Have they been checked for mold? Other things?
* Response: Leaked ones were checked
  + Does not include YMCA. School checks with YMCA, notifies them
* Chat question about number of permits in a specific classroom
* Response: Can’t say
* Some students are school of choice, they live in district and want to come.
* We are looking at what is best for each individual school
* Every school is adding TK/K
* Question: How was it determined that we will get enough kids at Round Meadow
* Response: This is California’s effort towards early education
  + Class size ratio changes in upper grades.
  + 4 first grade classes last year (decision made because we came off of a pandemic)
  + Don’t have 4 this year
  + There are fluctuations
  + Entire state of California lost enrollment
  + Now we do TK-5
* We serve neighborhoods of West Hills, Hidden Hills, Calabasas, School of choice
* When is solar?
* Beginning of 2025
* Solar and turf will coordinate
* Turf was purchased
* Could cut around Turf, Turf does not have to go first
* Exner: Everything got paused this summer.
* Guest Speakers: Never had summer where projects were delayed by DSA.
* PFA Presidents:
  + We are not anti permit
  + We want to include all people
  + Everyone adds value
* Guest speakers can come again.
* September 20th is next facility meeting
* They will post an agenda
* Guest Speaker Davenport: We will try to do better about getting info to Principal Exner

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Principals Report

* Apologize if you felt that I was not transparent
* I tell people too much sometimes
* It was not my intent to surprise you
* I was surprised by how big the foundation looked on the ground versus on a diagram
* The foundation for the portables was laid before Kinder Roundup
* We had a smooth start to the year. Some kids didn’t know where they were going. Some wanted to go to the YMCA after school but they were not enrolled
* TK/K Back to School night was before school and we may have 1st grade join them next year
* Kinder Round Up was awesome!
* PFA Presidents Emily and Jen were at both Back to School nights. The Yes Fund helps the campus. Parent involvement makes school special.
* There is going to be a Room Parent meeting
* Staff lounge almost finished
* Hydration stations are here and just need to be installed
* 2 things working on:
* 1. Garden – trying to get it up and running
  + Jessica is on
  + Jessica Robertson – mom of 2 and substitute teacher
  + Garden was neglected – been working with other parents and Exner to get this garden back on its feet
  + Garden committee will clean garden shed
  + New family came up with outline
  + Will know after tomorrow how long it will take
  + Started seedlings. Organic
  + In next couple of months, we will have a full functioning garden
  + Garden specialist at Mariposa, Sumac, Willow – been having conversations about what makes sense at our school.
  + If anyone is interested in getting involved, you can join the committee
  + Sign up genius for help at End of September or Beginning of October
  + At January we hope to pick
  + After tomorrow (garden clean out), we will have a better idea
  + Maybe incorporate an outdoor learning space?
  + I came up with the idea and proposed it, it was not pre-planned
* 2. Maker space
  + Some students feel lost at recess/lunch
  + This would be a place for them to go
  + Could have coding, printing, legos, 3d printer, orgami lessons,…
  + Meeting Friday at 1:15, if anyone has a design eye

Treasurer’s Report

* Made about $50,000 at end of the year
* YES fund raised $203,000 last year
* Can give specifics to anyone who wants them
* YES fund is going on now: raised $194,000 as of right now for YES fund
* Fall Auction brought in $13,000
* Parking spots were switched today
* YES fund challenge: All the teachers get money
* Last day for the challenge is 9/30/23
* For matching, it can count if we have guarantee for payment for receipt of corporate matching

Events and Committee Happenings

Fall Auction Update

* See above. Thanks to Jen!

Movie Night

* Thank you
* 5th grade fund made money for their year end events

Restaurant Fundraiser – Tomorrow at Barney’s

* Commons
* Support Round Meadow

Parent’s Night Out – September 21

* Cambria hotel Calabasas
* It will be fun
* RSVP to president@rmpfa
* Ticket covers 2 drinks and food
* Pay before or cash at the door

Fall Book Fair – September 29th – October 5th

* Sign up Genius coming for parents to help
* Very excited
* Popular event
* Kids love it

Hidden Hills Fiesta parade in the morning

* Mrs. Bodensieck is teaching the students a dance
* It is fun
* Sat Sep 30
* Walk in parade. Kids throw candy

Red Ribbon Week – October 23rd

* Encouraging kids to make healthy choices
* Will be sending out sign up opportunities for lunch time activities
* Healthy choices, bodies, and minds

Trunk or Treat – October 27th

* Want people to sign up for a trunk
* Can buy kits on Amazon

Questions:

* Question: Armed guards is district decision; Can Principal talk to the district about sending message to parents?
* The message should come from district
* Principal Exner: Comments on Safety
* Been able to go on campus freely, however we need to do what we are supposed to do.
* Have to check in with front before visiting campus
* If you park on the field, then you should walk to the front
* Parent looked into a carnival and found it was really expensive and does not make money.
* Thinking of maybe a science fair.
* Talked to Exner and a teacher (Mrs Kirkhope)

*Adjourned by Jen at 7:39 pm*

*Next meeting will be in the morning on Oct 10.*