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# APPROVED MINUTES

## CORAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE LAS VEGAS EMERGENCY MEETING OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS

### Meeting Information

Date: July 8, 2020

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Location: 8965 S. Eastern Ave, Suite 280, Las Vegas, NV 89123

*[but held electronically, per the Agenda, pursuant to Directives 006, 016, 018, and 026 of the State of Nevada Executive Department]*

### **Posting of Agenda:**

This agenda was posted at the following locations:

Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas (“CASLV”) website at [www.caslv.org](http://www.caslv.org), and Nevada Public Notice website at <http://notice.nv.gov>.

### **Format / Procedures / Rules:**

*[See the Agenda for information regarding the format, procedure, and rules governing the meeting.]*

### Agenda

#### **Call to order**

Ms. Diggins called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

#### **Roll Call**

Present: Joined via video and conference call WebEx:

Ms. Ann Diggins, Ms. Elizabeth Kazelskis, Ms. Arlene Hayman, Dr. Carryn Warren, Mr. Feyzi Tandogan, and Mr. Philip Zhang.

Absent: Mr. Brin Gibson.

Non-Board Members (CASLV staff) in attendance, joined via WebEx conference call:

Mr. Gardberg, legal counsel; Ercan Aydogdu, Nick Sarisahn, Yolanda Flores, Bridget Peavy, Crissy Hanna, Mustafa Gunozu, Anthony Vu, and Andrea Shepard from the CASLV Central Office. Ms. Shepard was also present at the physical location.

Members from the public in attendance, joined via WebEx conference call:

Natalie Cerini and Samantha Sokolowski.

#### **Pledge of Allegiances**

##### **A. Public Comment (*Information*)**

*[Please see the Agenda for the procedures and rules regarding Public Comments.]*

No public comments.

##### **B. Consent Agenda (For Possible Action)**

###### **1. Approval of May 30, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes (For Possible Action)**

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Ms. Kazelskis confirmed all typos have been fixed.

Ms. Diggins made a motion to approve the May 30, 2020 regular board meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Kazelskis.

**ACTION:** Motion unanimously carried.

### **C. Discussion & Possible Action Items – Policy**

#### **1. School Reopening Plan (*For Possible Action*)**

Mr. Ercan presented the plan to the board and explained that each campus had a Reopening Committee that included teachers, administration, and parents. CASLV also had an overall Central Office Reopening Committee, which has met four times to develop the school's reopening plan. Multiple surveys were included in the plan, one each from the months of March, April, May, and June. One survey had 1,000+ responders, and the others had over 2,000 responders.

CASLV discussed a 3-cohort blended plan and it was noted that after the board approves the plan (if it does so), the State Public School Charter Authority (SPCSA) would need to review it and forward to the Department of Education. Cohorts A & B are on campus two of five days per week, and Cohort C is 100% distance learning. CASLV will endeavor for siblings to be on the same Cohort.

Ms. Diggins asked how this would affect SPED students. Ms. Hanna addressed this, saying each student's situation will be unique and planned pursuant to his/her IEP or 504 Plan. Some may be on campus 100%; other SPED parents would like Cohort C for their students. Some of the required minutes are weekly and some are monthly. We are offering both onsite and online learning. Evaluations will take place in person. It depends on scheduling and the individuals' IEPs and plans.

Ms. Hayman said she noticed a difference in mask requirements for K-3, with masks being optional in the classroom but mandatory in the hallways. Mr. Ercan will take note and look into both documents and make necessary changes. She also inquired about bathroom usage and preventing children from queuing. She recommends provisions should be stated within the plan.

Ms. Diggins inquired about sports and Mr. Ercan replied, elementary and middle schools would not have sports this year. P.E. will still be offered, but no formal competitions will be held with other schools. High school will have games, depending on the NIAA recommendations and with social distancing guidelines.

Dr. Warren asked about the teachers' schedules and noted a concern for their time. Mr. Ercan said reductions in certain ancillary requirements have been made so teachers can focus on any added burdens. In addition, there will be no onsite classes on Wednesdays. Teachers might work from home on Wednesdays to allow for deep cleaning of the school campuses. This would not apply to SPED teachers.

It was discussed that CASLV has purchased face shields for teachers of younger children, as these students need to see their teachers' mouths. Ms. Diggins asked if the SPCSA is helping with PPE equipment purchases, and Mr. Ercan said there had been a discussion about this but no confirmation of support had been announced.

Ms. Diggins asked if a normal grading system would be used. The answer was yes.

Ms. Kazelskis asked if standardized testing would be administered. The answer was also yes.

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The board and staff discussed safety protocol issues, including illness self-reporting, the protection of vulnerable staff, the use of non-contact thermometers, revisions to CASLV's travel policies, etc.

Ms. Diggins asked if any member from the public would like to make any comments.

A member of the public questioned classroom sizes and if this continues, will we allow more than 10 students in a classroom, since CASLV has multiple schools that are small? Ms. Diggins said from the board's perspective she thinks we need to be flexible and adapt. It is hard to look further into the future other than the start of school and we will need to reevaluate this plan.

The board was also asked if an a.m.-and-p.m. class schedule was considered (i.e., one Cohort attends in the morning, the other in the afternoon), and Mr. Ercan confirmed it was, however the majority of our parents preferred not to have half-day schedules. Mr. Ercan added it would be extremely difficult to adequately sanitize each classroom at midday, if we were to have half-day schedules.

The member of the public also asked about workbooks as one of her students learns best from a workbook versus a computer. Mr. Ercan explained in the spring this was difficult and we will be offering consumables at the start of the new school year.

Mr. Gardberg said everything he has heard so far sounds legally where we need to be. Ms. Hayman said she thinks this is a very comprehensive plan and that CASLV a step ahead. Mr. Gardberg added he thinks the board should approve this version but as circumstances dictate, give Mr. Ercan latitude and discretion over the next few weeks to deal with changing circumstances.

Ms. Diggins made a motion to approve this version of the school reopening plan, which includes giving Mr. Ercan the authority/freedom to adapt to current conditions occurring within the state and reopening school beyond that as necessary. The board also gives him authority to adapt to any recommendations or requirements from the SPCSA after they review the plan, seconded by Ms. Hayman.

**ACTION:** Motion unanimously carried.

### **2. Amendment to the Agreement for UTS Services** *(For Possible Action)*

Mr. Ercan stated the nurse consultants, speech therapist, education therapist, and physical therapist fees are increasing by \$5 per hour and that these fees have not been increased for a long time. Ms. Diggins commented that this is routine.

Mr. Tandogan made a motion to approve the amendment to the UTS Services agreement, seconded by Ms. Hayman.

**ACTION:** Motion unanimously carried.

### **3. Amendment of the Calendar for the 2020-2021 School Year** *(For Possible Action)*

Mr. Ercan explained that 5 additional PD (Professional Development) days have been added at the beginning of the school year and 5 existing PD days were moved to the beginning of the school year. CASLV students' first day will be August 24<sup>th</sup>. Since we have two cohorts of in-person education on different days of the week, we canceled some of the half days to make it even for both cohorts.

Ms. Hayman moved to pass the amended calendar, seconded by Mr. Tandogan.

**ACTION:** Motion unanimously carried.

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### 4. **Amendment of Parent Handbook for 2020-2021 School Year** *(For Possible Action)*

Mr. Ercan explained this has been updated to add a detailed COVID-19 policy, and Mr. Gardberg confirmed the updates were to his satisfaction.

Ms. Diggins moved to approve, seconded by Dr. Warren.

**ACTION:** Motion unanimously carried.

## D. **Discussion & Possible Action Items – Facilities and Operations**

### 1. **Textbook and Curriculum Orders** *(For Possible Action)*

Mr. Ercan explained we have various orders from each campus. StudySync, an online math curriculum, is for Windmill, and we have decided to put it on hold. Ms. Diggins asked about the special legislative session and how it might affect the budget. Mr. Ercan explained we do not know for sure, but we think the cuts will be put on hold and we do not expect a high budget cut of 10% or more.

Dr. Warren asked what happens if we go 100% distant learning, are textbooks still needed? Mr. Ercan stated many of these resources are actually online. If there is a hardcopy for students, then the parents will obtain those textbooks from CASLV. Ms. Kazelskis asked if there will be enough for each student or if they will have to share? Mr. Gunozu confirmed no sharing should be necessary at any campus. Mr. Gunozu also stated that each program has an online component.

Ms. Hayman inquired about CodeHS, and Mr. Ercan explained it is a three-year agreement for coding classes. Mr. Gunozu stated CodeHS is a web-based curriculum and teaching platform that includes training for primarily middle school and high school teachers.

Ms. Diggins said this sounds good and asked if the board had any further questions. Ms. Diggins made a motion to approve the textbook and curriculum orders as presented, with the exception of StudySync for the Windmill campus, all within the budget constraints the board approved previously, seconded by Dr. Warren.

**ACTION:** Motion unanimously carried.

### 2. **AP Exam Fees Payment** *(For Possible Action)*

This is for regular college exam fees, and parents are paying this fee and students are taking the test. Ms. Diggins preapproved this due to the deadline for the payment. Ms. Diggins said this is routine and asked if the board had any questions. The total amount is \$40,055.

Ms. Hayman moved to approve the AP exam fees payment, in the amount of \$40,055, seconded by Mr. Tandogan.

**ACTION:** Motion unanimously carried.

### 3. **NWEA (MAP) Renewal for 2020-2021 for All Campuses** *(For Possible Action)*

This is for all campuses and we are using it for grades K-10. This is our annual renewal. A remote option for those that cannot be on campus is being discussed.

Ms. Diggins moved to approve the NWEA renewal for all campuses, in the amount of \$30,726.60, seconded by Dr. Warren.

**ACTION:** Motion unanimously carried.

### 4. **CodeHS Subscription for Sandy Ridge Campus** *(For Possible Action)*

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Mr. Ercan indicated this is a three-year agreement and we will pay about \$13,500 annually. Mr. Gunozu explained this is a web-based curriculum and teaching platform that includes training for teachers for various coding classes, primarily for middle school and high school.

Mr. Tandogan made a motion to approve Code HS, in the amount of \$40,500 (\$13,500 annually for three years), seconded by Ms. Hayman.

**ACTION:** Motion unanimously carried.

### 5. **Landscaping Vendor for all campuses** *(For Possible Action)*

Mr. Ercan said it was decided to have one company serve all campuses. Bids were obtained and the lowest is GTI, which is the staff's recommendation. Mr. Vu said GTI has extensive experience and that they also service other schools and churches in Las Vegas. The GTI bid is cheaper than CASLV's previous year's costs.

Ms. Diggins moved to approve the landscape vendor GTI in the amount of \$4,166 per month for the upcoming school year, seconded by Mr. Tandogan.

**ACTION:** Motion unanimously carried.

### 6. **CASLV Nellis Campus Construction Change Order for Design** *(For Possible Action)*

Mr. Ercan explained that everything has been completed by DCBG, the construction general contractor. This change order is due to the design. This is within our budget as one could see from the detailed budget schedule by Mr. Janga, the project manager. The total change order is \$27,000. This will be the last change order for this project.

Mr. Gardberg added that he went back to the original bid and contracted amount, this is substantially less, enough to ask follow-up questions of this particular contractor.

Ms. Hayman moved to table this to the August board meeting, seconded by Ms. Diggins.

**ACTION:** Motion unanimously carried.

## E. **Discussion & Possible Action Items – Finance and Governance**

### 1. **Revision of the Salary Freeze** *(For Possible Action)*

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

### 2. **Amendment of the Charter for Addition of a New Campus** *(For Possible Action)*

Mr. Ercan explained the proposed location is within the 89440 area code. This is an area of new development and does not have many schools. There is an elementary school across St. Rose Blvd, which is a low performing school; however, it is in a different zip code. The M Resort has around 1,800 employees that commute from the entire Las Vegas valley. We will meet with the M Resort's administration. However, the SPCSA staff is suggesting we *cannot* apply because of Nellis' 2-star rating. CASLV might have to consider chartering Nellis AFB campus as its own charter school. Otherwise, we may be delayed two more years, potentially.

Mr. Gardberg said he would review the SPCSA determination, and then call the Authority's legal counsel to discuss.

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Ms. Diggins has concerns and politically she does not think charter schools are favored. Ms. Diggins' inclination is to postpone this. She is concerned about starting a battle with the SPCSA. Mr. Tandogan said Ms. Diggins made a great point.

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

### F. Information/Discussion Items

#### 1. Report of Purchases and Expenses Between \$10,000 and \$25,000 (*Information*)

Mr. Ercan presented the expense report of purchase's, there were no questions from the board. The majority of expenses were for the upcoming school year's curriculum. There was also a furniture expense for Windmill. Mr. Ercan informed the board the funds for this expense was raised through fundraising by the Windmill parents. Ms. Diggins asked if we have given recognition to those that raised the funds and Mr. Ercan said he would check with the campus principal.

#### 2. Executive Director's Progress Report (*Information*)

Mr. Ercan discussed CASLV's accomplishments and important information regarding students and school clubs with the board.

- ACT Exam average composite score for the class of 2021 rose to 24.86! This is a 1.34 point increase from last year. The average composite score in Nevada for all students is 17.9.
- A CASLV student earned a top-six spot at the National Speech & Debate Association Tournament! At the National Speech & Debate Association's (NSDA) National Tournament held from June 14-20, 2020, Caden Denning placed sixth in the Prepared Prompt Speaking competition. Denning also advanced to the quarterfinals in Congressional Debate House. He was the only student from the state of Nevada who advanced to the finals at this year's tournament.
- The Eric Lyons Memorial Scholarship was featured in the *Nevada Business* and *Vegas, Inc.* publications.
- Mr. Ercan discussed some of the online summer camps/courses being offered.
- Mr. Ercan explained that the Special Legislative Session is taking place but we do not expect drastic budget cuts, however, we are not sure at this time.
- Next Board Meeting: September 19, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

### G. Privileged & Confidential Attorney/Client Conference with CASLV Legal Counsel pursuant to NRS 241.015(3)(b)(2) (*Information, Deliberation*). Note: per the Open Meeting Law ("OML"), this constitutes a non-public meeting that is statutorily exempt from the OML.

The attorney/client conference was tabled to a future meeting.

### H. Potential Action(s), if any, re. the legal matters heard during the Closed Session. (Item G). (*For Possible Action*). Note: this may consist, for example, of a decision to submit a written demand on a potential litigant (e.g., a cease-and-desist letter), to authorize litigation, to conduct further legal research, to propose a settlement to a litigant, or to tender a matter to insurance.

No action necessary.

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### I. Public Comments (*Information*)

A member of the public asked what would happen if someone tested positive for COVID-19 at a campus, and if we would be adding additional sick days. Mr. Vu explained that if a teacher tests positive, he/she needs to self-quarantine. The Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) will conduct contact tracing and determine if anyone else needs to quarantine. If there is major exposure, we will require an emergency school closure and move to distance learning. This will be determined based off the SNDH recommendation and other government mandates.

If the virus affects a staff member, they must communicate that to Bridget Peevy, of Human Resources. Staff PTO (paid time off) days will be addressed as they are prescribed in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and any other applicable laws (e.g., FMLA).

### J. Adjournment (*Action*)

Ms. Diggins moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Hayman

**ACTION:** Motion unanimously carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:18 p.m.