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# APPROVED MINUTES

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

### Meeting Information

Date: August 7, 2020  
Time: 3:30 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, 026 and 029 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 Agenda for information regarding format, procedure, and rules governing the meeting*]

### Agenda

**Call to order** Ms. Diggins called the meeting to order at 3:38 p.m.

### **Roll Call**

Present: Joined via video and conference call WebEx: Ms. Diggins, Ms. Kazelskis, Ms. Hayman, Dr. Warren, Mr. Tandogan, Mr. Zhang (left at 7:34 p.m.), and Mr. Gibson.

Non-Board Members in attendance, joined via WebEx conference call: Mr. Gardberg, legal counsel, Mr. Ercan, Mr. Nick, Mr. Gunozu, Ms. Peevy, Mr. Vu, Ms. Nixon, Ms. Hanna, Mr. Tanyeriand, and Ms. Shepard. Approximately 100 members of the public were also in attendance, which included CASLV staff, teachers, all campus principals, and parents.

### **Pledge of Allegiances**

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

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

Public comment was transposed with each agenda item; see below.

#### **B. Discussion & Possible Action Items**

##### **1. Revision of CASLV’s Reopening Plan (For Possible Action)**

Ms. Diggins commended the central office staff and school administrators for all their hard work over the summer on the reopening plans. Ms. Diggins said at this time, many people feel a great deal of fear and uncertainty for the future. She understands emotions are running high, including anxieties, and asked that everyone be professional. Ms. Diggins explained how the agenda item would be structured. Mr. Ercan will present first, followed by each campus principal’s presentation. The board will then have discussion after the presentations, followed by public comment. After public comment, the board will discuss further and proceed to action. Ms. Diggins requested everyone be direct with their concerns and avoid redundancy. (Mr. Gardberg added since we are changing the public

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comment approach, the board will have public comment after each agenda item discussed today, but before the Board takes any official action.)

Mr. Ercan presented general information about the data from the *New York Times* regarding COVID-19 infections in Nevada, which are currently rising in Clark County. The recommendation from the State Public Charter School (SPCSA) is to have full-time distance learning. Mr. Ercan reviewed the results from the family surveys and the staff survey, which reported significant concerns about health risks.

Mr. Ercan discussed the terms of the **proposed plan**, which is full-distance education for the first quarter of classes, including electives for students, and a blended working schedule for employees. We will reevaluate every 30 days, but transition in the second quarter at the earliest. Instruction will be given via the Canvas platform with a combination of live and recorded classes. Teachers must connect with every student each day. Oversight from administration and participation as co-teachers will be provided to every virtual class for coaching and accountability purposes. Champions could provide childcare during distance learning at some campuses, if needed. Families can pre-order cold meals, delivered each Monday to each campus if needed. We will make our decision based on the State of Nevada's Roadmap to Recovery and will monitor COVID 19 reports weekly. MAP testing will be administered in September with practice tests given in August. According to the survey we sent to current students, there are 314 students that need technology, and 16 that need WIFI/internet. Mr. Ercan stated CASLV would accommodate these families. Teacher trainings and ongoing professional development is in place to ensure all staff is prepared for distance learning.

Ms. Crissy Hanna stated that the special education (SPED) program will look similar, and SPED teachers will follow the same protocols as other teachers but with extra help as needed. Teletherapy will continue, including one-on-one sessions. The physical therapy need is not high and will be addressed on an individual basis. Evaluations will be face to face and ELL services will be virtual using current successful programs. Self-contained classrooms will have a similar approach to ESY this summer. IEP goals will continue to be pursued. Cases will be audited to ensure compliance. Ms. Hanna stated that efforts for each student would be particularized. All special populations will be checking in regularly to be sure they are finding success in their current environment.

Ms. Hayman asked what Champions is for and if it is to be utilized by teachers/staff only. Mr. Ercan explained this is for families as well, or any staff member that requires childcare. They would only use a certain area of the relevant campuses, would not use the main entrance, and they will be responsible for disinfecting and sanitizing. There are space limitations, and 14 schools in Las Vegas are opening with them in the next two weeks. Ms. Diggins has concerns about this, and stated childcare must be balanced with health and safety needs.

Mr. Gibson asked if there is enough bandwidth to accommodate full-time online/streaming services needed, and Mr. Ercan indicated yes. We do not have any parents complaining about their child not having access to attend class or take assessments. Mr. Gibson then inquired as to how we accommodate for proper engagement/interaction in a virtual environment. Mr. Gunozu stated there are various strategies to deal with that including having small groups. Some students have not responded well. This is a big challenge. Ms. Diggins asked if live learning is essential for some students, and Mr. Gunozu said yes, with some students it is. Some have thrived at distance learning, and others have not. If a student tests below 40% then an interventionist will work with them.

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Ms. Diggins asked how attendance would be taken. Teachers will keep track of attendees at sessions. The head registrar, Ms. Nixon, said once a week a teacher must have contact with a student for attendance purpose only, which is a state requirement. Once this is confirmed, then the student can be marked present for the week.

Dr. Warren asked if live lessons would be recorded. Mr. Gunozu confirmed they would and recordings will be available for students. Ms. Diggins asked about the technology support/systems. Mr. Gunozu stated that CASLV has provided families with much support in the 4th quarter of last year, and that will continue.

Each campus principal presented in detail how distance learning plans have been developed and will be implemented. (Ms. Diggins noted at this point in the meeting that the Board has approved a hybrid/blended model. The purpose of today's meeting is to consider a full-time distance learning model in response to the current health conditions. Currently the board has taken no action on a distance learning proposal.)

The board asked for public comments at 5:41 p.m. and at this time there were 101 people on the call.

### Public Comments:

Ms. Asbury Edens with Champions stated they are fully prepared to offer onsite, full-day childcare on campuses. Children will be in cohorts of 15 children total. They check temperatures, require handwashing, social distancing, and require masks. No visitors will be allowed. There will be enhanced cleaning undertaken. No porous materials will be used onsite. They are prepared to help with academic support and homework throughout the day. Ms. Hayman asked about liability concerns. Does CASLV accept liability if a child becomes ill? Ms. Edens said they would be their own separate entity operating at CASLV campuses. Mr. Gardberg said he wants to check the indemnity and stated the downfall is it is only as strong as the company that provides it, so a parent guarantee may be required. The board discussed various concerns about this and they will come back to this after public comments.

The overall general comments made by the public were: Teachers can't be sacrificed to the economy by the ignorant. Students can't socialize with COVID-19; it is not normal schooling. Teachers will spend too much time policing safety measures if students were in the classroom. Some teachers are high-risk or have a high-risk person at home, so the risks of live schooling are too great. Summer camps/schools around the USA have failed badly at avoiding positive cases. Upon any exposure, much of the school will have to quarantine. Teachers can't live with the fear of a student or colleague dying if they were asymptomatic carriers and passed it along. CASLV staff can provide rigorous education online. There were many fewer cases in the spring when schools were closed, so opening schools now would be much more dangerous than it was in April.

Overall, the breakdown of speakers was as follows:

<b>Speakers for Distance Education Only:</b>	<b>Speakers for Hybrid:</b>	<b>Speakers for Full-Time Live Education:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A. Trafton (teacher)</li><li>• M. Henry (teacher)</li><li>• H. Lehman (teacher)</li><li>• A. Shriver (teacher)</li><li>• A. Sloan (teacher)</li><li>• E. Murray (teacher)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None</li></ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Andrea G. (parent)</li><li>• R. Brewer (staff and parent)</li></ul>		
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Ms. Diggins asked for each board member to weigh in on this. Dr. Warren stated she supports distance only. She suggests the PTO get involved to help parents establish a cohort for playdates. Ms. Hayman said she appreciates the teachers' comments, and added it is too unsafe at this time. She supports distance only until active virus numbers go down significantly. Mr. Gibson, who noted he has worked with the Governor on this matter, supports distance learning only for the first quarter at least. He suggested the administration see SB 4 (2020), which describes how if the percentage of new cases is under 5% for several days, and under 100 cases, then it is safe to reopen. Teachers are afraid for their lives so he supports full-time distance learning. Ms. Kazelskis also supports full-time distance learning only, and noted we are a STEM focused school and therefore must follow the science. Mr. Tandogan thanked CASLV administration and teachers for great work. He supports distance learning only for the first quarter. He is amazed by the principals' schedules, which approximates full, general schedule. Mr. Zhang supports full-time distance learning. Ms. Diggins stated with the rising cases, it is irresponsible to open at this time. She is very concerned with K-3 and SPED students and hopes we can get them on campus as soon as possible when it is safe.

Ms. Diggins made a motion to approve the administration's plan, meaning full distance learning for all CASLV campuses during Quarter 1, to be revisited every 30 days, plus a blended working schedule for teachers. Teachers may choose with campus leadership where they would like to work, whether home or at school. Seconded by Dr. Warren.

**ACTION:** Motion unanimously carried.

Ms. Diggins asked for feedback from each board member regarding onsite daycare provided by Champions at three campuses. Mr. Gibson stated he is sympathetic to families, but we must segregate teachers from those children. His concerns are the teachers, and mixing them with children is problematic. The board agrees with this and the focus needs to be the safety of teachers. Mr. Gardberg said we need a 100% clean indemnity and we do not have that now. This discussion was tabled to the next meeting.

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

Mr. Ercan explained we tabled this item at the last meeting, as there were concerns about these charges. Mr. Ercan said this is for geo testing at the site. The fee was lowered from \$27,000 to \$20,000. The project manager, Ram Janga, stated this work was important and is required by law. Ninyo and Moore did the geo testing for the site and they created a timely budget but they never anticipated the challenges the project incurred. Some savings were recouped from other contractors. Mr. Janga is confident Ninyo and Moore added value to the project and recommends the board approve. Ms. Diggins also stated this work was required.

Ms. Diggins asked if the board has any questions and if the public has any comments.

No board or public comment.

Mr. Tandogan made a motion to approve this change order, seconded by Dr. Warren.

**ACTION:** Motion unanimously carried.

### **3. Revision of the Salary Freeze of Licensed Teachers and Staff**

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(For Possible Action)

Mr. Ercan described the context regarding this item and the decision to freeze salaries, which was based on the potential budget cuts due to the pandemic. Mr. Ercan met with the staff to explain the salary freeze decision. He informed the staff CASLV can consider unfreezing salaries when budget cuts are revealed and they are low, such as 3% to 4% cuts. The Governor's office then made the decision not to cut last year's school budget. However, it is not clear how the state revenue will continue this fiscal year. Additional cuts are possible, which is why we are not proposing the new salary scale, which was approved in February 2020. However, since our teacher salaries are lower than CCSD teachers, we would like to propose removing the freeze.

Mr. Nick presented the fiscal changes from the last meeting and reviewed the grants CASLV will not receive this year. He explained we prepared our budget with a 10% reduction. We are unsure of outside revenues; we also have enrollment uncertainties. The worst case is we will use reserves.

Public Comments: Sandy Ridge campus teacher Ms. Murray asked about grade level and department chair stipends and Mr. Ercan confirmed they are approved and still in place. Eastgate campus teacher, Mr. Shiver asked about bumps for PhDs and EED. He hopes a Masters plus 16 and plus 32 be added to the salary scale. Ms. Diggins said this would be considered.

In Ms. Diggins' opinion, we should exercise caution and delay this agenda item. The board agrees. Ms. Diggins moved to postpone a decision on reinstating the salary increases for all staff and administration and revisit at our next board meeting when finances are clearer. The board is committed to recognizing the good work of teachers and if our budget numbers allow us, we definitely want to reward their hard work even if that means a bonus and extra work for our finance team, seconded by Dr. Warren.

**ACTION:** Motion unanimously carried.

### C. Information/Discussion Items

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

This item was tabled to the next board meeting.

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

Mr. Ercan said Mr. Vu, Mr. Gunozu, and Mr. Nick worked very hard over the summer on grants. We received funds from the Tamarus rebate for the landscaping. The CC&R grants were canceled but we received the AP grant for \$26,000 that will prepare our students for AP exams and support parents that need financial assistance with AP registrations. We received approval for \$211,741.97 for hiring two RTI specialists, one EL specialist, and for having deep cleaning of each campus. Windmill and Centennial received approval from the governor's technology department for Stem Academy. There is also a new grant and our authorizer is writing together with the interested entities, which will be announced in mid-September. The next regular scheduled board meeting is on September 19, 2020, however the date is subject to change.

### D. 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 closed session was not held during this meeting.

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**E. 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.

**F. Public Comments** (*Information*)

Please see the procedures and rules referenced in item A above.

No additional public comments.

**G. Adjournment** (*Action*)

Ms. Hayman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Tandogan.

**ACTION:** Motion unanimously carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.