

La Jolla Cluster Association Minutes  
Thursday, April 15th, 2021, 4:15 p.m.  
Zoom Meeting

**Attendees:** Neha Bahadur, Jenn Beverage, Megan DeMott, Kerry Dill, Elisabeth Frausto, Andi Frost, Thien-Thanh Genovese, Amy Harp, Stephanie Hasselbrink, Jeff Luna, Leslie Marovich, Mike McQuary, Mitzi Merino, Penny Moreau, Ali Nieblas, Tracy Norris, Charles Podhorsky, Nona Richard, Keri Riney, Tania Rivera, Dana Sanchez, Rob Tindall, Lori Trombley, Nicole Wehrli, Katherine Williams, Deborah Yelon

**Meeting brought to order** – by Nona Richard at 4:16 PM

**March Minutes** - Approved with no changes.

**LJHS Viking 5K Charge (Keri Riney)** - Run will take place 5/15 and 5/16, it's being sponsored by the LJ High Foundation. For information: <https://www.foundationofljhs.com/virtual5k.html>.

**School Board Trustee Report (Dr. McQuary)** - The district is offering summer school for all students and all grade levels. They are encouraging schools to be creative about this and offer academic enrichment and social-emotional support. Surveys will be sent out (late April, early May) to gauge interest and then they will finalize details. They are considering a 4 week session for elementary and two 3 week sessions for secondary. The 2021-22 school year will open with a full schedule. There will be an online option available, but it will be with a strictly online teacher. Enrollment across the district was down about 4%, most of the students lost were from the TK, K, and 1st grade levels. The board is hopeful that offering the summer program and announcing the full reopening for the fall will encourage parents to return to the district.

**Area Superintendent Report (Mitzi Merino)** - District has 73% learners onsite and 27% online. LJ cluster has 2,237 students onsite and 1,085 online. Attendance within the cluster is above the district's average. Even though San Diego is in Orange Tier we will continue to practice the important safety measures (masks, distancing, hand washing, ventilation, testing).

**Principal Updates** - Chuck Podhorsky (LJHS), Jeff Luna (MMS), Andi Frost (BRE), Stephanie Hasselbrink (LJES) and Nona Richard (TPES) all shared how well the reopenings have gone and how proud they are of all the work that was put into it ahead of time and the ongoing work of their staffs. La Jolla High will be transitioning to 4 days a week of learning for their onsite learners. Principals are offering virtual tours and informational meetings to encourage parents who left this year to re-enroll for the next school year. All schools, except TPES, have had to reduce their staffing due to lower projected enrollment numbers, with BRE, MMS, and LJHS losing 2 teacher allocations and LJES losing 4 teacher allocations. .

**Subcommittee Reports** -

GATE (Neha) - a recent update on the GATE testing is saying that they will not offer it until all students are back on campuses. It is still unofficial, but it has been shared with principals and

others. The cluster principals and Mitzi are looking into it and will share more information when they can.

SEL (Jenn) -

- Comm Edu next year: using survey results to focus on topics
- Topic for SEL / principals: there is a recent concern about an increase in substance abuse
- Topic for Cluster: Is there a role for the cluster to repair relationships and feelings after this tough school year?

**Cluster Business** - Looking at dates for next year's meetings. Will probably stay mostly on zoom. If anyone is interested in an officer position please contact Neha or Nona.

**Meeting Adjourned at 5:25 p.m.**

**Next Meeting Dates** - 5/20 (RJP with focus on supporting students' SEL needs with return to campus, student wellness)