



## VOLUME Roundtable RECAP 5/12/15

### Introductions were made:

15 people were in attendance representing 12 school sites

Vicki Meagher, President of LMUSD Board of Trustees was also in attendance

Sites represented:

AGHS, NHS, Lange, Harloe, CCNTH, Judkins, Branch, Fairgrove, Ocean View, Dana, Oceano, Paulding

Recapped VOLUME's purpose (grass roots efforts – Constructive Ideas for Positive Action) and activities for past year: NHS Town Hall meetings during transition of administration, attendance at School Board meetings including sharing agendas/recaps, large mailing list and Facebook presence to keep people informed, monthly Roundtable discussions with a variety of key stakeholders, moving forward Trustee Area Realignment issue, advocated for budget transparency, as well as improved and more transparent updates at Board meetings.

### Prioritized Topics of Discussion as follows:

**1. Technology** – Sites shared what is working well and concerns. Sites with newer infrastructure have more tech opportunities, whereas older sites need infrastructure improvements. **Wi-fi** is inconsistent across the district. Some PTOs/PTAs/Boosters are contributing to the costs of wi-fi, hardware and other equipment, and staffing. Testing is impacting access to **computer labs** and **libraries** and seems to be taking about 4 weeks at a time to get through a testing block. Consensus seems to be that it takes too much time due to lack of technology infrastructure. Some discussion about an **upcoming bond proposal** that would allow the district to upgrade facilities and technology infrastructure. Also, sites recommended inviting Allan Havemose, Executive Director of Information Technology Services to **site meetings** or future **VOLUME Roundtable** discussion. Stacy Meko agreed to look up Allan's latest presentation to the School Board and send it out. **Spam filter** was also a key issue. Spam is gathered in a spam folder and staff is emailed once per day with those emails, so there could be a day or two delay in corresponding with teachers, school board, etc. Discussed strategies to help teachers manage spam/whitelisting email addresses at the start of the school year in conjunction with back to school events.

**2. PTA/PTO/Fundraisers** – Sites shared how fundraiser monies are spent and there was a lot of overlap with school site funds and non-title I schools relied more on PTA/PTO/Booster funds to meet needs typically paid out of Title I funds (staffing for library, computer technical, counselor). Other purchases include: Outdoor Classrooms, Artist in Residence, library books, teacher grants for class supplies, teacher appreciation, field trips, PE equipment, fingerprinting fees for volunteers, copy machines, transportation, library/computer lab furniture, and wi-fi. Some parents asked for more flexible scheduling of finger printing so potential volunteers would not be deterred. Also discussed differences between PTAs and PTOs.

**3. Pool Resources for Assemblies** – Discussed how helpful it would be to have group communication regarding events like assemblies and other PTA/PTO/Booster business. VOLUME will share the email contact list just assembled for the May Roundtable, will need to be updated each year. Fairgrove agreed to spearhead a private Facebook page to facilitate communication, as well.

**4. Late Start Mondays** – Those present were divided about the pros and cons of the different schedule, generally interested in district data about effectiveness and whether attendance/tardies have increased or decreased. Pros discussed included ability to schedule dr. appts prior to start of school and not impact attendance, also move GATE and other afterschool enrichment activities to the start of the day on Mondays. Cons included that not all sites have enough enrichment activities, some kids wait in before school care for three hours each late start Monday. Many parents' working schedules are impacted and many low-income working parents leave their children unattended for the extra hour. Some site staff meetings are not occurring as regularly or at all this year. Discussed how the model may be more effective for elementary schools (having all grade level and site teachers receive information in a consistent manner) than high schools (seem to prefer Professional Learning Communities approach). Discussed that LCAP is in draft form for next year, that it is a multi-year plan, and that the district is still adjusting. Providing feedback about what is working and what is not will be helpful to refine. Professional development is important, but is Late Start Mondays the most effective way? What is the return on investment?

**5. Link between Secondary and Elementary Sites** – Many high school students are looking for community service hours and many elementary sites have needs these students could meet. Mark Houchin agreed to email the PTA/PTO/Boosters contact list to get his and other high school Community Service Site Contacts' information out. Mark is the Community Service Hours contact person for NHS.

**6. MAP Testing** – Good discussion, generally favorable, but some frustration about how useful three times per year is given all of the other testing that is occurring. District is aware of the scheduling and back-to-back testing issues and will be looking to improve that for next year.

#### **Input on Search for New Superintendent:**

Would like someone with a lot of local support, committed to building consensus, accessible, healing rifts, solidarity with teachers, background in teaching and administration, from a similar district if not from LMUSD. President Meagher shared that Leadership Associates was selected to conduct the search. Phil Quon is local (Nipomo). The firm has 12 partners, all former Superintendents. A question was asked if we can find out how happy the place that the potential new superintendent is leaving with that person's prior performance? Who gets to have input. We were advised to sign up for district emails at [luciamarschools.org](http://luciamarschools.org) (very bottom of the page) to receive info on stakeholder opportunities. There will be public stakeholder forums during the process and the final interview will be with the Board of Trustees. There will also be an online survey available on the LMUSD website for stakeholder input. President Meagher was asked what she was looking for in a new superintendent and she shared the following: a good communicator, a listener, skills in building consensus, curriculum (put teachers more in charge of this area), technology, a vision for how to move forward from where we are, knowledgeable about the budget, visible and connected.

**Announcement:** A parent in attendance gave a brief update about oil trains in our area and left handouts with additional information. The group [mesarefinerywatch.com](http://mesarefinerywatch.com) will attend the 5/19/15 School Board meeting to seek a letter from the trustees for the County Planning Commission to oppose these trains.