



school bulletin

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March 7, 2008

Board OKs \$40M in Funding Shifts, Cuts

The Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education has approved more than \$40 million in funding shifts and budget cuts to cope with the state budget crisis. The school district must prepare for the worst while the governor and Legislature work to finalize the state budget in coming months.

The cuts here include broad-based reductions throughout the school district, allowing LBUSD to avoid issuing the dreaded March layoff notices that so many other school districts are issuing to hundreds of teachers.

For more information, including a list of cuts approved at the Board's March 4 and Feb. 19 meetings, visit www.lbschools.net.

College Admission, AP Enrollment Soar

With soaring numbers of local students enrolling in rigorous Advanced Placement courses, and more high school graduates here earning admission to Cal State Long Beach, the national College Board honored Long Beach Unified School District Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser last week with its highest honor.

The College Board awarded Steinhauser the Joe Allen Exemplar Award on Feb. 26 at its annual Western Regional Meeting in Newport Beach.

The number of LBUSD students earning
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Mohr-Silofau Wins State P.E. Teacher of Year

Wilson Classical High School physical education teacher Ruth Mohr-Silofau has won the statewide High School Teacher of the Year Award from the California Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. She will be honored tomorrow at CAHPERD's state conference in Riverside.

"It is really an honor considering it is for the entire state," Mohr-Silofau said. "I am most happy for our students, our school, the school district and for our profession."

The rigorous award selection process began in September and included a written portfolio and five letters of recommendation. A search committee interviewed students and observed a class.



Mohr-Silofau

FITNESS FIRST — LBUSD is the first school district in the nation to obtain large quantities of these state-of-the-art rowing machines provided by a federal grant to create fitness centers at local high schools. Here, Cabrillo High School senior Kiona Roberts watches the machine's computer screen to monitor her progress toward meeting standards.



State-of-Art Rowing Machines Boost Fitness

Students and teachers have quickly begun using a recent shipment of 171 state-of-the-art rowing machines delivered as part of a \$1 million grant to create innovative fitness centers at local high schools. The Long Beach Unified School District is the first school district in the nation to obtain such quantities of these high-tech machines that improve aerobic capacity, muscle strength, endurance and flexibility.

"This is cutting edge physical education," said Joan Van Blom, physical education curriculum leader for the school district. "It's a big step toward increasing student participation in vigorous physical activity." Van Blom is an Olympic medalist in rowing and holds the indoor rowing world record for her age and weight category.

Millikan, Cabrillo, Jordan and Wilson high schools received the machines this year, with Lakewood, Renaissance and Poly scheduled to receive the devices during the next two years under the three-year, federal grant. The grant also pays for training to help physical education teachers incorporate the machines into their instruction. The machines include computer screens that allow students to monitor their performance so they can meet fitness goals as specified by state standards.

Several middle and K-8 schools also have incorporated the machines into their instruction using school-site funds, including Bancroft, Cubberley, DeMille, Franklin, Hamilton, Hill, Hoover, Jefferson, Lindbergh, Marshall, Robinson, Rogers and Stanford.

Save a Tree, Read This Bulletin Online

In an effort to save money, trees and clerical staff time, the *School Bulletin* newsletter will be distributed electronically instead of in hard-copy form starting with the March 21 edition.

Every two weeks, all employees who have a GroupWise e-mail account will receive an e-mailed website link to a file of the latest edition. The file will be printable for those who still need a hard copy. In addition, employees will have access to an electronic archive of recent editions. The *School Bulletin* also will be easily accessed from the home page at www.lbschools.net.

Because some employees may not have regular access to computers and e-mail, limited quantities of hard copies will be sent to sites. Distribution of those hard copies is being coordinated with secretaries.

For more information, call ext. 8111 or ext. 8249.

No Coffee in March

The March 10 Coffee with Chris meeting at Lakewood High School has been canceled. The next chance for employees to meet with Superintendent Chris Steinhauser is 4:30 p.m. April 21 at the Jordan High School library.

• College Admission, AP Enrollment Soar

(Continued from front page)
admission to Cal State Long Beach has increased 46 percent over the past five years, according to newly released numbers. And the latest numbers on Advanced Placement enrollment here show a 65 percent increase since 2003, with African American students' participation increasing by 85 percent, and Latino students' participation increasing by 90 percent. Latino students have now emerged as the ethnic group taking the most AP courses here, finally surpassing the AP enrollment of white students. More than 50 percent of all students here are Latino.

"These achievements reflect the hard work of our employees, parents and community partners," Steinhäuser said. "The credit goes to them for staying focused on high achievement for all students, despite tough challenges."

The College Board is a not-for-profit membership association whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. Each year, the College Board serves seven million students and their parents, 23,000 high schools, and 3,500 colleges through major programs and services in college admissions, guidance, assessment, financial aid, enrollment, and teaching and learning. Among its best-known programs are the SAT, the PSAT/NMSQT and Advanced Placement.

Under Steinhäuser's leadership during the past five years, LBUSD has reached out to hundreds of students who may not have initially considered themselves to be college material. The school district became one of the first to administer the PSAT to every 10th grader, testing their college potential and then placing them in summer workshops and specialized courses that strengthen reading, writing and study skills.

This extra support builds students' tenacity, helping them to believe in themselves and not be discouraged by difficult work.

The Joe Allen Exemplar Award acknowledges outstanding professional achievement, specifically significant contributions on behalf of students, over an extended period of time. The award also recognizes contributions in support of professional colleagues. LBUSD each year provides extensive professional development, or training, for Advanced Placement teachers. Joe Allen served as one of the deans of the College Board's Summer Institute for many years and was a champion of under-represented students.

In 2007, the number of LBUSD students earning admission to Cal State Long Beach was 1,095, up from 750 in 2003.

Among the most dramatic increases in admissions to Cal State Long Beach:

- Between 2006 and 2007 alone, the number of Cabrillo High School students gaining admission to Cal State Long Beach increased by 27 percent. Since 2003, Cabrillo student admissions have increased by 195 percent.

- Jordan High School admissions rose by 12 percent from 2006 to 2007. Since 2003, Jordan student admissions have increased by 78 percent.

This school year, 4,281 students are enrolled in AP courses in the school district. That's up from 2,589 in 2003. The number of African American students here enrolled in AP courses has jumped from 224 to 415 since 2003. The number of Latino students enrolled in AP courses here has increased from 760 to 1,445 since 2003. Latino enrollment in AP courses here now surpasses white enrollment, which is 1,320.

Names in the News

Winners of the annual Long Beach Rotary high school speech contest are: first place, **Emily Frake**, Wilson; second place, **Hunter Thomas**, Wilson; and third place, **Mary Cate McBride**, Poly.

Lauren Cerulle, student at Lakewood High School, was recently honored as Scholar Athlete of the Year at the Lakewood Youth Hall of Fame Annual Awards Program.

Kita Payne, student at School for Adults, took first place in the recent Poetry Out Loud Recitation contest. She and runner-up **Chelsea Maldonado**, Millikan, advanced to the Los Angeles County Finals.

Recent recipients of the ACSA Region XIV Every Student Succeeding Award are **Fanny Reyes**, Jordan; and **Tracy Williams**, EPHS. The award honors students at all grade levels who have succeeded, against all odds, beyond expectations or simply won the hearts of teachers and administrators who helped them achieve their goals.

Winners of the *Grayson* essay contest conducted as part of Long Beach Reads One Book are 1st - **Isabelle Gawel**, Hill; 2nd - **William Stringer**, Rogers; and 3rd (tie) - **Wade Denison**, Hill, and **Grey Dabreona**, Jefferson.

Recently honored as Outstanding Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) for March are **Gloria Clowes**, Bixby; **Marlene Garcia**, McKinley; **Hope Hagmaier**, Garfield; **Munazirah Mulim**, Burroughs; **Ruby Poudel**, Stevenson; **Mari Carmen Remigio**, Edison; **Jean Wiblemo**, Hoover; and **Linda Zill**, MacArthur.

Business Partners Reach Record High

The Association of Long Beach Educational Managers honored 149 new business partners recently for their contributions to local schools. ALBEM welcomed each of the new education partners with plaques during the annual Partnership Recognition Breakfast.

The additional businesses bring the total number of school partnerships in the Long Beach Unified School District to a record high of 1,150. Securing the most new partnerships was Gompers Elementary School, with 20.

The Job Board

- Burcham K-8 School has an opening for an eighth grade science GATE/Accelerated teacher. Call principal LaShell Diggs at ext. 4600 for information.

- Alvarado Elementary School is interviewing teachers for the next school year. Candidates must have expertise in the Reading and Writing Workshop or demonstrate eagerness in learning to implement this curriculum. Teachers must be willing to work collaboratively with colleagues on developing the Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) in math. To interview, call Parisima Shahidi, principal, at ext. 6660.

- Gompers K-8 School has an opening for a GATE science teacher for grades 6, 7, or 8 and a GATE Certified English language arts teacher for grades 6, 7 or 8. To apply, call Gray Lange, principal, at ext. 3605.

- Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., for facilities project manager.

Transfer Requests

Teachers interested in a transfer for the 2008-09 school year must submit a form to HRS on or before Monday, March 31.

A list of vacancies will be posted at all schools, the TALB office, the HRS office and on the HRS website no later than March 15. Applicants may check the schools and grade levels to which they are willing to be assigned. Vacancies may occur late in the process, but changes to the transfer application will not be accepted after the deadline. Requests for transfer are valid through the end of the first seven student days of the following traditional school year.

Employees will be notified about the status of their transfer requests before the end of the 2007-08 school year. For information about transfers, call ext. 8635.

Teachers Ratify Deal

The membership of the Teachers Association of Long Beach has ratified a tentative labor agreement with the school district giving teachers a 4.53 percent salary increase retroactive to July 1, 2007.

TALB members approved the deal in an election in which 98 percent expressed support for the contract, according to the *Long Beach Press-Telegram*.

The proposed contract must now be approved by the Los Angeles County Office of Education before going to the Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education for approval.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER

Superintendent of Schools

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In Memoriam

Beverly Ann Kniss
former teacher
Feb. 18, 2008

Muriel Goodwin
former psychologist
Feb. 23, 2008