



school bulletin

ISSUED BI-WEEKLY SEPTEMBER THROUGH JUNE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

November 14, 2008

Governor Proposes Mid-Year Cuts, Taxes

An unanticipated \$11.2 billion state deficit could grow to \$28 billion by the end of June. The state now faces the possibility of running out of funds to meet its commitments contained in the budget it adopted less than two months ago.

To address the growing deficit, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has called a special session of the California Legislature this week to consider his proposed combination of new state cuts and revenue increases.

He is proposing \$4.5 billion in cuts to the current state budget. If approved by the Legislature, the Long Beach Unified School District's share of these cuts would be approximately \$40 million.

In anticipation of major mid-year state funding cuts to local school districts in the weeks and months ahead, the Long Beach

(Continued on next page)

Measure K School Bonds Win by Landslide

Voters approved Measure K school bonds by an overwhelming 71.34 percent yes vote, providing for \$1.2 billion, and the possibility of hundreds of millions of dollars of state matching funds, to upgrade classrooms and construct new school buildings.

"Our community has once again demonstrated that they support good schools for all of our students," said Christopher Steinhauser, superintendent of schools.

"Our deepest gratitude goes to our parents, teachers, administrators, support staff and many business and community supporters who made this great educational victory happen for our children."

The final results showed Measure K received 97,738 yes votes and 39,270 no votes.

Proceeds from the bond, with matching funds from the state, will be used to retrofit schools for earthquake safety and handicapped accessibility. Measure K funds will be used for repairing restrooms, plumbing, roofs and

fire safety systems; removing lead paint and asbestos; upgrading vocational classrooms and technology; improving energy efficiency; expanding supervised after-school programs; and reducing overcrowding through new construction and renovation. The school district also plans to create smaller high schools that provide more personalized instruction and individual attention to students.

Most local schools were built before 1970, and many students are learning in portable classrooms. Measure K will address these challenges.

The passage of Measure K also culminates months of planning, with significant input from the community.

With the involvement of hundreds of community members, students, teachers and other district staff, the school district developed a Facility Master Plan that includes recommended projects. The plan was developed after approximately 200 meetings involving 14 committees and thousands of community surveys.

The entire Facility Master Plan is available at www.lbschools.net, as well as the Board of Education's formal resolution calling for the election. The resolution contains further details about high priority projects. It calls for allocating bond proceeds so that each of the communities served by the school district – including Long Beach, Signal Hill, Lakewood and Catalina Island – obtains its fair share.

Community members will continue to be involved as a citizen's oversight committee helps to provide accountability for the proper use of Measure K school bonds.

Schools Raise \$35,000 for Children's Clinic

Students, staff and parents in the Long Beach Unified School District raised more than \$35,000 during the recent Beach Walk for the non-profit Children's Clinic of Long Beach.

Proceeds from the 5K walk will help the clinic to provide low- and no-cost health care for children, many of whom attend local schools. The Children's Clinic accommodates thousands of visits annually.

Millikan High School raised the most funds among teams participating in the walk, with the high school's smaller learning communities and clubs well represented. Millikan donors

contributed approximately \$31,000, nearly a third of the total funds raised for the walk.

Jackie Robinson Academy raised the most money among middle and K-8 schools, netting \$500, while International Elementary School outpaced all other elementary schools by raising \$2,422.

Other major participants included Emerson, Poly, Hughes, Kettering, Hi Hill, Jordan, Twain, Office of School Support Services, Burroughs, Garfield, Lowell, Long Beach School Nurses Association, Cleveland, Webster and an LBUSD team.



CDC DONATION — Jose Luna, Lakewood Vons Pavilion store manager, and student Devin Morris cut the ribbon on a new oak bookcase filled with new books at the Holmes Child Development Center. Twelve CDC sites have received identical gifts, valued at about \$2,000 each, thanks to the Bring Me A Book Foundation and contributions of Vons employees and other private donors and companies. For information about Bring Me a Book, visit www.bringmeabook.org.

Rotary Gift Grows To 145,000 New Books

Long Beach Rotary raised approximately \$32,500 in donations and matching funds to help local school libraries during the club's regular meeting last month.

Poly High School alumnus Frank Newell, past president of Long Beach Rotary, obtained more than \$17,500 in donations from Rotary members in about 10 minutes during his annual fundraiser aboard the Queen Mary. Private foundations will provide an additional \$15,000 in matching funds.

Twelve elementary school libraries and three local non-profit literacy programs will receive the generous gift of books: Addams, Barton, Chavez, Edison, Grant, Harte, Lafayette, Muir, Powell, Roosevelt, Stevenson and Willard schools, and the Cambodian Association, Long Beach Day Nursery and the Long Beach Library Foundation.

These funds will buy about 15,000 more books for the local school libraries this year. Rotary's generous donations have provided more than 145,000 books to local school libraries since 1998.

Spectacular Bands

The 24th annual LBUSD High School Band Spectacular will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 25, at the Cabrillo High School Stadium.

The event will showcase the marching bands from Cabrillo, Jordan, Lakewood, Millikan, Poly and Wilson, along with the Long Beach City College Viking Show Band.

Each band will present its award winning 2008 field show. Dance teams, drill teams and tall flags from the schools will also be featured. The evening's finale features a special performance of the combined bands.

The event starts at 7 p.m. with gates opening at 6 p.m. Tickets are available in advance from high school band members or at the gate the evening of the performance for a suggested donation of \$5. All proceeds benefit the high school band programs.

Fare Hike Proposal

The Long Beach Transit Board of Directors will hold a public hearing about proposed fare increases on Wednesday, Dec. 3, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Long Beach Main Public Library Auditorium, 101 Pacific Ave.

A state funding shortfall of \$6.4 million and a projected decline in local sales tax revenue prompted the proposed fare increase. If approved, students' \$31 monthly passes would increase to \$40 on Feb. 15, 2009 and to \$45 on Feb. 14, 2010.

Those unable to attend the hearing may submit their comments in writing by Dec. 10 to Long Beach Transit, Attn: Fare Adjustment, P.O. Box 731, Long Beach, CA 90801.

Dangerous Plant

Renaissance High School for the Arts will present the musical *Little Shop of Horrors* on Saturday, Nov. 15 at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 16 at 2 p.m. at the Long Beach Performing Arts Center Theatre. Ticket prices range from \$8 to \$20 and are available at www.ticketmaster.com or at the Performing Arts Center Box Office.

Dates to Remember

December	
1	World AIDS Day
2	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Respecting Others," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
4	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "School Bus Safety," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
5	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Food For Fun," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
7	Pearl Harbor Day
9	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Kwanzaa," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
10	Human Rights Day
10	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Christmas," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
11	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Hanukkah/Passover," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
12	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "December Holidays," Grades 1-5, ed.tv 8
15	Bill of Rights Day
16	Boston Tea Party Anniversary
16	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Celebrate," Grades K-8, ed.tv 8
17	Anniversary of the Wright Brothers' Flight
17	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "New Year's Day," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
18	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "A Christmas Carol," Grades 4-9, ed.tv 8
19	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Ebenezer," Grades 4-6, ed.tv 8
22-29	Hanukkah (Festival of Lights)
22-Jan. 2	Winter Recess
25-26	Christmas Holiday Observed
26-Jan. 1	Kwanzaa
29	Feast of Muharram (Islamic New Year)

L.B. College Promise Begins Scholarships

Long Beach City College recently awarded 50 Rotary scholarships to launch an effort to eventually provide free first-semester tuition to all Long Beach-area high school students who don't qualify for sufficient financial aid.

Long Beach College Promise is a joint effort by LBCC, Long Beach Unified School District and CSULB to make college degrees accessible to local students.

The 50 scholarships come from a \$30,000 donation from the Long Beach Rotary Club, which wanted the money devoted to the Long Beach College Promise. College officials hope to raise enough money so that, starting in 2011, they can begin paying for first-semester tuition for students who don't qualify for enough financial aid to be able to afford college.

The Long Beach College Promise is part of the Academic and Career Success For All Initiative approved by the Board of Education.

Health Plans Offer Open Enrollment

Employees of the Long Beach Unified School District have an opportunity this month to change health care plans, add dependents to those plans and to enroll in a flexible spending account (FSA) for next year.

The open enrollment period to make these changes runs through Friday, Nov. 30.

Information packets containing details about medical and dental care plans were sent to employees last month. Employees now have three ways to change plans. They may enroll online at www.benefitenroll.com, speak to an Employee Service Center representative at (866) 844-9744, or use the Employee Service Center's Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system at (866) 844-9744.

Employees who do not participate in open enrollment will have the same benefits in 2009 that they currently have. Any changes in coverage selected by employees will go into effect in January.

The Job Board

Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., for plant supervisor-high school.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
Superintendent of Schools

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• Mid-Year Cuts

(Continued from first page)

Unified School District is continuing its hiring freeze on all certificated and classified positions until further notice. It is also eliminating overtime pay.

Six other major activities are also being suspended here immediately:

- Intersessions for December
- Tutorials after Thanksgiving
- Teacher Council meetings
- Professional Development from General Fund
- Field trips from General Fund, EIA-LEP, SCE, SBLIG and Title I
- All purchase orders for supplemental materials and equipment.

"As we take these necessary steps, we are determined to protect the core mission of the Long Beach Unified School District — the education of all students," said Superintendent Christopher Steinhauser. "We are determined to protect as many jobs as possible."

He pointed out that Measure K school bonds approved on Nov. 4 cannot be used to reduce the budget crisis or to prevent budget cuts. School bonds can legally be used only for the specific limited purpose contained in the ballot measure: modernization, upgrading of buildings, new schools, etc.

The governor's proposed major budget adjustments were e-mailed to district employees this week. Some of the proposed cuts directly affect K-12 public education.

To avoid deeper cuts, the governor is also proposing \$4.7 billion in new revenues, including increases in state sales tax, use tax, oil severance tax and alcohol and excise taxes.

The proposed combination of mid-year budget cuts and increased taxes is designed to eliminate the current deficit. Until these or other actions are approved by the California Legislature, the state's budget deficit will continue to deepen.

Data Analysis Skills

A new professional development opportunity is available to teachers who want to strengthen their use of data analysis to improve schools.

The LBUSD Data Analysis Program Certificate represents the completion of 45 hours of professional development that supports understanding why data are important, what data to gather, how to use and analyze data for comprehensive and continuous school-wide improvement and how to communicate and report data results.

Coursework is designed for new and experienced educators who wish to develop a systematic process for increasing student achievement with students at all ability levels and within all subgroups.

For complete certification procedures, please visit the Strategic Planning webpage on the district website for detailed instructions, or call Cindy Young at ext. 4645.

Name in the News

Ruth Mohr-Silofau, former physical education teacher at Wilson Classical High School, recently won the bronze medal Teachers in the Spotlight Award from the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.