



school bulletin

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

February 6, 2009

Federal Funds May Boost LBUSD Budget

With the Long Beach Unified School District facing \$70 million in cuts due to the state budget crisis, the federal government may step in with more than \$62 million as part of a national economic stimulus package.

"This type of help for schools, which is typically a state function, is unprecedented," Kim Stallings, chief business and financial officer, told the Board of Education during a recent public meeting. "We're very hopeful about this. The federal revenue is the most exciting thing we've seen in a long time."

The state budget deficit is estimated to grow to \$42 billion over the next 17 months. Gov. Schwarzenegger has proposed cutting \$7.5 billion from education this year and next year.

Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser warned that the federal funding would not cure

the state's ongoing budget problems. The state continues to spend more money than it takes in.

"This would be a windfall for the school district, but what everyone must remember is that this is a short-term two-year solution," Steinhauser said.

The federal stimulus package is being considered by Congress and is supported by President Obama. A House of Representatives version would give LBUSD nearly \$63 million over this year and next for special education districtwide and various federal Title I programs for schools with large numbers of economically disadvantaged students.

Democratic leaders have promised to have legislation ready for Obama to sign in mid-February.

Wilson One of Best in Nation on AP for All

Wilson Classical High School is one of only 16 schools nationwide recognized in the College Board's fifth annual AP Report to the nation for increasing access to Advanced Placement among traditionally underserved students.

Wilson was specifically recognized as the public school with the largest number of Latino students in the Class of 2008 achieving success, with a score of three or higher on the AP World History Exam.

The Long Beach Unified School District has made a concerted effort to increase access to AP as part of its Academic and Career Success Initiative.

The number of students enrolled in AP classes districtwide has increased steadily in recent years. Wilson regularly appears on *Newsweek's* annual list of America's Best High Schools because of the number of students taking AP tests there.

See www.collegeboard.com for more on AP.

Survey Says Class Size Reduction is Popular

A survey of more than 7,700 parents, employees and community members regarding program priorities in light of the budget crisis shows a desire to preserve elementary school class size reduction, counseling services and elementary school libraries, among other items.

The brief survey was administered for two weeks recently at www.lbschools.net. About 6,200 surveys were filled out online, and 1,500 in hard copy form.

The survey generated more than 2,500 open-ended comments. The data and comments will be used by the school district's Budget Advisory Committee, which includes 27 people representing employee unions, administrators, business people, parents and

other community members.

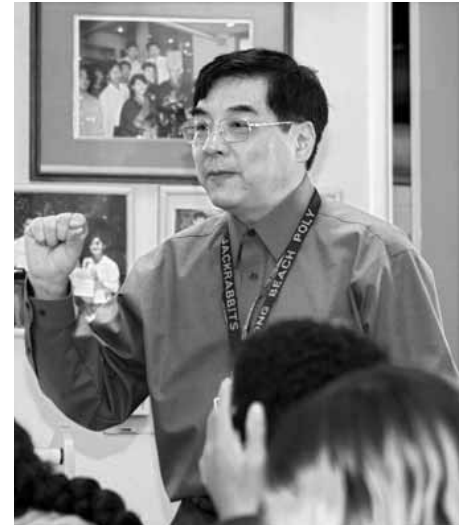
No immediate decisions will be made based upon the survey. The Budget Advisory Committee will consider the information as it later makes budget recommendations to the Board of Education.

Overall, preserving grades K-3 Class Size Reduction (reduced numbers of students per teacher) by far was considered the top priority. The second most important priority overall was grades 4-5 Class Size Reduction. The third most important priority overall was a virtual tie between elementary counseling services and elementary library/media centers, which were followed closely for third place by elementary nursing services and high school counseling services.

While not intended to be comprehensive, the survey will provide the Budget Advisory Committee with some guidance regarding top priorities.

The survey also separately asked participants to prioritize items within the elementary, middle/K-8 and high school levels.

For more detailed data, visit www.lbschools.net and click on the \$ symbol near the upper right of the home page.



WORLD CLASS — Poly teacher Minqi Zhu earned worldwide honors for designing Chinese language curriculum. The award was sponsored by the Chinese government.

Teacher of Chinese Among Best in World

Minqi Zhu, who teaches Chinese at Poly High School, has won a worldwide award for designing curriculum.

Zhu earned the International Chinese Educators Curriculum Design Award, given by the Chinese government and its Education Ministry. He was selected from an initial pool of 591 educators worldwide. That pool was narrowed to 17 winners, including Zhu. Only two other teachers from the United States earned the honor, which required a videotaped teaching demonstration. He accepted the

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National Center Spotlights LBUSD

A recent report by the National Center for Educational Achievement highlights effective math and science practices in the Long Beach Unified School District, including instructional methods at Hill Classical Middle School and International Elementary School.

The report, "Core Practices in Math and Science: An Investigation of Consistently Higher Performing School Systems in Five States," notes practices that have led to higher than expected performance at Hill, International and throughout the district.

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Coffee With Chris

The Long Beach Unified Family Committee will meet Tuesday, Feb. 10 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Administration Building.

The informal meetings encourage open dialogue between employees and Superintendent Chris Steinhauser.

• National Center

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Among the findings:

- Curriculum development is collaborative and needs-driven.
 - Internal leadership development helps retain staff and builds a pipeline with strong instructional leaders.
 - Collegial collaboration is prevalent and provides teachers with further opportunities to develop professionally.
 - Common instructional practices in the district emphasize addressing state standards and engaging all students.
 - District administrators practice data-driven program monitoring. Data used are wide-ranging.
 - Parents in the district have many opportunities to get involved in monitoring their children's performance. Through communication, district educators enable parents to participate in monitoring their children's performance.
 - Intervention for lower performing schools and struggling teachers centers on mobilizing district resources and support.
 - Early and focused intervention is available to help struggling students stay on track.
 - Long-range academic goals embraced by educators throughout the Long Beach Unified School District focus on providing students with the foundation and opportunities required for college and career readiness.
- Since 1999, the National Center for Educational Achievement has studied more than 500 public schools across the nation in an effort to disseminate effective practices. In this case, NCEA focused on practices in California, Florida, Massachusetts, Michigan and Texas.
- For more information on the NCEA, visit www.just4kids.org.

Transfer Requests

Human Resource Services will be accepting transfer requests from teachers who wish to change school sites for the 2009-10 school year. Please refer to the TALB Agreement, Article VIII, for guidelines.

Transfer request forms will be available at all school sites, the TALB office and the HRS office starting this week. Information about unique school options, such as scheduling and instructional programs, is posted on the district's website. Teachers are encouraged to read about schools and their special programs before submitting their requests.

Transfer requests are valid through the end of the first seven student days of the following traditional school year. The deadline to apply for transfers is Tuesday, March 31. Transfer requests will not be accepted after the deadline. For information about transfers, call ext. 8635.

Lee's Gifted Visitors

Lee Elementary School next Friday, Feb. 13, will host 40 teachers participating in the annual California Association for the Gifted Conference, held this year in Anaheim.

Visitors will observe teachers at Lee in grades one to five teaching differentiated lessons and modeling depth and complexity of the core curriculum. Visitors will also lunch with Lee teachers to learn more about building an accelerated program.

Summer Employment

The classified application for summer school employment is now available on the Personnel Commission web site.

All sites and departments will receive an e-mail with the application and supporting documents attached for downloading and reproducing. A district mailing will also be sent for those who do not have access to the web or email.

The application and information sheet can be completed online but must be printed out and signed. All applications and information sheets must be attached together and sent directly to Personnel Commission, Summer Applicant Desk, 999 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90813.

The deadline to apply is Friday, March 20, by 4:30 p.m. For information, call ext. 7380.

E-Waste Collection

Safely dispose of unwanted computer monitors, TVs, DVD players, cell phones and other electronic equipment at a downtown Long Beach e-waste dropoff event.

E-waste may be dropped off between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7 at the northeast lot at the corner of Broadway at Long Beach Blvd.

All cell phones will be donated to Interval House and Su Casa Domestic Abuse Network to help battered spouses and children successfully transition out of abusive homes.

The drive is sponsored by Long Beach Councilmember Suja Lowenthal and the Environmental Services Bureau.

Names in the News

Tony Belletti auditioned for All State Honor Jazz Ensemble and was chosen to play 2nd trumpet. The ensemble only accepts four in the state. He performs in Fresno on Feb. 22. He is a Millikan Compass student. He also made All Southern Honor Orchestra.

Recently honored as Outstanding Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) are **Maria Antunez**, Robinson; **Astrid Armas**, Washington; **Teresa Bowles**, Muir; **Patricia Campos**, Stevenson; **Connie Ingersol**, Riley; **Sandra Miller**, Gompers; and **Micaela Zuno**, Hamilton.

Cubberley teacher **Marilyn Crane** recently received the Council for Exceptional Children's 2009 STAR Award for excellence in teaching special needs pre-kindergarten students.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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• Chinese Award

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award recently in Beijing, where the Chinese government paid for his lodging.

"I was so excited," Zhu said. "I think it's not my own award, though. It's for the whole school and the students."

Zhu was the only teacher to use his own book in his teaching demonstration. He created the book based upon his 14 years of teaching at Poly. His book, "Learning to Speak Chinese through Contextualized Dialogues," reflects his personal approach to teaching, especially at more advanced levels such as Advanced Placement Chinese.

"It's a little different from the standard textbook. I don't teach vocabulary or sentence structure. I teach conversation and communication," Zhu said. "I just make everyone happy. They learn when they're happy. Learning this exotic language is not easy for Long Beach students. It also involves improving their understanding of Chinese culture."

Zhu's colleagues speak highly of him.

"He's the quintessential educator," said Jeff Inui, director of the Pacific Rim and Center for International Curriculum Academics at Poly.

"You couldn't ask for a more dedicated teacher." Zhu teaches in both of the academies at Poly, where a focus on international languages helps students when they hit the job market.

"China is the largest market and has great potential," Zhu said. "My students can benefit and find a job there or here – even in Long Beach they have shipping companies from China."

Last summer, Zhu took 13 students to China as part of a trip sponsored by the Chinese government. Zhu was able to arrange for the trip through the Confucius Institute at UCLA, where he is an advisory board member.

Zhu taught English in China for nine years before arriving at Poly, where he teaches five levels of Mandarin. He holds a master's degree in theatre arts and a Ph.D in East Asian studies. For five years, he also taught Chinese during the summer at the University of Pennsylvania School of Business.

Teach in Yokkaichi

Teachers interested in teaching in Long Beach's sister city, Yokkaichi, Japan for two years beginning in August, are invited to an informational meeting on Wednesday, March 11, 3 to 5 p.m. at CSULB's Career Development Center, Brotman Hall, Room 250.

Applications will be available at the meeting along with representatives from the Long Beach Yokkaichi committee to answer questions. For information, call ext. 8025.

In Memoriam

Patricia Ann Wolfe

former teacher

Jan. 3, 2009

Sydelle "Syd" Lemmerman

former Head Start teacher

Jan. 18, 2009