



school bulletin

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

February 24, 2012

Special Meeting Set To Fill Board Seat

The Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education this week scheduled a special meeting for 9 a.m. Friday, March 23 in the Community Room at 1515 Hughes Way to consider filling a vacancy on the board.

The school board had decided at its regular meeting on Feb. 7 that it will fill the vacancy by appointment. An application, screening and interview process will be used to fill the position.

The District 5 seat on the five-member board became vacant Jan. 25 when the board's vice president, David Barton, resigned due to health concerns.

Once appointed, the new board member will complete the remainder of the District 5 term, which expires in July 2014.

The application and a map of District 5 are available at lbschools.net or upon request by contacting Human Resource Services at (562) 997-8257.

Applications must be received in the Human Resource Services office no later than 4 p.m. Friday, March 2.

Board Selects Meyer As Vice President

The Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education selected Jon Meyer this week to serve as vice president of the board, after David Barton resigned from the position last month.

Meyer has served as both vice president and as president of the board in prior years. He first joined the board in 2003.

Meyer will serve as vice president until the next board reorganization in July 2012.

Schools Host Visitors From Near and Far

What do educators in China, the Philippines, Arizona and Ohio have in common? They're all among the 37 requests this school year to visit the Long Beach Unified School District to observe successful practices.

The visits include officials from 13 school districts, several foundations and other education agencies, doctoral candidates from Harvard University, and various regional and national media outlets.

Among the reasons cited for such interest are the school district's status as a five-time finalist for the national Broad Prize for Urban Education as well as the listing of Long Beach

(Continued on next page)

Board Cuts More, Eyes Possible 'Armageddon'

California's ongoing budget crisis resulted in \$9.66 million in additional cuts this week by the Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education. The school board also OK'd the elimination of up to 308 more jobs, mostly teaching positions.

The school district, which has cut more than 1,000 positions and \$330 million since 2008, faces yet another annual funding loss of between \$19 million and \$30 million in state funds starting next school year. The \$30 million figure reflects a worst-case scenario in which voters reject Gov. Jerry Brown's pro-

posed school revenue initiative in November.

"If that initiative is not passed, we will see cuts that we have not seen in our lifetimes," LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauer told the school board. "It will truly be armageddon, and the public needs to know that."

The latest cuts include \$1 million in transportation services, which already have been reduced significantly in recent years. Special education transportation will not be affected. But with the latest cuts, only about 2,000

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Football Legends Tackle Fundraising Project

A recent fundraiser featuring former football greats has helped middle school sports to edge closer to a goal of raising \$190,000 to keep next year's programs alive.

The fundraiser luncheon and VIP photo reception were hosted by Keesal, Young and Logan at their offices in Long Beach's Union Bank Building, where former pro football players Sam Cunningham, Damon Dunn and four-time Superbowl champ Ronnie Lott were joined by former college and pro football coach Ty Willingham.

LBUSD began seeking private support for middle school sports last year due to the state's ongoing budget crisis. With the help of such

donations, the program was saved for this year, and fundraising quickly began for next year.

The recent event raised \$25,000 plus another \$35,000 in pledges, including pledges of \$12,500 each from Toyota and its TABC manufacturing plant, along with a \$10,000 pledge from Molina Healthcare. With the pledges, the total raised for next year's program is more than \$178,000, close to the \$190,000 goal.

As part of the fundraiser, Lott allowed luncheon guests to try on his four Superbowl rings for a price, raising over \$1,000.

Learn more and donate at lbschools.net under Save Middle School Sports in the A-Z index.



WINNING TEAM — Former pro football players Sam Cunningham, Damon Dunn and four-time Superbowl champ Ronnie Lott (speaking) were joined by former college and pro football coach Ty Willingham at a recent fundraiser to save middle school sports in the Long Beach Unified School District. The event raised \$25,000 plus another \$35,000 in pledges.

• Visitors

(Continued from first page)
schools among the world's 20 leading education systems by McKinsey & Company, a trusted advisor and counselor to many of the most influential businesses and institutions in the world. McKinsey serves more than 70 percent of Fortune magazine's most admired companies.

Recent and upcoming visits here include observers from Fresno, Sacramento, Kern County, Shasta County, Palmdale, Deer Valley (Phoenix), Santa Monica-Malibu, Culver City, Compton, Paramount and Columbus, OH.

A teacher from the Philippines plans to observe Lafayette Elementary School's successful efforts to raise student achievement, now that the school has earned the Panasonic National School Change Award and is a finalist for the National Center for Urban School Transformation's 2012 National Excellence in Urban Education Award to be announced next month.

Summer Jobs

Applications for classified summer employment are available at all sites and offices. They may also be accessed at lbschools.net, under Personnel Commission, Summer School Information.

Deadline to apply is Friday, March 16.

Celebrate on May 18

Save the date for a kick-off to Classified Employee Week. This year's annual celebration of classified employees will be held on Friday, May 18.

Watch for more information soon at schools, district offices and in the School Bulletin.

Dates to Remember

March

	American Red Cross Month
	Music in Our Schools Month
	National Middle Level Education Month
	National Nutrition Month
	Women's History Month
	Youth Art Month
1	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 "Reading Rainbow: Once There Was a Tree," Grades 1-5, ed.tv 8
2	NEA's Read Across America
2	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "One Fine Day" and "Take the Power," Grades 3-12, ed.tv 8
3	Adoption of U.S. National Anthem
5	Black American Day
6	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "The Struggle for Women's Rights," Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
7	Conservation, Bird and Arbor Day
7	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Benjamin Franklin," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
8	International Women's Day
8	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "School Bus and the Exceptional Child," Grades K-12, ed.tv 8
9	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Indian Artists of the Southwest," Grades 6-8, ed.tv 8
11	Johnny Appleseed Day
11	Daylight Savings Day
11-17	Girl Scout Week
13	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Ask for It," Grades 1-2, ed.tv 8
14	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 15 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 20 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 22 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 29 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Adventures in Poetry I," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
16	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "School Bus Safety," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
17	St. Patrick's Day
20	First Day of Spring
27	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Cesar Chavez," Grades 3-12, ed.tv 8
28	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Florence Nightingale," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8
30	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "The Velveteen Rabbit," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
31	Cesar Chavez Day

Cabrillo Launches Ivy League Program

Cabrillo High School has launched a new after-school program, Reach to the Stars, that aims to bring Ivy League grads and industry leaders in science, technology, literature and the arts to Cabrillo students. The hope is to encourage youth to attend some of the nation's top colleges and universities.

Cabrillo Co-Principal Alejandro Vega and nationally board certified Spanish teacher Ethel Seminario-Laczko facilitate the program.

"We have had over 80 students attend our after-school events, and the numbers keep growing," Laczko said. "Part of the mission here is to demonstrate to the students that Ivy League is definitely within their reach if they set their minds and hearts to it."

The program has already attracted notable Ivy League and industry leading guests including aerospace engineering experts from MIT and a former senior vice president of production for video game giant Activision who was one of the forces behind the successful game franchises "Call of Duty" and "Guitar Hero."

Other activities include workshops on leadership, college entrance exams and interviews.

Nurse of the Year

The Long Beach School Nurses Association is seeking nominations for the School Nurse of the Year for 2011-2012. Each year, the association recognizes one special nurse for their outstanding contributions to the health and well-being of students.

To nominate a school nurse for this honor, request a nomination form from Nancy Suzuki at nsuzuki@lbschools.net.

The deadline for submission is Friday, March 30.

Dance Spectrum

Dance Spectrum, the annual event featuring performances from the school district's high schools, is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, March 8 at Millikan High School.

For tickets and additional information contact Jennifer Waters at 425-7441.

Retirement Event

Honoree	Date	Contact
Joan Van Blom	March 16	Lisa Ulmer 423-1471 ext. 2155

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
Superintendent of Schools

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• Budget Cuts

(Continued from first page)
regular education students will ride the bus next year, compared to more than 22,000 a few years ago. Affected parents have been notified.

About \$6.2 million in savings will come from the maximization of class sizes. Though the contractual class size will not change (class sizes already have been increased in recent years), a reduction of about 62 teaching positions could mean more classes that combine grade levels at the K-8 level, and stringent implementation of maximum class sizes at the high school level. Another \$2 million will be saved by cutting 20 English language learner specialist positions. The previously announced closure of Keller Elementary School was included in this round of reductions for a savings of \$460,000.

The job cuts listed in this week's \$9.66 million in reductions are part of a larger total of up to 308 positions OK'd for possible elimination for next school year. The 308 certificated jobs include the school district's special and temporary contract teachers, as well as most of the teaching staff at the district's Child Development Centers and Head Start programs that provide pre-K and other services.

The CDC cuts are a result of state cuts in funding for that program. And while the local Head Start program and its employees have earned repeated state and national recognition for their exemplary work, the federally funded program is encroaching into the school district's operating budget, which LBUSD can no longer afford, Steinhauer said.

Some of the 308 positions may be restored depending on variables such as the number of retirements and resignations here, as well as the ever-changing state budget picture. But the school board's approval of the potential job reductions allows time to comply with requirements to notify employees by mid-March regarding potential layoffs. Final layoff notices would be sent in May.

Names in the News

The California School Personnel Commissioner's Association recently presented an award of excellence posthumously to **Chuck Acosta**, former Long Beach Unified School District Personnel Commissioner. The award recognized outstanding performance and contributions to the merit system.

Bond Refinancing to Save Taxpayers \$25M

The refinancing of 1999 voter-approved Measure A school construction and modernization bonds will save local taxpayers more than \$25 million. The Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education approved the refinancing this week at their regular meeting.

Under the refinancing, the current interest rate of 4.98 percent will decrease significantly to 3.4 percent, bringing it near a 45-year historic low. The result will be \$25.3 million in savings to taxpayers over about 20 years.

The school district's ability to secure the low interest rate also reflects LBUSD's good credit rating. Despite unprecedented state cuts in public education funding, the school district so far has made budget reductions necessary to remain fiscally sound.