



school bulletin

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

January 27, 2012



GIVING BACK — Wilson Classical High School Male Academy co-leader Ted Hollister is joined by Male Academy alum Jose Andrade as they prepare to march in Long Beach's Martin Luther King, Jr. parade. Academy graduates are returning to help other students. Andrade, who designed these T-shirts, said, "I have to thank the Male Academy for what they gave me." **Story on next page.**

David Barton Resigns From School Board

Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education member David Barton has announced his resignation from the school board.

Barton was first elected in 2006 to represent LBUSD's District 5, which includes Millikan and Lakewood high schools along with surrounding elementary, middle and K-8 schools. He ran unopposed for a second four-year term in 2010 and most recently was serving as the board's vice president.

In a letter this week, Barton said the resignation was "for reasons of health" effective immediately.

Because Barton's term does not expire until 2014, the Board of Education must begin taking steps to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term. The school board will discuss the matter at its next regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 7.

"David has served with distinction on the school board," said LBUSD Board of Education President Felton Williams. "Together we have navigated extremely difficult times that have included unprecedented cuts in state funding, yet we have maintained our focus on improving student achievement. David's leadership in this regard will be missed."

"David has played an integral role here," LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser said. "His calm, thoughtful leadership has contributed much to our success. We thank him for his service, and we wish him the best."

National Journal Describes LBUSD's Success

This month's edition of the American School Board Journal explains why the Long Beach Unified School District continues to see "world class" gains in student achievement despite tough times.

The article, "On the Way to Great," notes that Fortune 500 Research Firm McKinsey and Co. last year included LBUSD among the world's 20 leading school systems.

"The district's performance over the last two decades — as well as the improvement it has posted year to year — has been remarkable," writer Lawrence Hardy observes. "Why Long Beach? What is it about California's third-largest district — one still dwarfed in size by Los Angeles Unified to the north — that qualifies it to be measured against the very best in the world?"

The answer, writes Hardy, is that the school district is data-driven and doesn't succumb to flavor-of-the-month reforms, instead incorporating various initiatives into a cohesive plan to improve student achievement. The school district does all this despite the state's ongoing budget crisis largely because of a school board that rallies in support of LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser, "to underscore that Steinhauser's policies are board policies so he couldn't be singled out as easily for attack."

The article notes that last year, African American students graduated at "a remarkable 73 percent rate, and their dropout rate was 40 percent below the African-American average for the state," according to the Silicon Valley (Continued on next page)

Steinhauser to Chair Statewide Task Force

Long Beach Unified School District Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser will co-chair a new statewide Educator Excellence Task Force, according to a recent announcement from State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson.

Noting that Steinhauser is nationally recognized for improving student achievement, the state superintendent announced the appointment to the task force, which will recommend ways of strengthening California's teacher corps.

The task force, part of Torlakson's Blueprint for Great Schools, will be a joint effort of the California Department of Education and the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. It will be co-chaired by

Stanford University's Linda Darling-Hammond. The full membership of the task force will be announced soon.

"Dr. Darling-Hammond and Superintendent Steinhauser have my thanks and my admiration for being willing to oversee this important work," Torlakson said.

The task force will:

- Develop comprehensive recruitment, training and preparation frameworks for both new and experienced educators;
- Encourage the development of more effective educator evaluation systems;
- Make certain that these systems are supported by training for evaluators, mentoring for teachers, and professional development programs; and
- Recommend how these systems should be designed, supported and implemented.

Darling-Hammond is an education professor at Stanford, where she launched the School Redesign Network, the Stanford Educational Leadership Institute, and the Stanford Center for Opportunity Policy in Education.

Steinhauser said his appointment by Torlakson is a testament to the high quality and professionalism of teachers in Long Beach schools.

"I'm honored and thankful that Superintendent Torlakson has recognized the excellence of Long Beach schools and teachers by allowing us significant input on this task force," Steinhauser said. "We plan to share our best practices, learn from others, and improve the delivery of instruction to thousands of students in local schools and statewide."



Steinhauser

Jury Clears LBUSD In Melody Ross Case

A jury in the Melody Ross civil case has returned a verdict in favor of the Long Beach Unified School District. The jury awarded no damages, finding the school district in no way liable for the off-campus, fatal shooting of the Wilson Classical High School student on October 30, 2009.

"The jury agreed that our school district was in no way responsible for this senseless act of violence that occurred off campus," said LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser. "We're relieved that the real perpetrator of this crime, the gunman, will be held accountable rather than an outstanding school whose staff provides a safe environment. Our hearts go out to everyone who knew and loved Melody, but we applaud the jury for considering all the evidence and applying the law correctly."

Male Academy Alum Says Thanks for Help

Jose Andrade arrived more than an hour early at the recent Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade in Long Beach. The 2011 Wilson Classical High School graduate was eager to join some of his younger and former classmates to help carry the Male Academy banner down the parade route.

"I have to thank the Male Academy for what they gave to me," said Andrade as he volunteered on the spot to help decorate the Long Beach Unified School District's stake-bed truck that would carry LBUSD school board members and students up Martin Luther King Avenue.

As a freshman at Wilson, Andrade earned mostly F's on his report card, but he says that with the guidance of mentors provided through the school's Male Academy, he turned his life around. By the time he was a senior at Wilson, he was earning mostly A's, headed for Long Beach City College, and dreaming of transferring to USC.

The academy – offered at high schools throughout LBUSD – helps to cultivate high school student leaders and steer kids away from gangs and violence. Academy members engage in team building and community service projects. They've made a tradition of participating in the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade – a tradition that expanded this year to include members of a newly formed LBUSD Female Academy.

The students also visit universities and participate in eye-opening field trips to the Museum of Tolerance, the Museum of Latin American Art, the African American Museum and elsewhere. Such experiences can result in

dramatic transformations for students like Andrade.

"He transitioned from being a very troubled person to being a source of peer support and a class role model for change and academic independence," Wilson teacher Jennifer Stuart said of Andrade. "He's a great person. He really wants to serve his community. Jose would stay after school sometimes until 5 o'clock, without compensation, to support a student through graduation. He led group projects, such as the class theater ensemble, and he guided his friends in positive decision-making."

Wilson Male Academy co-leader Ted Hollister said it was rewarding to see Male Academy alumni giving back to other students.

"I am extremely proud that we are now having kids like Jose and others come back to help with the Male Academy and spread the word to the younger kids," Hollister said. "I was so happy to see him march with us at the parade. Talk about great attachment and buy-in!"

Extra Board Meeting

The Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education has scheduled an additional meeting for 9:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 6 in the Community Room at 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach.

The special meeting is in addition to the board's regular 5 p.m. meetings this month on Feb. 7 and 21.

• National Journal

(Continued from first page)

Education Foundation. Latinos, who had a graduation rate of 75 percent, had the most students of any racial or ethnic group in Advanced Placement classes. The article goes on to chronicle two decades of school reforms and LBUSD's resulting national accolades.

"That Long Beach has done all this in a state mired in seemingly perpetual economic crisis, its political system marked by mistrust and epic dysfunction, its public sector starved for funds, says a lot about the quality of local leaders and their ability to put aside petty differences and see the big picture," the article states. "Something is surely clicking."

As a publication focused on school board leadership, the journal also interviewed LBUSD Board of Education President Felton Williams, who discussed the uniqueness of Long Beach as a city and school system. He elaborated on the school board's approach of presenting a unified front on educational reforms, and he described the work ethic that allows schools to continue improving.

"One thing I appreciate about this school district – they celebrate," Williams said. "And then they go back to work."

Read the full article at ashbj.com. Search for "Long Beach Success Story."

Concerts for Youth

The Long Beach Symphony Orchestra recently performed four concerts for more than 10,000 youngsters. The attendees were fourth and fifth grade students from local schools, and many experienced a live orchestra concert for the first time.

The 34th annual Symphony Concerts for Young People were made possible by the Earl B. and Loraine H. Miller Foundation.

Middle School Sports Fundraiser on Feb. 8

Football greats Ronnie Lott and Ty Willingham will help to save Long Beach Unified School District's middle school sports programs at a fundraising luncheon scheduled for noon Wednesday, Feb. 8 at Keesal, Young and Logan in the Union Bank Building, 400 Oceanate, Long Beach.

Lott helped the San Francisco 49ers earn four Superbowl championships. Willingham is the former head coach for Stanford University, Notre Dame and Washington.

An 11:30 a.m. VIP photo reception precedes the luncheon. General admission for the luncheon is \$50, while \$250 pays for the VIP photo reception and lunch.

Checks are payable to Long Beach Education Foundation (LBEF), 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, CA 90810. In the memo line, please reference "Middle School Sports." Or donate online by selecting "Save LBUSD Middle School Sports" in the drop-down menu at lbschools.net/community/education_foundation/donations.

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 has begun for next year.

Dates to Remember

February

	National African American History Month
	National Children's Dental Health Month
	National Freedom Day
1	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 – "Abraham Lincoln," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
2	Groundhog Day
2	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "Abraham Lincoln," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
3	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "The Klan—A Legacy of Hate in America," Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
6-10	National School Counseling Week
7	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
8	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 – "George Washington," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
9	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "Presidents Day," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
10	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "The Boyhood of Abraham Lincoln," Grades 4-6, ed.tv 8
12	Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
13	Lincoln Day – Holiday
14	St. Valentine's Day
14	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "Valentine's Day," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
15	Susan B. Anthony's Birthday
15	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 – "Alexander Graham Bell," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
16	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "New Zebra in Town," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
17	National PTA Founders Day
17	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "Riding Your School Bus Safely," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
20	Presidents Day
20	Washington Day – Holiday
21	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "Why We Need Each Other: The Animals' Picnic Day," Grades 1-4, ed.tv 8
22	George Washington's Birthday
22-April 7	Lent
22	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 – "Women's History Month," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
23	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "School Bus and the Exceptional Child," Grades K-12, ed.tv 8
24	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "Jackie Robinson Story," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
28-29	Conference Days – Elementary Schools
28	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "The American Parade: We the Women," Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
29	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 – "Helen Keller," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8

In Memoriam

Donna Johnson
former teacher
Dec. 5, 2011

Cordula "Corky" Lueker
former school secretary
Dec. 17, 2011

Lorraine Lanphere
former clerk typist
Jan. 8, 2012

Crystal Hammock
instructional aide, Millikan
Jan. 11, 2012

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
Superintendent of Schools

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