



March 9, 2012

State Agency Lauds L.B. College Promise

An independent agency that recommends ways to improve the effectiveness of state programs has released a report citing the Long Beach College Promise as a successful model.

Nearly four years ago, leaders from the Long Beach Unified School District, Long Beach City College and Cal State Long Beach signed The Long Beach College Promise, committing the three institutions to providing local students with greater opportunities to complete their higher education. The effort has since attracted state and national attention.

"In a unique partnership that spans the educational pipeline and has created a seamless path for Long Beach students to pursue higher education, the Long Beach College Promise is designed to improve college preparation, access and completion," states the report titled "Serving Students, Serving California: Updating the California Community Colleges to Meet Evolving Demands."

Through the College Promise, students are encouraged starting in fourth grade to prepare for a college education. Local high school graduates who immediately enroll at LBCC are awarded a tuition-free first semester and priority registration, and for those who complete minimum college preparatory requirements or community college transfer requirements, guaranteed admission to CSULB.

"The Promise is showing positive results," the report states. "More LBUSD graduates are enrolling in postsecondary courses at the city college or state university; they are better prepared than their peers from other school districts, and fewer are dropping out after their first semester."

27 Applicants Vie For District 5 Seat

The Long Beach Unified School District has received 27 applications to fill a vacancy on the Board of Education. The deadline to file applications was March 2.

The school board is filling the vacancy by appointment, using an application, screening and interview process.

The District 5 seat on the five-member board became vacant Jan. 25 when board member David Barton resigned due to health concerns. District 5 includes much of East Long Beach and Lakewood, including Millikan and Lakewood high schools.

The school board is scheduled to make the appointment during a special board meeting set for 9 a.m. Friday, March 23. The new board member would complete the remainder of the term, which expires in July 2014.

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Huge Cuts Possible in Worst-Case Scenario

A one-month reduction in the school year and the elimination of entire programs such as high school sports and elementary music may be on the horizon if California's voters don't approve Gov. Jerry Brown's proposed November tax initiative, according to a fiscal stabilization plan OK'd by the Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education this week.

That's the worst-case scenario, involving \$29 million in cuts for 2012-13.

The best-case scenario, based upon the governor's tax initiative passing, involves \$15 million to \$20 million in cuts for 2012-13, including the approximately \$9.7 million the school board cut last month. Savings under this scenario may come from a variety of areas including the closure of small schools, employee health benefit changes, and staff calendar

changes such as 12-month to 10-month.

Those cuts pale in comparison to the longer list of possible cuts under the worst-case scenario in which the tax initiative fails. The plan approved by the board this week states that should this occur, the following ideas may be considered:

- Reduce school year from 180 days to 160
- Close multiple small schools
- Assign principals to two schools
- Reduce or eliminate counselors
- Eliminate AVID college readiness program
- Eliminate all adult education offerings
- Increase class sizes
- Reduce number of Advanced Placement classes in high schools
- Reduce or eliminate work-based learning programs

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Dogged Determination at Prisk Elementary

Alyssa Howes faced a mountain of obstacles before reaching first grade at Prisk Elementary School. Leukemia. Chemotherapy. Radiation treatment. A virus that affected her brain. She lost her eyesight and became handicapped on her right side, including her arm and leg.

But today she is back in class at Prisk with a special sidekick to help navigate the school day. That friend is Flint, a golden retriever trained to detect seizures, which Alyssa began experiencing about three years ago.

Both Alyssa and her companion are miracles of sorts.

Alyssa's doctors say she's "out of the box," and they don't have clear answers at times, but they are excited with her progress, and amazed at her strength to keep going.

Flint can alert humans of oncoming seizures before they occur. This allows the person time to take seizure-blocking medication, get to a safe place or call for assistance. How dogs detect an oncoming seizure in a human is a mystery. Some trainers and researchers think they detect subtle changes in human behavior or scent before an episode happens.

Flint joined Alyssa at school last week, providing teachable moments for classmates.

"Although giving a dog a treat is nice, service dogs are trained not to eat on duty," Prisk Principal Cindy Young's introductory letter to parents explained. "Please remind your child that feeding Flint is against school rules."

Flint visited classrooms during the first week so that he could be introduced to all the students. Teachers read aloud books about service dogs and the many different jobs they perform.

Flint was still adjusting to the attention, and he seemed tired by day's end. But Alyssa has become accustomed to her canine companion, saying her favorite part of having a service dog

is playing with him.

With Flint by her side, the determined first grader is planning her future. She wants to be a veterinarian.



CANINE COMPANION—Flint, a golden retriever, helps Prisk Elementary School first grader Alyssa Howes at school.

• Board Applicants

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First-round interviews of the applicants will be conducted by a committee that includes a teacher and a representative of support staff employees along with representatives of the school district's management association and the Long Beach Council PTA. This committee also will conduct second-round interviews of six finalists before recommending three top candidates to the school board. The board will interview the top three candidates at a public meeting tentatively scheduled for 9 a.m. Tuesday, March 20 at 1515 Hughes Way.

Applicants are:

- Lori Andrews, special education teacher (address not in District 5);
- William Baca, senior sales representative;
- Leolyn Boyer, retired educator;
- Jeremy Knowles Brust, attorney;
- Teresa Ayala Castillo, manager, City of Long Beach DHHS;
- Roberta "Bobbi" Clarke, counselor, Cabrillo H.S.;
- Gloria Cordero, consultant, public affairs;
- Diana Craighead, homemaker and volunteer;
- Cynthia Diaz, bookseller/substitute teacher;
- Camille Donnell, staff accountant, First 5 LA;
- Stephen Donnenfield, retired LBUSD teacher/substitute Lakewood crossing guard;
- Lynda Lee Gordon, retired LBCC professor;
- Anthony Klune Jr., instructor;
- Gavin Lafcadio McKiernan, nonprofit management;
- Sharon Wells McMahon, homemaker and volunteer;
- Nancy Manriquez-Dowell, independent educational consultant;
- Shelly Millsap, senior human resource consultant;
- Tyrie Tenese Mitchell, system engineer (address not in District 5);
- Stacy Mungo, administrative services manager, County of Los Angeles;
- Cindy Regnier Melvin, mother;
- Diane Ripley, public relations;
- Maria Williams Slaughter, administrator;
- Thomas Soto, director, information technology;
- Marc Titel, business programs director, Fremont College;
- Frederick Lim Uy, professor;
- Michele Wulf, retired firefighter/paramedic;
- Glenn Zawicki, educator/business owner.

ALBEM to Honor Business Partners

The annual Business Partnership Breakfast is no longer a breakfast. Instead, the event will be held at 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 23 at The Grand, 4101 E. Willow St., Long Beach. The event is sponsored by the Association of Long Beach Educational Managers and Confidential Employees.

This year's event is free and will include recognition of schools' new and continuing business partners, along with complimentary appetizers courtesy of ALBEM.

RSVP to Sandie Abraham at albem17@gmail.com.

Jordan Grad Was Revered Political Scientist

Jordan High School graduate and political scientist James Q. Wilson, whose "broken windows" theory on crime-fighting helped trigger a nationwide move toward community policing, died last week at a Boston hospital. He was 80.

A brilliant Harvard and UCLA professor, social commentator and prolific writer, Wilson received the nation's highest civilian honor from President George Bush in 2003.

"Professor James Q. Wilson may be the most influential political scientist in America since the White House was home to Professor Woodrow Wilson," President Bush said during the award ceremony.

He was honored as the Long Beach Unified School District's Public Schools Week Distinguished Graduate Award winner in 1977. He credits two of his Jordan High School teachers for helping to launch his stellar career in higher education.

"I had two teachers who touched me deeply," said Wilson. "Walter Smith taught me

mathematics. Other people tried; Walter Smith succeeded. Why did he succeed? Not by force of terror but by force of example. I wanted to please him. I thought he was a fine man. He seemed to know something that was worth knowing. He could explain to me things that I didn't realize I wanted to know the answer to until he tried to tell me what the problem was.

"Another man, Robert Crossan, who was my speech teacher and English teacher, found me sweeping out a store the summer I was supposed to be going to college and asked me what my plans were. He talked me into going to a college called the University of Redlands. I had no idea what college was. If he hadn't cared to come to a store on a hot summer afternoon where I was sweeping out the floors, I would probably still be sweeping out the floors."



Wilson

Paperless Pay

Beginning with paychecks issued April 27, employees with direct deposit will no longer receive a printed paystub.

Instead, on the morning of the check issue date, they may access the myLBUSD portal and view or print their paystub at their convenience. Employees can also choose at any time in the myLBUSD portal to continue receiving printed notices.

Directions on how to make these changes were mailed to all schools and offices.

For computer related questions, contact the Help Desk at ext. 8411. For certificated payroll questions, call ext. 8245. For classified payroll questions, call ext. 8246.

Teacher Transfers

Human Resource Services is currently accepting transfer requests from teachers who wish to change school sites for the 2012-13 school year.

Requests for transfer forms are available at school sites and the TALB Office, and can be downloaded at lbschools.net by selecting Human Resource Services, then For Current Employees.

Transfer requests are valid through the end of the first seven student days of the following traditional school year. Deadline to apply is May 1. For more information, call ext. 8635.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

Official publication of the Long Beach Unified School District issued bi-weekly during the school year from the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, California 90810. (562) 997-8000. www.lbschools.net

CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
Superintendent of Schools

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• Worst-Case Budget

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- Seek savings in employee health and welfare benefits
- Freeze certificated and classified hiring
- Change staff calendars, such as from 12-month to 10-month
- Eliminate all non-mandated transportation
- Eliminate programs encroaching on general fund
- Eliminate elementary music and visual arts
- Eliminate all non-mandated testing
- Eliminate middle school sports
- Reduce or eliminate high school sports
- Eliminate teacher-librarians

The fiscal stabilization plan approved this week is required by the Los Angeles County Office of Education. A more refined plan will be submitted with the district's 2012-13 adopted budget.

More School Districts Report Fiscal Trouble

More than 100 California school districts serving roughly a third of public school students statewide are in financial jeopardy, according to the state's First Interim Status Report for fiscal year 2011-12.

So far, 17 more districts than last year – 127 in all – are in negative or qualified financial status, which means a district may not meet its financial obligations for the current or subsequent two fiscal years.

"The deep cuts made to school funding – and looming uncertainties about the future – are driving school districts to the brink of insolvency," State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson warned in a recent statement.

The Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education this week approved its Second Interim Status Report for 2011-12 with a positive certification, meaning the district will be able to meet its financial obligations for now.