



school bulletin

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

November 16, 2012

Prop. 30 Passed by Wider Margin Here

Long Beach voters passed Proposition 30 by a wider margin than both the state and Los Angeles County, approving temporary taxes to reduce the severity of budget cuts in schools.

"Voters have sent a clear message that California must stop the drastic cuts to our public schools," Long Beach Unified School District Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhäuser said.

LBUSD still must trim \$20 million this year, but had Prop. 30 failed, the school district would have faced a \$35 million annual reduction in funding.

In Long Beach, 60.4 percent of voters

favored Prop. 30, surpassing both the 53.9 percent passage rate statewide and the 59.9 percent passage rate in Los Angeles County. The communities of Avalon and Signal Hill – which are served by LBUSD – also approved Prop. 30, though they did so by smaller margins than Long Beach. The tax measure fell just shy of a majority in Lakewood, where portions of the city are served by LBUSD.

The passage of Prop. 30 means the school district won't face worst-case-scenario cuts such as a one-month reduction in the school year or the elimination of entire programs like high school sports and elementary music.

PROP. 30 – The statewide tax initiative, which prevents deeper cuts to education funding, passed by a comfortable margin in Long Beach.		Yes	No	Yes %	No %
Avalon		455	449	50.3	49.7
Lakewood		12,112	12,746	48.7	51.3
Long Beach		62,336	40,946	60.4	39.6
Signal Hill		1,635	1,150	58.7	41.3
L.A. County		1,351,925	904,675	59.9	40.1
Statewide		5,011,953	4,288,437	53.9	46.1

Preschoolers Make Great Gains in Reading

Four preschool sites at the Long Beach Unified School District Child Development Centers continue to see remarkable results as they implement a \$3.5 million federal Early Reading First grant.

Research shows that good preschools improve children's performance later in school and life perhaps more than any other educational intervention. The CDCs began implementing the grant three years ago to support students' literacy.

LBUSD recently received data comparing the results of Early Reading First programs across the nation. The results show that Long Beach preschoolers outperformed the national average by 22 percent on gains in vocabulary and letter knowledge, both key indicators of a students' future success in school.

Last school year, Early Reading First preschooler participants completed their kindergarten year in LBUSD with 88 percent of them reading at or above grade level on the school district's Benchmark Book Assessments, compared to 77 percent for the rest of the district. Early Reading First students completing first grade also are more likely to continue reading at or above grade level compared to their counterparts in the rest of the district.

The reading grant serves LBUSD's state-subsidized preschools for low-income families, providing four years of intensive, research-based professional development and coaching for teachers, plus family literacy activities.

CDCs serve students at 20 locations. Last

year the CDCs began training the rest of their teachers on the use of these effective instructional strategies to increase the academic achievement of their more than 1,000 at risk preschoolers. The training continues this year.

Long Beach Rotary contributes to the early literacy effort. The service club has donated thousands of books to the CDCs, beefing up classroom libraries and giving each child a book of their own to keep.

SHOWTIME – Cabrillo High School student Katthya Martinez performs "Beauty School Dropout" from the musical Grease as part of this week's Band Spectacular featuring field shows by high school bands from throughout the school district. Voters' passage of Prop. 30 helps to preserve music programs.



College Board Lists LBUSD on Honor Roll

The Long Beach Unified School District is among 539 school districts in the United States and Canada recognized this week by the College Board with a spot on the Annual AP Honor Roll.

The honor recognizes efforts to open Advanced Placement college preparatory classrooms to a significantly broader pool of students while maintaining or improving the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher (out of 5).

"We applaud the extraordinary efforts of the devoted teachers and administrators in these (Continued on next page)

TALB Membership Voting on Agreement

The membership of the Teachers Association of Long Beach has scheduled a ratification vote on a tentative agreement for this Thursday and Friday, Nov. 15 and 16 at schools.

The tentative deal between TALB and the Long Beach Unified School District was reached Nov. 1 after more than 20 months of negotiations. Upon ratification by TALB's membership, the agreement will be considered for final approval by the Board of Education as soon as Nov. 20.

Further details, including the entire text of the tentative agreement, are available at lbschools.net under Bargaining Update.

The tentative agreement includes changes to health plans. The school board at its Nov. 20 meeting may consider similar health plan changes affecting non-represented employees.



• AP Honor Roll

(Continued from first page)

539 districts, who are fostering rigorous work worth doing. These educators have not only expanded student access to AP course work, but they have enabled more of their students to achieve on a college level – which is helping to create a strong college-going culture,” said College Board President David Coleman.

Improvement in AP results takes sustained effort, so the College Board examined AP data for students who took the exams in May of 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Honor roll criteria include at least a 4 percent increase in AP participation in large districts, 6 percent in medium districts and 11 percent in small districts. In addition, the College Board monitors AP participation by students of color.

To be honored, a school district’s performance levels also must be maintained or improved when comparing the percentage of exams in 2012 with a score of 3 or higher to those in 2010, or the school has already attained a performance level in which more than 70 percent of the AP students score a 3 or higher.

As part of its Academic and Career Success Initiative, LBUSD has made a concerted effort in recent years to boost participation in AP courses. Last year, 5,062 students took one or more AP courses here, nearly double the number in 2003. Over the same period, students of all ethnicities saw significant increases in AP course enrollment. Meanwhile pass rates on AP exams have now increased to 55 percent, up 5 percent over the prior year.

“There has been a great victory among educators who have believed that a more diverse population could indeed succeed in AP courses,” said Trevor Packer, the College Board’s senior vice president of the Advanced Placement Program. “In 2012, AP scores were higher than they’d been since 2004, when one million fewer students were being given access. These outcomes are a powerful testament to educators’ belief that many more students were indeed ready and waiting for the sort of rigor that would prepare them for what they would encounter in college.”

Parents especially appreciate AP courses because their children can earn college credit while still in high school, saving thousands of dollars in tuition. Many LBUSD students earn an entire year of college credit before leaving high school.

Open Enrollment

Open enrollment, which continues through Nov. 30, is an opportunity for employees to change health benefits, add or remove dependents to plans, and enroll in a flexible spending account.

Enrollment packets were mailed to employees’ homes during the last week of October.

Learn more under Employee Benefits, General Information in the A-Z index at lbschools.net.

CalSTRS Seminars

California State Teachers’ Retirement System seminars will be offered on Monday, Nov. 26 at the Teacher Resource Center (ABC room) and Wednesday, Jan. 30 at 1515 Hughes Way (Room 143). Both seminars are scheduled for 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

CalSTRS members who are eligible for retirement may find the seminars to be especially pertinent. Presentation topics will include CalSTRS service retirement allowance and retirement options, along with updates on legislation and disability and survivor benefits. Staff from Human Resource Services and Risk Management will be available to answer questions.

Space is limited. RSVP by Wednesday, Nov. 21 at 997-8214.

Names in the News

Bryant Elementary School Principal **Doris Robinson** has earned the Gene Lentzner Human Relations Award from the California Conference for Equality and Justice.

The non-profit CCEJ is dedicated to eliminating bias, bigotry and racism in America.

Robinson was recognized for her volunteer work with numerous community organizations.



Robinson

Kindergarten Fests

Kindergarten Fesitivals for incoming 2013-14 kindergartners and their families include parent workshops, free school supplies, dental screenings, and lots of fun activities.

Following is the schedule of the Saturday festivals, which are planned for 9 a.m. to noon:

- Dec. 1 at the Buffum Learning Center, 2350 Ximeno Ave., Long Beach;
- Jan. 12 at Dooley Elementary School, 5075 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach;
- Feb. 2 at Alvarado Elementary School, 1900 E. 21st St., Signal Hill;
- March 2 at International Elementary School, 700 Locust Ave., Long Beach.

Free flu shots will be available to the first 100 people at the first two festivals.

Call 435-4080, ext. 19 for more information.

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION

JON MEYER, President
JOHN MCGINNIS, Vice President
DIANA CRAIGHEAD, Member
MARY STANTON, Member
FELTON WILLIAMS, Member

Revised LBUSD Map

The printable map of the Long Beach Unified School District at lbschools.net (under Map, LBUSD in the A-Z index) includes many recent updates such as the addition of the new Nelson Academy and the soon-to-open McBride High School, along with the temporary locations of Roosevelt and Newcomb schools, whose permanent facilities are undergoing demolition and reconstruction.

The two-page printout includes addresses and phone numbers for schools and central services.

CalPERS Retirement

Two CalPERS retirement planning workshops for classified employees will be offered by the Personnel Commission on Tuesday, Jan. 29. Representatives from CalPERS, LBUSD Payroll and Risk Management will answer questions at the sessions, which run from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 3 p.m. at the Personnel Commission Office, 999 Atlantic Ave., Third Floor. Contact the Personnel Commission at 435-5708 for more information, or find the registration form at lbschools.net under Personnel Commission, then Classified Staff Development.

CPR, First Aid Class

Two CPR/First Aid certification classes for classified employees will be offered by the Personnel Commission on Thursday, Dec. 6. Classes will run from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Teacher Resource Center (ABC Room).

This classified staff development event is subject to manager/supervisor approval for release time, and participants must be permanent classified employees.

Find the registration form at lbschools.net under Personnel Commission, then Classified Staff Development.

Classified Transfers

Transfer requests remain active through Nov. 30, when they must be renewed, according to Article IX of the CSEA contract.

Classified transfer forms may be filled out online. Go to Related Information under Personnel Commission at lbschools.net. Complete the form, print it out and submit to Maria Villalobos, HR Technician, 999 Atlantic Avenue, 3rd Floor,

In Memoriam

Patricia Parish
former teacher
August 2012

Sandra Myrberg
former teacher
October 2012

Jessie Woods
former program facilitator
Oct. 21, 2012