



March 18, 2016

Board OKs Deal With CSEA for 5% Raise

The Board of Education unanimously approved an agreement this week with Long Beach Chapter 2 of the California School Employees Association, providing a 5 percent salary increase retroactive to July 1, 2015. The agreement includes the same salary increase and health benefit package that was provided to Teachers Association of Long Beach members and to non-represented employees earlier this year.

The school board's approval of the raise for qualifying classified employees came after CSEA members ratified the agreement by a 99 percent yes vote.

The target date for retroactive checks to be issued to qualifying employees is May 20. Then the 5 percent increase will be reflected on subsequent paychecks. The 5 percent increase also applies to career increments (longevity), retroactive to July 1, 2015.

When combined with last school year's 5 percent raise and the prior year's 3 percent raise, the newest agreement brings the total salary increase to 13 percent over three years for these employees, with no monthly premium co-payment for health plans.

The agreement with CSEA includes the adoption of the National Formulary pharmacy plan for the Blue Shield PPO effective July 1, 2016 and provides for a school district subsidy for participation in Weight Watchers as part of LBUSD's wellness program.

Other modifications to the CSEA contract involve language about receiving compensation for unused compensatory time, updates to adoption leave, clarifications on evaluation procedures and progressive discipline, technical updates to titles, and revisions to the school district technology guidelines.

The new contract runs through Oct. 31, 2018 with annual reopeners on selected articles.

MOBILE

AQUARIUM – The Aquarium of the Pacific recently debuted its Aquarium on Wheels. Housed in a 32-foot-long truck that visits schools, the exhibit allows students to see and touch several species of sea creatures. **Story on next page.**



National Study Notes Teacher Prep Here

A new report from the nonprofit groups Learning Forward and the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future includes Long Beach as a prime example of how to involve teachers in designing their own professional learning.

The report, "Moving from Compliance to Agency: What Teachers Need to Make Professional Learning Work," defines teacher agency as "the capacity of teachers to act purposefully and constructively to direct their professional growth and contribute to the growth of their colleagues."

Report author and National Board Certified teacher Laurie Calvert makes a distinction between more traditional professional development, where teachers are told what they need to learn, and professional learning, where educators help plan their learning and choose options based upon their own learning needs and the needs of their students.

"We have found in our research and interviews with teachers that it makes the difference when educators are given a voice in choosing and shaping their professional learning options," said Calvert, who is the education

policy advisor for NCTAF and Learning Forward. "Our goal is to help district and state education leaders understand how critically important teacher agency is, as well as its role in creating learning experiences that lead to mastery for both teachers and students."

A section of the report, "What Does Teacher Agency Look Like?" begins with the vignette, "Learning before designing: Long Beach Unified."

The section explains how the Long Beach Unified School District recently rolled out a professional learning virtual platform called myPD (as in my Professional Development), with support from the Gates Foundation. The myPD system supplements face-to-face professional learning in the school district by connecting teachers with a variety of learning experiences like self-paced online modules and videos of teachers demonstrating teaching standards in action. Before school district leaders made plans to improve professional learning for teachers, they conducted a thorough needs assessment.

"We realized we couldn't design a system (Continued on next page)

Handwashing Campaign Wins Nationally

Got a cough or cold? The students at McBride High School's Health and Medical Pathway have some sage advice on how to help prevent such maladies. Wash your hands properly and regularly. The students won a top national award for a handwashing campaign.

McBride earned the top honor in the 2016 Healthy Schools, Healthy People, It's a SNAP Awards. The awards are sponsored by the School Network for Absenteeism Prevention program, a joint initiative of the Centers for Disease Control and the American Cleaning Institute. The program seeks to improve hand

hygiene habits to prevent the spread of infectious disease and reduce related absenteeism.

McBride called their bilingual handwashing campaign "Los Guerreros del Jabón," or "Soapy Warriors." They wrote a bilingual song on the basic steps and timing to teach the right way to wash one's hands. Students prepared classroom presentations and bilingual posters for each classroom at nearby Patrick Henry K-5 Dual Immersion School, with calendars for each student to take home, including stickers to track when they washed their hands.

McBride students first researched websites and invited a health educator from the Children's Clinic to learn how to deliver the proper handwashing guidelines. The students' presentations included a demonstration using Glo Germ Gel and black lights, which show splashes of germs on hands (and a dramatic reduction in germs after handwashing). In all, McBride students taught 19 classes from transitional kindergarten through second grade.

"Our students are genuinely involved in making a difference in the community," said McBride's Nationally Board Certified Spanish teacher, Laura Castillo. Her students linked their Spanish unit of study on "The Power of the Word" with the school's Health and Medical Pathway.

"The students learned that the power of the word, through action and positive leadership, can greatly and beneficially influence the community and promote healthy habits," Castillo said.

Learn more at itsasnep.org.

Aquarium on Wheels Debuts at Hudson

The Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific debuted its Aquarium on Wheels during a recent visit at Hudson K-8 School. The mobile tide pool, housed in a 32-foot-long truck, gives children a chance to feel a spiny sea star, touch a slippery sea cucumber or experience the rough textured skin of a shark. The exhibit helps students develop an appreciation for the wonders of the ocean environment.

The mobile aquarium is made possible by a \$200,000 grant from the Tesoro Foundation. The goal is to reach more than 40,000 students, teachers and parents.

The exhibit includes 10 different species of sea animals that students can touch.

"My favorite part was to get to see the sea creatures, and getting to touch them and know facts about them," Hudson student Angelo Rivunal said.

Because the exhibit debuted at Hudson, the school hosted a dedication ceremony attended by Aquarium and Long Beach city officials, students and school staff.

Learn more at aquariumofpacific.org.

Dates to Remember

April	National Autism Awareness Month
1	April Fools' Day
2	International Children's Book Day
5	9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Operation School Bus Safety: Be Cool, Follow the Rules," Grades K-12, ed.tv 8
6	California Poppy Day
6	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 7 - 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Adventures in Poetry I," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
8	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "No Time to Waste," Grades 4-12, ed.tv 8
10-16	National Library Week
10-16	National Volunteer Week
12	National Library Workers Day
12	9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00— "The Velveteen Rabbit," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
13	Thomas Jefferson's Birthday
13	Third Quarter Ends
13	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 14 - 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 19 - 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00; 20 - 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 21 - 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Adventures in Poetry II," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
15-16	Holocaust Remembrance Day
15	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
17-23	National Student Leadership Week
18	Anniversary of Paul Revere's Ride
18-22	Public School Volunteer Week
21	John Muir Day
22	Earth Day
22	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 26 - 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00; 29 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Cinco de Mayo," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
23	William Shakespeare's Birthday
24-30	Administrative Professionals Week
27	Administrative Professionals Day
27	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Florence Nightingale," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8
28	Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day
28	9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "The Paper Crane," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
29	National Arbor Day
29	International Dance Day

Coffee Canceled

The Coffee with Chris meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 22 has been canceled. The next meeting is 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 10 in the Cabrillo High School Library. The meetings are held to encourage open dialogue between employees and Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauer. View the schedule of meetings under Coffee with Chris in the A-Z index at lbschools.net.

Principal for a Day

More than 150 guest principals shadowed Long Beach Unified School District principals last week during the annual Principal for a Day event. Afterward, the guest principals, educators and community leaders gathered for a debriefing at the Beverly O'Neill/Center Theater.

Participants in a Q&A session at the debriefing included U.S. Congressman Alan Lowenthal, California State Assemblyman Patrick O'Donnell, Long Beach City College Superintendent-President Eloy Ortiz Oakley, LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauer, local entrepreneur Chad Sammeth and Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia.

"Thank you for supporting our incredible schools across Long Beach," Mayor Garcia told the audience. "Thank you to our incredible Board of Education, because what we have here, nobody has anywhere else – the relationships, the teachers, the parents, the PTAs – we have a world class system.

"And we couldn't ask for better leadership and better commitment to students than what we have here. It's amazing to be able to have the kind of partnerships we have," Garcia said. "There is nothing more important that we do as a community than ensuring that our kids have a quality education and access to college and career training."

Students from the Harmony Project also took the stage at the theater. The school district began partnering with the nonprofit Harmony Project this school year, allowing students to learn how to play violins, violas and cellos as early as second grade.

Lowenthal, O'Donnell, Long Beach Police Chief Robert Luna and other dignitaries honored Long Beach Education Foundation President Mike Murray of Verizon with praise and proclamations for his longtime involvement in the Foundation and local schools.

View photos and video of the event by finding this article at lbschools.net.

In Memoriam

Elda Mae Kirnbaur
former teacher, Burbank
March 3, 2016

Fa'asoa T. Duran
instructional aide – special, Newcomb
March 5, 2016

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Special Education Teachers Honored

Two special education teachers and a physical therapist from the Long Beach Unified School District were honored at the 2016 Council for Exceptional Children Chapter 108 Star Awards held recently in Long Beach.

Rachel Baraona, Special Day Class (SDC) teacher at Buffum TLC; Roberta Crowson, SDC teacher at Hamilton Middle School, and Kari Loudenback, a physical therapist at multiple LBUSD schools, earned awards for enhancing the lives of students with special needs.

Recipients must be innovative and exemplify quality teaching and service skills with at least five years of credentialed employment in LBUSD. A principal or other co-worker submits nominations to the CEC Board of Directors, who vote on worthy recipients.

• Teacher Prep

(Continued from first page)
for the teachers without understanding those we were designing for," Pamela Seki, LBUSD's assistant superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development, states in the report. LBUSD conducted an extensive review of its professional development offerings by following a five-step information gathering process developed at Stanford University.

"District officials didn't stop there," the report states. "They continued to interact with teachers to interpret the survey's findings and learn more about teachers' needs. In daylong meetings with several hundred teachers (about 750 hours of conversations), district leaders delved into the specifics of teachers' teaching experiences and professional needs. They formed a cross-functional district team (80 percent teachers, 20 percent administrators) who acted as thought partners throughout the design of a new professional learning system."

For the report, NCTAF and Learning Forward conducted in-depth interviews with 26 teachers, former teachers who are now responsible for district-level professional development, and school administrators. Find the full report at learningforward.org. Search for "teacher agency."

Learning Forward is a nonprofit, international association of educators committed to excellent K-12 teaching and learning. The nonprofit National NCTAF was founded in 1994 as a bipartisan effort to engage education policymakers and practitioners in recruiting, developing and retaining great teachers.

Steel Drum Festival

Stephens Middle School and Cabrillo High School will join forces to present the Westside Pan Festival, a celebration of music for steel drums. The concert starts at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 23 in the Cabrillo Auditorium.

This year's concert will feature guest artists Joseph Peck and Chris Wabich. Peck has worked as a percussionist with Scott Weiland & Cyndi Lauper, while Wabich has played drums for Sting and Ludakris. Both performers have been collegiate steel band directors and are active studio session players.

Tickets are \$5 for individuals, and \$15 for a family of three or more.