



school bulletin

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

March 6, 2020



TEACH LONG BEACH – LBUSD seeks teacher job candidates who are committed to equity for every student. View this video at lbschools.net.

How We're Striving For Equity, Inclusion

By Christopher J. Steinhauser
Superintendent of Schools

After more than 50 years as a student and employee in the Long Beach Unified School District, I firmly believe that our organization's greatest strength is its ability to think big. When I say big, I mean the big, hopeful ideas
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Gov. Newsom Visits Twain Elementary

California Gov. Gavin Newsom visited Twain Elementary School last week to highlight the need for statewide bond funding for school facility upgrades.

The governor's visit came shortly before this week's statewide election, which included the Prop. 13 "Californians for Safe Schools and Healthy Learning" bond measure.

The \$15 billion bond measure appeared to be heading toward defeat with a yes vote of 44 percent.



Newsom

The governor toured the award-winning school with school district leaders and staff, and he held a news conference in the library.

The Long Beach Unified School District is in the midst of a districtwide effort to upgrade aging campuses.

While the school district continues to prioritize its most pressing facilities needs, because many of LBUSD's 85 schools were built decades ago, additional funding ultimately will be needed to build and maintain high quality learning environments over the long term.

State school bond measures can help to stretch local school bond resources further by providing matching funds. LBUSD would have been eligible for as much as \$330 million in funds under Prop. 13.

Board of Education Election Results

Preliminary election results for two Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education seats this week showed a potential outright win in one board district, and a possible run-off in another.

Three candidates vied for the District 2 seat held by Board of Education President Felton Williams, who is retiring from the board. Preliminary results showed candidate Tonia Reyes Uranga leading this race with 43.88 percent, followed by Erik Miller at 34.74 percent, and John Andre Mathews II at 21.38 percent.

If no candidate wins 50 percent of the vote, the top two finishers will face a runoff on Nov. 3.

Three candidates also competed for the District 4 seat held by board member Jon Meyer, who also has announced his retirement. In this race, initial results showed candidate Doug Otto leading with 52.66 percent, followed by Davina M. Keiser with 25.21 percent, and Nancy Valencia with 22.13 percent.

The school board's five districts are divided by geographic area. Districts 1, 3 and 5 were not up for election during this cycle.

Khan Partnership in National Spotlight

An article in "The 74," a national website that bills itself as "a fact-based conversation about America's 74 million K-12 students," offers a detailed look at how the Long Beach Unified School District's use of the nonprofit Khan Academy's online tutorials have helped to improve student achievement.

The article by Esmeralda Fabián Romero is titled "How Khan Academy Used a Successful Experiment with California's Long Beach Unified to Launch District Partnerships Across the Country." Romero notes that after using Khan Academy test prep and online classroom tutorials, Long Beach students saw significant gains in the number of college-eligible seniors, along with improvement on state math tests.

Khan Academy's free online tutorials are well known, used by more than 18 million learners every month in more than 190 countries and 18 languages. SAT prep formed the basis of Khan Academy's relationship with LBUSD in 2016, when Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser personally called

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—Khan Academy Founder Sal Khan

340 seniors from low-income families with the lowest SAT scores and urged them to use the free Khan videos to improve their scores next time around.

The school district saw a 20 percentage point gain in the number of Cal State-eligible seniors over a four-year period and a 22-point gain on its state math test results after incorporating Khan Academy's videos and student analytics into math and other subject instruction for younger students.

Beyond the SAT prep for seniors, a wider pilot program launched in 2017-18 and incorporated Khan Academy's videos into math and other subject instruction for younger students. About 90 teachers volunteered to integrate Khan videos into their lessons for at least 30 minutes per week. By the end of the 2017-18 school year, one-third of the district's more than 70,000 students were using the videos.

Using LBUSD as point of reference, Khan launched a broad initiative in the fall, Khan Academy Districts, hoping to reach more classrooms with its services and support, including data tools for teachers.

"Virtual is nice, but when it's coupled with incredible teachers and administrators and done in the right way, that is when you really get the power," Khan Academy founder Sal Khan said. "Long Beach is exactly the type of district that if things can work really well here – it's large, it's diverse – it can work anywhere."

The article in "The 74" made the website's list of "The 13 Best Education Articles from February." Find the piece at the74million.org. Search for "Khan Academy."



WINNING ARTWORK – Millikan High School junior Kelsey Christen won first place in the high school division for this portrait at the 36th annual Norman Gottlieb Youth Art Show at the Alpert Jewish Community Center in Long Beach. A recent awards reception was well attended by student artists, families, teachers and principals. **Story on next page.**

• Striving for Equity and Inclusion

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like, "We hold these truths to be self-evident," and "I have a dream."

I grew up in a 900-square-foot home with one bathroom and five brothers in a working-class neighborhood here in Long Beach. My siblings and I knew to avoid certain streets on our way to school. My parents lacked a college education. But with the help of committed teachers and other supportive adults, I was able to make a better life for myself and my own children.

Despite my own good fortune, I know that my experience as a white, male, able-bodied U.S. citizen doesn't represent the array of experiences and challenges facing today's diverse student population.

Fifteen years ago, I visited one of our high school Advanced Placement courses where I saw almost all white, upper-middle class students in attendance. I knew this was wrong, so I worked with our Board of Education, school leaders and teachers to offer wide open access to these college prep classes, providing additional support along the way such as tutoring, Summer Bridge programs, and free PSAT and SAT testing to help determine students' strengths and areas for improvement.

Today, LBUSD ranks first nationally on the percentage of African American male students who took one or more AP courses; second on the percentage of Latino male students who took one or more AP courses; second on the percentage of socioeconomically disadvantaged students who took one or more AP courses; and second on the percentage of students with disabilities who took one or more AP courses.

Our progress on AP inclusion is one of many examples of our commitment to equity. Some of the nation's leading education experts have commended our strong results on state tests for our three largest student subgroups: African American, Latino/a and white students.

While other school systems dismiss a four-year math or quantitative reasoning requirement for high schoolers as too difficult, we've already implemented it, complete with extra support for students who need it. Our graduation rates continue to rise, and more students are meeting the A-G college entrance requirements for the state university systems, with all subgroups seeing significant improvements in these areas. Many of our recent graduates, now in college, have taken time to say, "Thank you, Mr. Steinhauser for helping me to push myself in high school, because it's paying off now." Those are the moments that make my day.

Our reputation as a high-functioning organization is well documented. Despite our success, we know that we have much more work to do. Like all communities, we have our challenges in terms of equity and inclusion, and we know that an increase in divisive rhetoric, often lacking in civility at this point in our nation's history, has impacted America's schools, including ours.

In our school district, please be assured that ignorance, prejudice, hate and fear will be dealt with appropriately and met with thoughtful, rational, collaborative and inclusive discussion, planning and action.

Through many avenues, including our vari-



Steinhauser

ous advisory groups, community forums, surveys and community partnerships such as those with the California Conference for Equality and Justice, as well as Californians for Justice, we are actively engaging and listening to all members of our Long Beach Unified family, including students, parents and guardians who are most affected by poverty, racism, homophobia and xenophobia.

Our school leaders and staff also are intensely engaged in system-wide ongoing professional development and collaboration to examine the inherent biases that we all possess as imperfect human beings. Some of our discussions on these topics are difficult. Emotions can run high. But we are finding ways to have these important conversations in ways that promote healing rather than polarization.

The unfortunate reality is that we live in a world that can make people feel small, especially our most vulnerable students and their families. To these families, and to all we serve, we extend an invitation to help us continue thinking big. We can and must persist in these efforts if we are to provide all students the education they need and deserve.

Youth Poet Laureate Applications Due

The Long Beach Public Library, in partnership with the Arts Council for Long Beach and the nonprofit Urban Word, is calling on all teen poets interested in becoming the city's first Youth Poet Laureate.

"We're looking for teen writers and leaders committed to creating change through civic engagement and poetic excellence," states the call for applications, which are due March 31. Finalists will be celebrated in the Long Beach City Council Chambers on May 16.

Applicants should submit a portfolio of five poems that reflect life in Long Beach, along with a resume showing off any awards, experience, volunteering, activism, community engagement and extra-curricular participation.

Learn more and submit applications at artslb.org/youth-poet-laureate.

In Memoriam

Benjamin Mace
former teacher
February 2, 2020

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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Gottlieb Art Show Winners Recognized

Students, families and educators attended the Norman Gottlieb Youth Art Show award reception recently at the Alpert Jewish Community Center in Long Beach.

Participating high schools were Cabrillo, Jordan, Lakewood, McBride, Millikan, Poly, Reid, Renaissance and Wilson. Student winners at the high school level were: first place, Kelsey Christen of Millikan; second, Kate Nghi Nguyen of Wilson; and third, Khanh Truong of Poly. The Board of Directors Award went to Kayla Eble of Lakewood.

Participating middle schools were Franklin, Hoover, Hughes, Marshall, Robinson, Rogers, and Stanford. Winners at the middle school level were: first place, James Sindo of Rogers; second, Maralin Galindo of Hughes; and third, Avery Wu of Marshall. Honorable mention went to Colin Faulkner of Marshall; Kyla Fauthien of Rogers; Jimmy Garcia Peneda of Robinson; and Jaylene Rem of Hoover. The Board of Directors Award went to Mika Darmawan of Stanford.

Art teachers Michelle Barisoff of Lakewood, and Roxana Taboada-Pena of Stanford won the Honigman Award for Inspired Visual Arts Education.

Transfer Requests

Human Resource Services is accepting transfer requests from teachers who wish to change school sites for the 2020-21 school year. See the Teachers Association of Long Beach agreement, Article VIII for guidelines.

Applications are now available and are due March 31. The application can be completed and submitted online via the myLBUSD portal at lbschools.net. Go to Employees, then myLBUSD. Log in with your username and password. From the applications menu, select My Employee Information, then Certificated Transfers.

Request for Transfer forms are also available at schools and the TALB office, and they can be downloaded and printed from the lbschools.net public website (select Human Resource Services in the A-Z index, then For Current Employees). Computers also are available for use in the HRS lobby.

Teachers may submit requests for transfer whether or not that position appears as a vacancy. Transfer requests are valid through the end of the first seven student days of the following traditional school year. Call ext. 8658 or email Transfer@lbschools.net for more information.

Summer Internships

Students who will be at least 16 years old by June 15 can apply for a summer internship through Long Beach Career-Linked Learning, an LBUSD program that partners with local employers to place high school student interns.

The deadline to apply is 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, March 31.

Applicants must upload a resume with their application, have reliable transportation in the summer, and have access to email.

Find this article at lbschools.net to apply. For more information contact Long Beach CaLL at lbcall@lbschools.net.