



# school bulletin

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

November 13, 2020

## LBUSD Among Aspen ‘Bellwether’ Districts

The Long Beach Unified School District has joined the Aspen Urban District Network, a group of 15 leading education organizations, as part of The Aspen Institute’s Education and Society Program. The program aims to improve public education by informing and inspiring education leaders, with an emphasis on achieving equity for students of color and students from low-income families.

LBUSD and the 14 other members of the Aspen Urban District Network come from “urban, bellwether public school districts and charter management organizations that share our ambition for improving equity and performance,” according to the institute.

The Aspen Institute is a nonpartisan educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, D.C. The institute has campuses in Aspen, Colorado, and on the Wye River on Maryland’s Eastern Shore. It also maintains offices in New York City and has an international network of partners.

Aspen Institute events have attracted presidents, statesmen, diplomats, judges, ambassadors, and Nobel laureates over the years, supporting the institute as a global forum for leaders.

The national Urban District Network convenes leaders in multi-day retreats (now virtual retreats) and offers support and follow-up outside of those retreats, with a focus on professional learning and leadership development.

LBUSD leaders participating in the effort include Superintendent Jill Baker, Deputy Superintendent Tiffany Brown and Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development Kristi Kahl.

Other participating organizations include the Achievement First Charter Network, and

districts from Aldine, Baltimore City, Broward County in Florida, Chicago, Cleveland Metro, Hartford, Jackson in Mississippi, Denver, District of Columbia, San Antonio, Sacramento, Philadelphia and Tulsa. The systems within the Urban District Network serve more than 1.2 million students.

The urban district leaders are focused on three interdependent priorities; advancing a richer vision of student success that integrates the social, emotional and academic dimensions of learning and development as essential to advancing equity; leading districts that execute on coherent strategic approaches to shared interests in unique contexts that drive student achievement and position adults to perform at high levels; and developing education leaders to more authentically engage communities, transcend political ideological debates, and build diverse coalitions for transformation in learning, equity and efficacy.

Superintendent Baker also is a member of the Aspen program’s Chiefs Networks, which convenes chief academic officers and chiefs of schools together to support both design and school-level implementation of academic improvement strategies. The network focuses on aligning investments to a coherent strategy for systemic improvement.

## Browning High Offers Early College Path

Browning is the first high school in the Long Beach Unified School District to become an Early College institution. With dual enrollment at Long Beach City College, students can earn transferable college credit or an associate degree in hospitality while fulfilling requirements for a high school diploma.

The Early College model is a strategically designed educational program allowing students to earn a high school diploma and an associate degree, or up to two years of college credit, by taking a mixture of high school and college courses.

At Browning, students can earn up to 60 college credits by graduation. Credits can be transferred to many degrees or colleges. Courses can be taken at Browning, both LBCC campuses (Liberal Arts and Pacific Coast) or online.

In addition, students can enroll and earn a degree through the Hospitality Associate Degree for Transfer Pathway. The associate degree pathway will prepare students with the skills and confidence required to pursue careers in the culinary arts and hospitality industries and successfully enter the workforce upon graduation.

The pathway offers students learning opportunities beyond classroom instruction, such as on-site hospitality tours, chef demonstrations, job fairs and even competitions and volunteer opportunities to practice their new skills.

## Student Advisory Group Convenes

The Superintendent’s Student Advisory Committee is celebrating its inaugural year. The committee, formed earlier this year by Long Beach Unified School District Superintendent Jill Baker, aims to amplify student voices and further students’ partnership with LBUSD.

The committee consists of 23 juniors and seniors from across the school district and creates a structure for two-way communication among adults and students.

With student members representing every LBUSD high school, the committee convenes to talk with one another, the superintendent and adult stakeholders to generate ideas for improving structures and systems in LBUSD.

Since its inception in September, student members have met with Superintendent Baker and the LBUSD Board of Education to share feedback, experiences and perspectives on a variety of issues within their schools and communities.

Maya Bryson, a senior at Wilson High School, and Megan Lane, a junior at Poly High School, serve as the student co-chairs for the 2020-21 academic year.

“Throughout these unprecedented times, I’ve had a lot of time to think about the world we live in. I’ve seen that all voices are not heard but deserve the space and place to be heard,” Bryson said. “This specific committee serves the sole purpose to let students and adults have imperative conversations in order to help LBUSD, and I knew that I had to be a part of it.

“When Dr. Baker asked me to be a co-chair, words couldn’t even explain the amount of honor and excitement that I felt. I knew that she picked me for a reason, and I can’t wait to help the many students in our district,” Bryson said.

As co-chairs, Bryson and Lane are responsible for co-developing and facilitating advisory meetings and agendas, reporting student recommendations and progress to the LBUSD Board of Education, and leading the committee’s mission to encourage students to participate in genuine and non-judgemental dialogue.

“I was interested in being a co-chair for one reason – to create a space for students in LBUSD to share their voice and opinions on matters that pertain to students in this district,” Lane said. “Without directly having open transparency with students, there is no real



**Bryson**



**Lane**



**FREE BOOKS** – Students at Nieto Herrera Elementary School receive free children’s books during a recent outdoor book distribution. The books are part of a \$655,000 donation in new books from The Molina Foundation to LBUSD schools. Learn more at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).

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## • Student Advisory

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way of knowing what we really need from our schools. We are the experts of our own stories.”

Lane currently interns at a youth leadership organization for racial equity. Bryson is an intern for LBUSD Marketing and Media Services and is on the varsity track and field team. She plans to attend Dartmouth College next fall.

The Superintendent’s Student Advisory Committee meets every month. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, Nov. 17. The newly formed committee has many goals for LBUSD students.

Among those goals is actively making space and catering to students of color while teaching others to be reliable allies in the struggle for equity, including for LGBTQ students, first-generation students, students in foster care, and students with disabilities. Sometimes, Lane said, this work requires people to “sit with discomfort and listen to ones different from yourself.”

## Names in the News

The Long Beach Press-Telegram’s annual Halloween-themed Scary Stories Contest included these categories and winning Long Beach Unified School District students:

Elementary School Stories – first place, “The Sandwich” by **Adeline Soberanis** of Prisk; second place, “The Vampire Delivery” by **Mason Baughman** of Los Cerritos; third place, “Mr. Laughter” by **Lillian Rose Gonzalez** of Whittier. Elementary School Artwork – winner, “Untitled” by **Ariel Petel** of Prisk.

Middle School Stories – first place, “Eve” by **Grace Curlee** of Hughes; second place, “Its Red Eyes” by **Isabelle Gomer** of Stanford; third place, “Playtime” by **Ema Hernandez** of Hughes. Middle School Artwork – winner, **Mikayla Brumelow** of Gompers.

High School Stories – first place, “Prey” by **Ryan Pocinich** of Millikan; second place, “Untitled” by **Allyson Baez** of CAMS; third place, “The Call” by **Michael E. Alvarez Fonseca** of CAMS. High School Artwork – winner, “Unfazed” by **Michael Decastro** of CAMS. The Press-Telegram received more than 400 story and artwork submissions, mostly from LBUSD students.

The Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education recently recommended **Terence Ulaszewski** for reappointment to LBUSD’s Personnel Commission. Ulaszewski has served on the commission for 24 years. The Personnel Commission consists of three LBUSD residents who meet biweekly regarding items affecting the employment and compensation of classified employees. As is customary, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will now consider the LBUSD board’s recommendation for official ratification.

## Dates to Remember

### December

1	Anniversary of beginning of the Montgomery Bus Boycott
1	World AIDS Day
7	Pearl Harbor Day
10	Emily Dickinson’s Birthday
10	Human Rights Day
10-18	Hanukkah (Festival of Lights)
15	Bill of Rights Day
16	Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party
17	Anniversary of the Wright Brothers’ Flight
21	First Day of Winter
21-Jan. 1	Winter Recess
24	Christmas Eve – Holiday
25	Christmas – Holiday
25	Clara Barton’s Birthday
26-Jan. 1	Kwanzaa
31	New Year’s Eve – Non-Duty Day

## Financial Education Offered via Portal

A new Financial Education program is now available at myLBUSD for all Long Beach Unified School District employees. The free, interactive program provides employees with learning modules covering a variety of financial topics. LBUSD’s Personnel Commission developed the program in partnership with Schools First Federal Credit Union and Long Beach Schools Financial Credit Union.

All modules are available via playlists consisting of classes under 10 minutes that focus on a financial topic. Playlist topics include preparing for retirement, learning how to invest in your future, understanding basic financial concepts, exploring the benefits and costs of buying and owning a home, and many more.

To access the program, log in to the myLBUSD portal, select “Applications” on the bottom menu, select the “My Employee Info” folder and then select “Financial Education.” The program tracks your class progress and automatically directs you to the next class on the playlist. For additional information, contact the Personnel Commission.

## Retirement Planning For STRS Members

Virtual retirement seminars for employees participating in the California State Teachers’ Retirement System will be held 3:15 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10 and 3:45 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17.

The presentations will be held by a CalSTRS counselor via Zoom. Each seminar will explain CalSTRS service retirement allowance, retirement options, updates on legislation and disability and survivor benefits.

CalSTRS members are encouraged to participate if they are eligible for retirement, considering the pre-retirement election option, interested in the effects of new legislation, making long-range financial plans or contemplating a redeposit of previously withdrawn funds or the purchase of additional service credit. Long Beach Unified School District Human Resource Services Director Kimberly Dalton will be present to answer district retiree questions.

To register, visit myPD in the myLBUSD portal and search for course 7702. Select section 24546 for the Dec. 10 seminar or section 24547 for Dec. 17. A Zoom link will be sent directly to your district email upon registering. For additional information, contact Stephanie Jimenez at ext. 8214.

## • Browning High

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All courses in the pathway are taught by faculty and industry experts with decades of experience. A commercial kitchen and herb garden were two of many amenities built specifically for the pathway during the recent construction of the Browning campus, which is one of LBUSD’s newest schools.

Possible careers in culinary arts and hospitality include: baker, caterer, chef, executive chef, food and beverage manager, food service manager, food stylist, hotel manager, line cook, pastry chef, personal chef, or a sous chef.

According to projections by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the culinary arts and hospitality industries will experience some of the greatest job growth in the coming years.

Any LBUSD high school student can enroll at Browning Early College at no cost. All completed courses will fulfill high school A-G requirements, LBCC associate degree requirements and California State University and University of California general education, transfer and major requirements.

The class of 2024 will be the first to graduate from Browning Early College. Across the nation, Early College students are more likely to earn a college degree after high school. Dual enrollment at LBCC is also offered to any LBUSD junior or senior through the districtwide Early College Pathway Program.

Learn more at [lbschools.net/browning](https://lbschools.net/browning).

## Preliminary Results Of Board Election

Preliminary election results for the District 2 seat on the Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education this month showed candidate Erik Miller earning 51.82% of the vote, with opponent Tonia Reyes Uranga at 48.18%.

During the earlier primary election in March, the candidates were the top two finishers in a three-way race. None of the candidates secured a majority in that primary, necessitating this month’s runoff. The two candidates vied for the seat held by school board member Felton Williams, who is retiring after 16 years on the board.

The winning candidate will be seated on the board on Dec. 15 along with Doug Otto, who won the District 4 seat during the primary election in March. Otto will succeed board member Jon Meyer, who is retiring after 17 years on the board.

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

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools  
DIANA CRAIGHEAD, President  
JON MEYER, Vice President  
JUAN BENITEZ, Member  
MEGAN KERR, Member  
FELTON WILLIAMS, Member

## In Memoriam

**Robert Smith**  
former teacher  
June 8, 2020

**Dwayne A. Hundley**  
former custodian  
October 19, 2020

**Keith C. Thompson**  
campus security officer, Hoover  
October 28, 2020