



school bulletin

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

November 30, 2007

Board OKs 4.53% Raise for CSEA, Non-Reps

The Board of Education has approved a 4.53 percent salary increase for members of the local chapter of the California School Employees Association. The Board also OK'd the same raise for non-bargaining employees including confidential, classified supervisory, classified and certificated managers, pupil personnel employees, exempt employees and substitute teachers.

The raise is retroactive to July 1, 2007. It will appear on Dec. 7 paychecks, and retroactive checks will be issued Dec. 21.

The approval of CSEA's raise was part of a larger contract agreement approved by the Board after CSEA members overwhelmingly ratified the deal this month. CSEA's Unit A approved the contract by a 98.5 percent vote,

while Unit B approved the deal by a 97.5 percent vote. Unit A includes clerical and support services employees. Unit B includes construction, repair and transportation workers.

The CSEA contract remains in effect until October 2009, although 2008-09 salaries can be reopened for negotiations next year. The deal includes several contract language changes, revisions to employee evaluation forms, and enhancements to staff development, or training. No changes in employee benefits were proposed.

Contract negotiations with the Teachers Association of Long Beach are tentatively set to begin Monday, Dec. 3. Additional bargaining session dates have been tentatively set for Dec. 13, Jan. 10 and Jan. 31.



SUPERINTENDENTS FOR A DAY — Superintendent Chris Steinhauser with philanthropists Arline and Mike Walter.

Students, Schools Impress Guest Principals

More than 200 business and community leaders participated in the recent Principal for a Day event, shadowing school principals and sharing their impressions of the Long Beach Unified School District.

Serving as superintendents for a day were local philanthropists Mike and Arline Walter. They shadowed Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhäuser.

"We had an absolutely marvelous day," Mike Walter told an audience of more than 400 at an end-of-day gathering of guest principals and educators. "Principal for a Day brings together the very best in our community to recognize one of the best K-12 education systems

in the world."

The Walters visited Webster Elementary School, where they were accompanied by fellow guest principal Brian Russell, vice president of Blair Commercial Real Estate. Each of the Webster visitors said they were impressed with students' efforts to master multiple languages at a young age.

"I saw students using English, Spanish, Japanese and sign language – all in one classroom," Russell said. "What a tremendous story at Webster. I saw a fourth grader who last year got 11 of 70 questions correct on his math proficiency test. Now he's at 70 out of 70. What

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Walters Help to Raise \$130,000 for Tutoring

Local business and community leaders pledged \$130,000 recently to fund tutoring for hundreds of local high school students who are struggling to become proficient in Algebra I. The Algebra I course is a frequent obstacle to completion of requirements needed to qualify for admission to the state university systems.

The funding pledges were announced at the Long Beach Unified School District's annual Principal for a Day event. The pledges started with a \$40,000 challenge grant from philanthropists Mike and Arline Walter.

"We believe that Long Beach students can achieve much in their lives with the right attention and intervention," said Mike Walter, who formerly headed CSULB's College of Business Administration and now serves on the Long Beach Harbor Commission. "We're happy that we can play a small role in this preparation. Education is not an expense. Education is an investment, and it's one of the best investments that a society can make."

The funding will supplement an existing federal grant that is already being used to provide tutoring at Jordan, Cabrillo and Renaissance high schools. The new funding will now provide tutors for about 1,800 students at Polytechnic, Wilson, Millikan and

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CAMS' Greg Fisher Earns USA Today Honor

California Academy of Mathematics and Science teacher Gregory Fisher recently was named among 20 educators nationwide to make the All-USA Team sponsored by *USA Today* to recognize outstanding teachers.

Fisher, an economics and government teacher, was one of three winners chosen in California. This year's recipients receive \$500 individual awards and \$2,000 for their schools.

Judges considered how well teachers identify and address their students' needs and what impact they have on students and learning.

"I don't look at this as an individual achievement," Fisher said. "It's the net result of CAMS. It's the environment that's set up that allows us to do these pretty intense things."

Fisher engages students in projects such as



Fisher

working at polls, writing economic plays and producing campaign ads at the magnet high school aimed at drawing more minorities and women to math and science. He places heavy emphasis on nurturing students' creativity and entrepreneurship.

Fisher's students build and track imaginary \$100,000 portfolios to see if they can beat his. Students team up and research community needs to design products and start-up business plans. The plans are judged by venture capitalists and business leaders.

"Creativity can be messy, but the rewards and benefits transcend any cost," Fisher said. He pushed his students, 40 percent of whom qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, to audition for ABC's American Inventor and saw four of 12 teams go beyond the first round.

"CAMS allows teachers the freedom to be creative, so I can take these kids really far. But the students are the ones who make me look good," Fisher said.

Fisher last year won the Teacher of the Year award from the Global Association of Teachers of Economics. Only one award was given nationally to a high school teacher.

• Guest Principals

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a great environment. The teachers make certain that all students are engaged and learning, and Kevin Maddox, the principal, is doing a great job."

Visiting Wilson Classical High School was Matt Kinley, managing partner of the Tredway, Lumsdaine & Doyle law firm. He said he was impressed with the school and its faculty.

"We saw a pep rally for the water polo team. It was good to see all four thousand kids in the quad. It was very orderly. Principal Lew Kerns is a great guy, a great communicator. He really cares about the kids."

Jefferson Middle School's guest principal, Dan Rosenfeld, a community relations representative with Long Beach Transit, participates each year.

"I'm always impressed with how well run the schools are, and with the diversity of teaching techniques," Rosenfeld said.

Visiting International Elementary School was Mike Asfall, industrial specialist with the space and missiles program for the Defense Contract Management Agency.

"I live a block away from International and have always been impressed with it," Asfall said. "Now that I had a chance to visit classrooms, I'm even more impressed. Obviously the principal and the teachers are making a big difference for kids."

At Jordan High School, community volunteer Donita Van Horik saw the new Architecture, Construction and Engineering Academy, visited International Baccalaureate classes and met with several students.

"I thought the kids were a lot more energetic than I expected," Van Horik said. "I was also impressed with the staff. There's a lot of longevity there."

Linda Nunez, a Poly High School graduate who now works as a news anchor for KNX Newsradio, visited her alma mater for the first time in 24 years.

"The different academies they have at Poly are wonderful," Nunez said. "We didn't have all of that at Poly when I was there. I told the kids that the education they get at Poly is something they will use in every aspect of their life. They need to take advantage of the opportunities they have at Poly because they won't find them anywhere else."

Cabrillo High School's guest principal was Tom Good, president of Matson Navigation Co., which donated \$2,500 at the Principal for a Day event to help fund algebra tutoring for high school students.

"I was extremely impressed with the enthusiasm of students and staff," Good said. "After seeing what I saw today at Cabrillo, I'm very encouraged for our future."

A special broadcast of the Principal for a Day debriefing is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. today through Sunday on ed.tv (cable channels 24 in Long Beach and 35 in Lakewood).

Classified Transfers

Classified employees interested in transfer opportunities will need to submit a new transfer request form to keep their request current. Previously submitted transfer requests expire today, Nov. 30.

Transfer forms are available for download at www.lbschools.net. Go to Personnel Commission in the alphabetical index, then click on "Other Related Information."

Film Producer Fisher Visits Cabrillo High

Author, director, screenwriter and film producer Antwone Fisher visited with students at Cabrillo High School recently to share his inspiring life story.

Born in prison to a teenaged mother, Fisher was placed in foster care and endured years of homelessness. He later became a best selling poet and author. Among Fisher's accolades are the Christopher Award and the NAACP Image Award, both for the film "Antwone Fisher."

The Cabrillo visit was arranged by Project TEAM counselors, who help students to get back on track for high school graduation and life after high school. The counselors assist with academic intervention, parental involvement and social skill building.

Lindahl Extravaganza

Jordan High School will honor a former teacher while raising scholarship money with four varsity girls basketball games on one day.

The 2nd Annual Lorie Lindahl Extravaganza matches Cabrillo, Lakewood, Wilson and Jordan's teams against four non-league opponents on Saturday, Jan. 19 at the Jordan Gymnasium. Games are scheduled for 2, 3:30, 5 and 6:30 p.m.

The Extravaganza raises money to provide a scholarship to a female athlete who plans to continue in competitive sports in college. Last year's recipient was Tuai Fuatai, now playing volleyball at Cypress College.

The event honors the memory of Lorie Lindahl, a 36-year teacher, coach and athletic director at Jordan who died in December 2005 after a long battle with cancer.

Admission is \$5 for adults, although additional donations are welcome. Checks made out to the Jordan High School Lorie Lindahl Extravaganza may be sent to Jordan High School, 6500 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90805, c/o Lisa Ulmer.

Coffee With Chris

The Long Beach Unified Family Committee will meet Monday, Dec. 17 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Wilson Classical High School Library.

The informal meetings encourage open dialogue between employees and Superintendent Chris Steinhauser.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
Superintendent of Schools

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• Tutoring Donation

(Continued from front page)

Lakewood high schools during the next two years. The money will be used to hire approximately 240 eleventh and twelfth grade students who are proficient in Algebra I. These students will be peer tutors, providing them with meaningful jobs that they can use to distinguish themselves upon applying to college.

After the Walters' donation was announced, audience members raised their hands to announce several additional contributions totaling \$90,000 more. The additional donations started with Mayor Bob Foster, who committed \$1,500. Sound Energy Solutions contributed \$10,000. WalMart pledged \$10,000, and Verizon pledged \$15,000. Other contributors included: Matson Navigation; DaVinci Restaurant; Evergreen International; BNSF Railway Co.; Denso Sales; California United Terminals; Windes & McClaughry Accountancy Corp.; UPS; BP; Keesal, Young & Logan; Total Terminals; Councilman Gary DeLong; County Supervisor Don Knabe; John Crochet; Academic Uprise; Donita VanHorik; Matt Knabe; and Elizabeth Warren.

"We live in a community that truly values education," Christopher J. Steinhauser, LBUSD superintendent of schools, told the audience after the donations were tallied. "This is the kind of commitment we have in this community. Everyone works together to solve a problem. We are blessed to have such strong support."

Mike and Arline Walter served as Superintendents for a Day during the Principal for a Day event co-sponsored by the Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce, the Long Beach Unified School District and the Long Beach Education Foundation.

Chairing this year's event were Ryan Alsop, director of Government and Public Affairs for Long Beach Water, and Shaun Lumachi, president of Chamber Advocacy.

The Job Board

• Jordan High School is seeking a site curriculum coordinator/facilitator as part of its new Global Studies Collaboration effort to provide leadership in curriculum development, systemic restructuring, and instructional delivery models. Deadline to submit a letter of interest and a resume is Friday, Dec. 7. For information, contact Steve Rockenbach at ext. 2114 or srockenbach@lbschools.net.

• Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., for executive secretary to the Superintendent/Board of Education.

'One Hour' Campaign

The 'One Hour for Education' campaign to raise funds for thousands of school uniforms continues through Monday, Dec. 3. The Long Beach Education Foundation and the Assistance League of Long Beach launched the campaign Nov. 16. The fundraiser encourages donations of one hour of salary from community members, business people, parents and others.

Donations will help the Assistance League meet its goal of providing school uniforms for 5,700 students this year. The organization plans to clothe 10,000 elementary and secondary students by 2010.

Visit www.onehourforeducation.com for donation information.