



school bulletin

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

April 16, 2010

Layoff Hearings Begin for Teachers, Others

A series of public hearings on layoffs for hundreds of teachers and other certificated employees here began this week as the May 15 deadline for final layoff notices loomed.

More than 1,000 certificated employees, mostly teachers, received preliminary layoff notices last month due to the state's ongoing multi-billion-dollar cuts to public education. That number of notices was reduced recently to 849 after the school district rescinded 170 of the layoff letters. The rescissions came after the school district confirmed it could use federal funding to reduce the impact of layoffs, and after the district received new information about retirements, resignations, leaves of

absence and other variables affecting staffing.

State law allows certificated employees to contest their preliminary layoff notices at a hearing before an administrative law judge. Among the issues discussed is ranking of certificated employees on the LBUSD-prepared seniority list. With a few limited exceptions, those with the least seniority are subject to layoffs before their more experienced colleagues.

More than 400 employees gathered at the initial layoff hearing on April 12 at Wilson Classical High School. In all, more than 500 employees have requested hearings.

Additional hearing days were scheduled for April 15, May 3 and May 4.

Once the hearings conclude, the administrative law judge will take the testimony from the school district and teachers under advisement before issuing a proposed decision for consideration by the school board regarding which employees should receive final layoff notices.

Mary Stanton Wins 6th Term on Board

Board of Education President Mary Stanton won her sixth term on the Board of Education this week, defeating challenger Jeffrey Price.

While Stanton received 3,543 votes, or 57.4 percent, Price garnered 2,625 votes, or 42.6 percent. Stanton will be sworn into her sixth consecutive four-year term in July. Two other incumbent school board members, David Barton and John McGinnis, also will begin four-year terms in July after running unopposed in this week's election.

Barton will begin his second term on the board. McGinnis was first elected in December 2009 when he defeated four other candidates in a special election to fill the remainder of Michael Ellis' unexpired term. Ellis resigned from the board last September.

About 14.7 percent of voters turned out for this week's election.



MARINE SCIENCE — Bixby Elementary School third grader Grace Arnsparger enjoys a lesson about ocean sediment onboard the Sea Creature Safari, run by the Long Beach Marine Institute. The student was one of 23 from local elementary schools to earn a spot on the 90-minute Long Beach Harbor expedition as winners of the nonprofit Bridges to Exploration group's Youth Environmental Contest. Winning students submitted stories, poems, sculptures, drawings and other projects.

Stanford U. Touts High School Reform in L.B.

For many years, high school was the time when students chose to pursue college or a career. But educators today recognize that high schools must prepare all students for both college and career readiness. A recent report from Stanford University says Long Beach is tackling this challenge effectively and creating lasting reform.

Long Beach and some other districts in California are working to improve high schools by connecting strong academics, demanding technical education and real-world experience in a wide range of fields, such as engineering, arts and media, biomedicine and health. This reform model, known as linked learning (or multiple pathways), provides multiyear programs of study that are rigorous, relevant and directly connected to regional and state economic needs. The idea is to prepare students

for success in a full array of options after high school.

The recent report from Stanford's School Redesign Network focuses on Long Beach's "distributive leadership" method of implementing such reform.

"Rather than an 'initiative-of-the month' approach, distributive leadership enables districts to build in structures, capacity and culture that foster systemic change owned and sustained by a broad base of leaders," states the report, titled "Distributive Leadership in District Reform: A Model for Taking Linked Learning to Scale."

The report examines Long Beach's "effective mechanism for including school staff in reform efforts through Pathway Leadership Teams. These teams are school-based and

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Academic Gains Bring International Acclaim

A new book examining successful and enduring school reform in the U.S. and beyond praises the Long Beach Unified School District's steady gains in student achievement.

The book, "All Systems Go: The Change Imperative for Whole System Reform," says that "Long Beach has had a long run of success from 1992 to the present."

Author Michael Fullan details LBUSD's development of higher standards for students, and how those standards are attained through effective central office support for schools.

Fullan contrasts Long Beach's successful reforms with California's penchant for piecemeal policy making and fiscal uncertainty.

While "Long Beach represents another example of whole-system reform at the district

level," the book states, "California continues to be one of the worst examples of piecemeal reform, not to mention the fact that it is currently desperately in debt."

Among LBUSD's successes cited in the book are the increase in the number of fifth graders reading at grade level here, and a dramatic decrease in high school dropout rates.

The author, Fullan, is professor emeritus at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto and is special adviser on education to Dalton McGuinty, the premier of Ontario. He is currently working as adviser and consultant on several major education reform initiatives around the world.

Find Fullan's book at www.corwin.com. Type "All Systems Go" in the search field.

Names in the News

Tory Cox, school social worker for the Long Beach Unified School District, was honored recently as the Social Worker of the Year for Region 1 of the National Association of Social Workers. He was recognized for his dedication to the profession and for his outstanding service to the community of Long Beach. He is one of eleven LBUSD school social workers.

For the second year in a row, Jordan High School Architecture, Construction and Engineering (ACE) Academy student **Josue Rivera** took first place in the design portion of the recent Orange County Design/Build Competition, where area high schools, Regional Occupation Programs and community colleges competed. Rivera's architecture teacher is **Tom Kelsey**. Jordan teacher **Mike Zeke** coached his construction students to a second place win in the build portion of the contest.



Cox

Deadline to Request A Transfer is May 1

Human Resource Services is currently accepting transfer requests from teachers who wish to change school sites for the 2010-11 school year. Please refer to the TALB Agreement, Article VIII for guidelines.

Transfer requests are valid through the end of the first seven student days of the following traditional school year. The deadline to apply for transfers is May 1.

For more information about transfers, call ext. 8635.

Kids' Fair Postponed

The "Ready, Set, Go" family resource fair scheduled for this Saturday, April 17 at Cabrillo High School has been postponed indefinitely.

The free fair will be rescheduled soon and will include immunizations, health screenings, community agency booths, activities for children, free children's books and prizes.

The fair is for children of all ages, especially children entering kindergarten.

For information, call 422-6868, ext. 231.

In Memoriam

Jay Atkinson
former Nutrition Services driver
March 29, 2010

Angela Williams
teacher, Dooley
April 10, 2010

Poly's Osman Named Music Educator of Year

Poly High School teacher Andrew Osman recently earned the Music Educator of the Year Award for the Long Beach, South Bay and Orange County region.

The second annual award went to Osman for his outstanding contributions to music education. He has taught for 27 years at Poly, where he is the school's instrumental music director. Beginning at 6:50 a.m., he directs the symphony orchestra, wind ensemble, chamber orchestra, string orchestra and jazz band.

From 1995 to 2006, Osman was the music curriculum leader for the Long Beach Unified School District while continuing to teach at Poly. In this position, he was an advocate for music education, going the extra mile to save music from budget cuts during many lean years, according to the recent award announcement by the Long Beach Camerata Singers. The Camerata group is a 45-voice ensemble that started in 1966 and advocates regularly for arts and music education.

Osman has worked with elementary, middle and high school programs to organize special events and activities including the All-District Band and Orchestra groups as well as the Concerts for Youth provided by the Long Beach Symphony.

A Poly graduate quoted in the awards announcement said, "I think the high standard he set for the musicians encouraged everyone, even those who didn't take music that seriously, to bring themselves up to his level."

The most rewarding aspect about winning the honor was receiving congratulatory messages from former students, Osman said.

"I received an e-mail from a student who was in the Class of '89," Osman said. "It was an appreciative note, letting me know that he's still involved in music. Hearing from former students like that is the best part of this gig."

Winning the inaugural award last year was James Petri, LBUSD's music curriculum leader.

Employee of Year Nominations Extended

The deadline for nominating outstanding colleagues for the annual Classified Employee of the Year Award has been extended by one week to Friday, April 23.

Further information and nomination forms are available at www.lbschools.net under Classified Employee of Year.

Completed forms may be faxed to (562) 435-1018 or sent through school district mail to the Personnel Commission, Attention: Classified Employee Recognition Committee, or they may be delivered in person to the office at 999 Atlantic Ave., Third Floor, Long Beach.

The nominee should be one who: supports LBUSD's educational mission by contributing significantly to the classroom support and/or the business (non-school) operations of the district; demonstrates a commitment to being a team player and a positive role model for others; and continually strives for excellence or improvement in personal performance.

Any full-time or part-time permanent classified employee at an LBUSD department, school or office is eligible for this honor. Only

classified or certificated employees may nominate a classified employee. The selection committee will not consider self-nominations.

The winner and finalists will be recognized at the annual Classified Employee Celebration and Ice Cream Social to be held in May at the Teacher Resource Center. No school district funds are used for this event, which is made possible by donations. The winner also will be recognized at a school board meeting.

• Stanford Report

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made up of site administrators, teachers, counselors and others. The teams are critical in leading bold change to structures, policies and instructional practices, such as master schedules, curriculum integration and professional development."

LBUSD provides leadership training and support for pathway leadership team members, including teachers, so they can take the lead in building a school-based culture of collaboration and accountability, the report states. The school district also builds broad-based community support through an Expanding Pathways Implementation Council — a formal steering committee of school site curriculum leaders, postsecondary partners, Regional Occupation Programs and career technical education leaders, principals, counselors, industry and community leaders, executive district staff and others.

The report is supported by a grant from The James Irvine Foundation.

The School Redesign Network was established in 2000 at Stanford University to build, capture and share research-based knowledge to transform secondary schools and school systems.

The Stanford group's mission is "to help support and sustain equitable schools and districts that are intellectually rigorous, high performing and designed to help all students master the knowledge and skills needed for success in college, career and citizenship."

The network is affiliated with the Stanford Center for Opportunity Policy in Education.

Retirement Event

Honoree	Date	Contact
Sandra Abraham	June 30	Brenda Biggart ext. 8162

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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