



school bulletin

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

December 17, 2010



LET IT SNOW — Prisk Elementary School third grader Soraya Love takes to the slopes, enjoying the snowy playground that her school imported as part of a fundraiser to support science programs. See more photos at lbschools.net.

Photo by Daniel DeBoom for the Long Beach Post.

Steady Progress On School Construction

Two years after Measure K was approved by 71 percent of voters, steady progress is being made to reconfigure and rehabilitate Long Beach Unified School District's aging schools. The \$1.2 billion made available by Measure K has been budgeted to address the most critical building needs of the district.

These needs, identified in the Facility Master Plan and Technology Master Plan, were prioritized through a weighing of numerous factors, including regulatory and building code compliance, technology needs, educational program enhancements, enrollment shifts, school site capacity and utilization, condition of existing structures, board recommendations and equity.

Projects currently or soon to be underway include:

- Construction of new middle school at the former GTE site;
 - Demolition of DeMille Middle School to build a new small high school;
 - Rebuilding of Roosevelt Elementary School;
 - Seismic retrofits at Newcomb Academy;
 - Major renovation at Jordan High School;
- (Continued on next page)

CAMS Competes For National Blue Ribbon

The California Academy of Mathematics and Science is among a list of 33 California schools nominated by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell this month for the national Blue Ribbon Schools award.

"The schools I have nominated to the U.S. Department of Education have stepped up to the challenge of closing the achievement gap and are deserving of this prestigious national honor," O'Connell said.

"They were selected because of their success over the last five years in increasing the percentage of their students achieving at the proficient and advanced levels in mathematics and English-language arts," O'Connell said. "I heartily congratulate all those who contributed to this success, including parents, teachers, staff and administrators and, of course, the students themselves."

The winning schools are scheduled to be announced next September by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

CAMS is a high school run by the Long Beach Unified School District on the campus of Cal State Dominguez Hills. The school placed 22nd out of 21,000 public high schools nationwide in last year's U.S. News and World Report ranking of America's top high schools, and it has received wide acclaim for the academic achievement of its minority students, including students from low-income families.

The Blue Ribbon Schools honor recognizes schools that are both academically superior and have demonstrated dramatic gains in student achievement, while serving an economically disadvantaged population of students. Winners are considered to be national models of excellence for other schools to emulate.



MEASURE K SCHOOL BONDS
Building for 21st Century Learning

Q&A

Measure K Facts

Q: What is Measure K?

A: Measure K is a ballot initiative, approved by 71 percent of voters in November 2008, which makes available \$1.2 billion from property taxes to build, renovate and improve schools in the Long Beach Unified School District. The funds come from issuance of a series of bonds to occur four to six times in about ten years.

Q: How can the district afford to do school repairs and construction with state budget cuts?

A: Due to the state's ongoing budget crisis, LBUSD has been forced to cut more than \$170 million in its operating budget over the past three years and will need to slash as much as \$100 million or more of expenditures over the next two years. These cuts affect the general operations of the school district, and are separate from Measure K funds, which by law, are specifically designated for school

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More Cuts Approved, But Many More Loom

The Board of Education at its regular meeting this month approved additional budget reductions, resulting in an estimated \$115,000 in ongoing savings and nearly \$463,000 in one-time savings. The savings are made possible by recent contract changes for certain classified employees. For the full agenda item, see the Dec. 8 heading under Budget Update at lbschools.net.

At the same meeting, Long Beach Unified School District staff warned the school board that additional cuts here ranging from roughly \$53 million (best case scenario) to as much as \$100 million or more (worst case scenario) will be needed over the next two years due to the state's worsening and highly volatile budget. The school board also OK'd a fiscal stabilization plan, required by Los Angeles County,

listing potential methods of achieving further budget savings, including:

- Closing small schools;
- A continued freeze of certificated and classified hiring;
- Changing work calendars for staff, such as from 12-month to 10-month;
- Seeking efficiencies in health benefit programs;
- Seeking grant funding and additional expenditure flexibility through the state and federal governments.

The continuing cuts here are necessitated by the state's ongoing, multi-billion-dollar reductions in funding for public schools. A \$28 billion state budget gap is forecast for the next 18 months. Roughly 40 percent of the state budget is earmarked for K-12 education.

• Construction

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- Pool addition at Cabrillo High School;
- Gymnasium addition at Lindsey International Studies Magnet (Measure A);
- Design of new high school at vacant Browning school site;
- Boiler replacements;
- Removal of outdated portable classrooms;
- Ceiling and lighting replacement/repairs;
- Technology upgrades (core switch/power supply).

As site studies are completed, priorities may change and schedules will be adjusted. Additional projects may be added as funding allows.

Visit lbschools.net for more details, including overviews of major projects such as those at the DeMille and former GTE sites.

Poly Student Earns \$20K for 21 Words

Poly student Amanda Russell may be one of the highest paid writers in the nation, at least on a per word basis. The student won a \$20,000 scholarship with 21 words in a KFC "tweeting" contest.

The student's winning tweet was: "Hey, Colonel! Your scholarship's the secret ingredient missing from my recipe for success! Got the grades, drive, just need the cash!"

The 17-year-old bested more than 2,800 other applicants.

"I am so excited. I just can't believe it," Russell said in news reports.

Russell is considering a medical career. She competes on the school's swim team, loves to scuba dive and volunteers at the Aquarium of the Pacific.

KFC is accepting applications for 2011 scholarships through Feb. 9. Learn more at KFC.com.

Dates to Remember

January

1	New Year's Day
1	Japanese New Year Festivities
1	Emancipation Proclamation Anniversary
4	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Preventing Conflicts and Violence," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
5	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Martin Luther King, Jr./Black History Month," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
6	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Everyday Creativity," Grades 4-12, ed.tv 8
7	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "The Boyhood of Martin Luther King, Jr.," Grades 4-6, ed.tv 8
11	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "I Have a Dream: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
12	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 13 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Adventures in Poetry: Writing Poetry," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
14	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "What Liberty and Justice Mean," Grades 3-4, ed.tv 8
16	World Religion Day
17	Martin Luther King, Jr., Day — Holiday
18	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "I Have a Dream: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," Grades 6-8, ed.tv 8
19	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "The Wright Brothers," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
20	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Dare to Dream," Grade 9, ed.tv 8
21	10:00, 11:20, 12:20— "First Moon: Celebration of the Chinese New Year," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
25	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Silversmith of Williamsburg, Grade 5, ed.tv 8
26	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Thomas Edison," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8
27	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "School Bus Safety," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
28	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "The Klan: A Legacy of Hate in America," Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8

• Q&A on Measure K School Bonds

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repair and construction. Measure K funds cannot be used for operations (including administrator and teacher salaries).

Q: What will Measure K funds be used for?

A: More than 80 percent of the school district's permanent buildings were built prior to 1970. Most of our aging schools need major work to meet new building standards and to continue serving student needs in the 21st Century. Examples of work needed include:

- Retrofitting schools to meet new earthquake safety standards;
- Meeting federal handicap accessibility requirements;
- Removing lead paint and asbestos;
- Upgrading and expanding instructional technology, including computer hardware and network infrastructure;
- Building smaller high school learning communities;
- Upgrading science labs, classrooms, libraries, restrooms, plumbing and roofs;
- Improving energy and water efficiency.

Q: What expenses are covered by Measure K?

A: The expenses covered by Measure K are set by law and are strictly limited to school repairs and construction. Included are architectural/engineering/planning costs, furniture, equipment, program/project management and staff training. The bond measure also makes available funds to reduce or retire outstanding leases and debt incurred to provide capital facilities. For example, Measure K has allowed the district to reduce long-term costs by paying off a \$51 million debt incurred to provide portable classrooms, purchased in the 1990's when LBUSD implemented its class-size reduction program.

Q: Who decided which schools will be built or renovated and when?

A: The priority list of projects was developed through a comprehensive process of evaluating a combination of key factors, including the district's Strategic Plan, the Technology Master Plan and the Facility Master Plan. These plans, created over a period of years, had extensive community and school site input. The Measure K current project list was determined by weighing a combination of the following criteria: regulatory and building code compliance, technology needs, educational program enhancements, enrollment shifts, school site capacity and utilization, condition of exist-

ing structures, board recommendations and equity. Priorities and schedules are subject to changes based on site-specific evaluations.

Q: Does the state provide funding for school repairs and construction?

A: For school districts that meet requirements, the state has a limited pot of construction/repair funds, available in the form of matching funds. LBUSD is eligible for approximately \$286 million in state matching funds, which are contingent upon our ability to contribute local funds.

Q: Will Measure K bring all our schools up to modern standards and allow us to meet changing student needs?

A: Measure K provides \$1.2 billion in funding. To bring all schools up to modern standards, the Facility Master Plan identified 100 project types, with a total cost of up to \$6.5 billion over 25 years (in 2007 dollars). Measure K funds will be used to address the most critical needs in the plan, but falls short of addressing all the identified projects required. With state funds dwindling, additional facilities building funds are unlikely to become available from outside sources. Therefore, the district is exploring other ways to raise funds to address the balance of needs in the Facility Master Plan.

More Teachers Earn National Certification

Eleven more teachers in the Long Beach Unified School District have earned the highest professional distinction in teaching, National Board Certification. Another nine teachers here renewed their national certification, bringing the total number of nationally certified teachers in the district to 129.

The rigorous certification is a year-long process that involves writing extensive portfolios, videotaping classroom instruction and participating in a day of written exercises. The school district supports teachers who are interested in applying for the certification by offering pre-candidacy and candidacy support programs throughout the application process.

Newly certified teachers are Stephanie Ewing-Warner, Poly; Christine Godfrey, Cabrillo; Linda Mank, Whittier; Jamie Lynn Nichols, Newcomb; Lindsay Penney, Lakewood; Emyr Rich, Signal Hill; Jamaica Ross, Signal Hill; Danielle Sawyer, Poly; Katie Sotiropoulos-Kolsky, Burbank; Laura Stringer, Tincher; and Alan Van Divort, Jordan.

National Board Certification is valid for ten years. Renewing their certification this year were Michelle Aberle, Poly; Sarah Adams, Millikan; Kellee King, Gant; Laura Kusaba, Monroe; Keith Miller, Lakewood; Karen Rodgers, Naples; Susan Starbuck, Poly; Patricia Tilton, Gompers; and Joan Van Blom, physical education curriculum leader.

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards provides the certification. NBPTS is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan and nongovernmental organization. It was formed in 1987 to advance the quality of teaching and learning by developing professional standards for accomplished teaching, creating a voluntary system to certify teachers who meet those standards and integrating certified teachers into educational reform efforts.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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