



school bulletin

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October 22, 2010

Moving On Without Race to Top Funding

The Long Beach Unified School District and six other California school districts that served as the working group for the recent Race to the Top federal funding application recently announced the creation of the California Office of Education Reform (CORE), a nonprofit group that will support education reforms in each of the districts.

The nonprofit, which has secured commitments of \$3 million in funding, will help the school districts share best practices regarding curriculum, instruction and evaluation.

Joining the school districts for the announcement were California Secretary of Education Bonnie Reiss and other state officials along with leaders from Los Angeles, Fresno, San Francisco, Sacramento, Clovis and Sanger school districts.

The seven school districts represent over a million students combined. While the last application for Race to the Top did not bring funding to California, it gave the seven superintendents a chance to collaborate and discuss how to meet the needs of students. CORE will help to continue their work.

The formation of the new group drew praise from Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell and Secretary Reiss.

The participating school districts aim to advance reform in four key areas: implementing the national "common core" standards in English and Math; sharing and using information and knowledge more effectively; supporting great teachers and leaders; and building capacity for continuous improvement, especially in support of turnaround schools.

"We are committed to this work because it will better prepare students for success in college and the workplace," said LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT — U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius applauds students at Fremont Elementary School as they dedicate a new salad bar. Above, students enjoy lunch. Story on next page.

White House Eyeing Long Beach's Success

The heads of the Long Beach Unified School District, Long Beach City College and Cal State Long Beach joined President Barack Obama this week at a White House signing ceremony where the president approved an executive order renewing the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans.

Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser, LBCC President Eloy Ortiz Oakley and CSULB President F. King Alexander accepted the White House's invitation to see the signing.

More than one in five students in the United States is Hispanic, and Hispanic students are more likely to attend low performing schools, Obama said at the ceremony.

"This is not just a Latino problem. This is an American problem, and we have to solve it," Obama said.

The three educational leaders from Long Beach have attracted national attention for increasing college access through the Long

Beach College Promise and a Seamless Education partnership that aligns curriculum, instruction and training from pre-kindergarten through the doctoral level. The Long Beach leaders had traveled to D.C. to share their successes at a national education summit. Long Beach was one of two cities represented.

Hispanics are the fastest growing minority group in the nation. The Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans initiative was established in 1990 to increase academic opportunities for Hispanics. The initiative was continued by President William J. Clinton and President George W. Bush. Obama's executive order, aimed at strengthening the initiative, is at whitehouse.gov under Briefing Room, then Presidential Actions.

More than 52 percent of LBUSD students are Hispanic. Participation in rigorous Advanced Placement college preparatory classes by Hispanics and other minorities here has
(Continued on next page)

Tentative Agreement Reached with CSEA

The Long Beach Unified School District has reached a tentative agreement with the California School Employees Association Long Beach Chapter 2.

The tentative agreement — reached during a time of continuing cuts to public education funding statewide — includes job protection provisions for this fiscal year and the next one.

The agreement also would provide some job restoration in exchange for five furlough days this school year and up to seven furlough days next school year, along with other changes to salaries and benefits. For employees working a standard work week, the five furlough days for this school year would be scheduled for Nov. 22 to 24 of 2010, and for March 25 and March 28 of 2011.

Despite the state's attempt to reduce the amount of education cuts in California's recently adopted budget, LBUSD must deal with a budget shortfall of over \$50 million in the next two years.

The proposed agreement also includes a 5 percent contribution toward health care costs beginning Jan. 1, 2012, and the suspension of step advancement on the classified salary schedule for this school year and the next one.

The agreement would become final if ratified by the union's membership and if approved by LBUSD's Board of Education in the coming weeks.

"I deeply appreciate the willingness of CSEA's leadership to consider some reasonable compromises during these lean times for public schools," said LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser. "I also commend our classified employees, who have waited patiently for bargaining to conclude. The result is a tentative contract that maintains competitive salaries and benefits while helping us to cope with severe budget cuts."

CSEA represents custodians, maintenance workers, cafeteria workers, groundskeepers, bus and truck drivers, mechanics, instructional assistants, warehouse workers, school support staff and other employees.

Job protections include an agreement not to layoff CSEA members for the remainder of this fiscal year and next fiscal year, with some exceptions. If the state reduces LBUSD's funding by \$50 or more per pupil, for instance, negotiations may be reopened.

The tentative contract's job restoration language says LBUSD will restore roughly 36 percent of the remaining CSEA Unit A and Unit B members on a reemployment list who
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• CSEA Agreement

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have been laid off since April 19. Unit A includes clerical and support services employees. Unit B includes construction/repair and transportation workers. The percentage, which would result in about 15 jobs being restored, was negotiated as a means of assuring parity with a recently approved contract with the Teachers Association of Long Beach, which resulted in the restoration of 200 positions.

The tentative agreement also includes changes to health benefits, including the elimination of the PacifiCare plan, a change in pharmacy plans and other modifications that will save more than \$3 million while still providing employees with competitive benefits, including a wide range of health plan options and health care providers.

The tentative agreement is available on the school district website at lbschools.net.

Classroom Grants

The Long Beach Junior Chamber of Commerce Charitable Foundation is offering \$200 grants to teachers for classroom projects.

Grant applications are entirely online for the MaryPat Bamrick Adopt-a-Teacher Program.

The deadline for applications is Friday, Oct. 29. Click on Adopt-a-Teacher grants at lbjccfoundation.org.

Everyone Wins

Students and staff at Poly and Lakewood high schools raised more than \$4,400 for breast cancer research during a recent football game.

Student leaders from the schools collected pledges, and breast cancer survivors from each school's staff were honored.

Dates to Remember

November	
	American Indian Heritage Month
2	Election Day
2	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Molly's Pilgrim," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
3	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Louis Pasteur," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8
4	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Taking Care of Your School Building," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
5	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "America's Veterans," Grades 4-9, ed.tv 8
7	Standard Time Day
8	First Quarter Ends
8-16	Conference Days — Elementary Schools
9	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Pilgrims At Plymouth," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8
10	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "William Bradford, The First Thanksgiving," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
11	Veterans Day
12	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Thanksgiving," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
14-20	American Education Week
16	National Community Education Day
16	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "First Thanksgiving," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
17	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Thanksgiving Day," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
18	Education Support Professionals Day
18	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Turkeys in the Wild," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
19	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "McGruff on the Law: Bicycles and Pedestrians," Grades 2-5, ed.tv 8
22-24	LBUSD Furlough Days
25	Thanksgiving Day
26	Declared Holiday
30	Mark Twain's Birthday
30	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Respecting Others," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8

Secretary of Health Spotlights Fremont

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius recently visited Fremont Elementary School, where she praised the school as a model for healthy eating, and she helped students to dedicate a new salad bar.

The visit promoted First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" initiative to fight childhood obesity.

Fremont students chanted "Salad! Salad! Salad!" before cutting the ribbon to dedicate their new salad bar, courtesy of Long Beach Unified School District Nutrition Services and supportive parents.

In addition to the salad bar, the school has an organic garden and a program called Days of Taste that helps students learn to scrutinize food labels and make healthier choices. As part of the program, initiated by parent and local chef Paul Buchanan, children learn about the history of food and they visit the local farmer's market and a community garden where they gather vegetables to make their own salads.

Secretary Sebelius praised the school for its efforts to teach healthy habits.

"What you're doing is really important," Sebelius said. "About half the calories a child eats are consumed at school. Keep up the great work."

Salary Credit Deadline

Certificated employees may advance on the salary schedule by submitting proof of qualifying units to Human Resource Services.

After the first year of employment, salary changes will be retroactive to the beginning of the contract year if official transcripts are received by Nov. 1. Salary changes based on transcripts submitted by new hires or after Nov. 1 apply to the next pay period after transcripts are submitted.

Upper division, graduate level or qualifying professional units will apply toward salary schedule placement advancement. Qualifying professional units are for courses required for a credential or certificate issued by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing or upper division and graduate level courses designated as professional courses for educators by the college or university.

For information, contact Human Resource Services at hrshelp@lbschools.net.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
Superintendent of Schools

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• White House Event

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soared in recent years. College enrollment is on the rise here too, in part because of the College Promise, a cooperative venture among CSULB, LBCC and LBUSD. The program includes a tuition-free semester at LBCC and it offers guaranteed admission to CSULB for local students. Learn more under College Promise in the A-Z index at lbschools.net.

At LBCC, more than 500 students this fall are taking advantage of a tuition-free semester, thanks to the College Promise.

The College Promise is an extension of Long Beach's Seamless Education partnership, described as a national model in a case study this year by the Washington D.C.-based Business Higher Education Forum. The Seamless partnership connects LBUSD's educators with business leaders, LBCC and CSULB to help students progress smoothly through their education and into the workforce.

Open Enrollment

Open enrollment for health benefits is Nov. 1 to 30. Employees may attend the school district's upcoming Health Fair, which runs from 12 to 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 29 in the Long Beach School For Adults Auditorium, 3701 E. Willow St. Learn about health and wellness, and how to manage health plans.

Open enrollment is the one chance each year to change current benefits, add or remove dependents from benefit plans, or enroll in a flexible spending account (FSA). Enrollment packets are being mailed to employees' home addresses.

Blue Shield and Kaiser will conduct special meetings to provide information on their medical plans. The meeting schedule is:

- Friday, October 29, 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. sessions, Long Beach School for Adults (coincides with Health Fair);
- Monday, Nov. 1, 11 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. sessions, Teacher Resource Center, Room D;
- Tuesday, Nov. 2, 4:30 p.m. session, Teacher Resource Center, Room D.

Blood Drive Nov. 4

Lakewood High School will attempt to set a new national record with its blood drive. The school holds the current U.S. high school record of 853 pints.

To schedule your donation for Thursday, Nov. 4, between 6 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. and become part of the record-setting attempt:

- E-mail mholm@lbschools.net with your name and preferred time slot, or
- Call the Red Cross at 800-GIVELIFE, or
- Sign up at givelife.org and use LakewoodHS for the sponsor code.

In Memoriam

Jenny Oropeza
former Board of Education member
Oct. 20, 2010