



school bulletin

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February 4, 2011

‘Linked Learning’ Boosts College Enrollment

A new study shows that the “Linked Learning” high school reform method — which the Long Beach Unified School District is helping to pioneer — more than doubles the rate of college entrance for minority students and increases college enrollment rates for all student populations.

Linked Learning combines rigorous academics with real world experiences that prepare students for both college and high-paying, high-demand jobs.

The release of the latest study comes as more Long Beach high schools are implementing Linked Learning, and LBUSD is unveiling a new website dedicated specifically to Linked Learning programs. View the new website at lbschools.net under Linked Learning in the A-Z index.

The Architecture, Construction and Engineering (ACE) Academy at Long Beach’s Jordan High School last year was the first of two schools in California to achieve Linked Learning Certification, an assurance of quality by the educational nonprofit ConnectEd organization (connectedcalifornia.org).

Linked Learning pathways combine challenging academics, demanding technical courses, and work-based learning focused on an industry theme such as arts and media, engineering or biomedicine. Studies show that these pathways connect learning with students’

CBFO Kim Stallings To Retire in 8 Weeks

Chief Business and Financial Officer Kim Stallings announced this week that he will retire from the Long Beach Unified School District at the end of March.

“Words cannot express how meaningful it has been for me to be a member of such a great organization,” Stallings said. “My decision to retire from the Long Beach Unified School District has not been an easy one and was made for purely personal reasons. I look forward to maintaining my relationship with the school district and the many wonderful people I have come to know.”

LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser plans to name an interim finance chief who will take the helm upon Stallings’ departure. In the meantime, the school district will conduct a search for a permanent replacement.

“Kim and his staff have helped to guide our school district through extremely difficult financial straits,” Steinhauser said. “I deeply appreciate the positive and lasting contributions he has made to our schools and students.”

Stallings has held the CBFO post since 2004, when he joined the school district. His career as a teacher and administrator spans more than 27 years.

interests and career aspirations, leading to higher graduation rates, increased college enrollments, higher earning potential and greater civic engagement.

The newest study, released by the Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART) and The James Irvine Foundation, compared results for students in the Fresno and Clovis (CA) unified school districts where Linked Learning is offered. Increased college entrance rates were seen in community colleges, California State Universities and the University of California.

The study especially showed significant improvement in community college enrollment. After high school, 71 percent of students who participated in Linked Learning attended a community college, while 60 percent of a demographically similar group of non-Linked- (Continued on next page)

Authors, Illustrators Enthrall Lowell Kids

About 300 Lowell Elementary School parents and students enjoyed an evening of literary fun at the school’s annual Authors & Illustrators Night recently.

After packing the auditorium to hear from award-winning professional writers and artists, participants attended workshops led by the pros.

The increasingly popular event, now in its fourth year, is sponsored by the Lowell PTA and run by parent volunteers.

Former Los Angeles Times reporter Nancy Wride, a Long Beach parent and founding chair of the event, offers additional coverage of the most recent Authors & Illustrators Night at her newly launched belmontshore.patch.com website. Type “Lowell author” in the search field.

DEMOLITION — Workers clear buildings from the former DeMille Middle School to make way for a new high school of about 1,000 students. The project is funded by local Measure K bonds, which by law can be used only for school renovation and construction.



621 Layoffs Looming As Board Cuts \$27M

The Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education approved nearly \$27 million in cuts this week, including the closure of two schools and the elimination of 429 teaching positions due to increased class sizes. In all, the number of certificated positions affected by layoff notices could rise to more than 620 as the school board considers further cuts in the coming weeks.

The school board is facing well over \$100 million in cuts to be made over the next two years in response to the state’s ongoing fiscal crisis, which LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser describes as the worst he has seen in his more than 30 years in education. The school district already has cut more than \$170 million in the past three years.

The cuts approved this week are part of preparations for a worst-case scenario at the state level, which could occur if the state Legislature and California voters do not OK the extension of certain temporary tax increases in the coming months. Even under a best-case scenario budget, the school district still must cut about \$53 million over two years. So even if California voters decide to extend current taxes, the 429 eliminated teaching positions here would likely not be restored.

The school board also discussed but did not act upon roughly \$45 million in additional cuts that they will reconsider Feb. 15. Those cuts, along with the ones approved this week, will affect a wide array of programs, resulting not only in larger class sizes, school closures, and hundreds of layoffs of teachers, but also job losses for central office staff, school administrators, librarians, nurses, psychologists, counselors and others. About \$10 million in savings would come from reductions at the central office, which has already seen deep cuts in recent years. Instructional programs, school safety, sports, music, transportation and other (Continued on next page)



LINKED LEARNING — Cabrillo High School student Kevon Thompson learns about the music and video recording industry as part of a John Lennon Educational Tour Bus visit to the school. Linked Learning connects students with industry experts to make school more engaging.

• Budget Cuts

(Continued from first page) services would be affected, in some cases significantly. Proposed cuts to transportation, for instance, would eliminate all home-to-school transportation except for legally required Special Education busing.

The larger class sizes approved by the school board this week mean that for grades six to 12, average class sizes would increase by three students to 35. For grades K-3, classes would increase by between five and 10 students (depending on the school) for an average of 30 students per class. The increased class sizes will save the school district about \$26 million.

At the same meeting this week, the school board also considered, but did not vote upon, a preliminary certificated layoff resolution detailing the kinds of services to be reduced or eliminated for the upcoming school year. The preliminary resolution identified roughly 621 positions, or “full-time equivalents” for possible elimination. The resolution is scheduled to be considered for board action on Feb. 15.

The cuts approved this week include the closures of Burroughs and Buffum elementary schools after this school year, due to the budget crisis and declining enrollment.

As part of LBUSD’s continued cost-cutting efforts, school district staff had been examining the possible closure of smaller schools to improve efficiency. Burroughs and Buffum will close because they have relatively small numbers of students. Buffum, located at 2350 Ximeno Ave. in Long Beach, has 295 students. Burroughs, located at 1260 E. 33rd St. in Signal Hill, has 291 students. In both cases, other nearby schools have the capacity to serve the displaced students.

Declining enrollment districtwide has exacerbated budget woes because schools receive most of their funding based on student attendance. The small numbers of students at Burroughs and Buffum have reduced the efficiency of those schools. LBUSD’s enrollment has declined by about 14,000 students over the past decade.

In light of the decision to close the two schools, the school board also OK’d revised school attendance boundaries so that nearby schools can accommodate the displaced students.

The revised school boundaries, along with the preliminary layoff resolution and full list of cuts considered by the school board this week, are available under Budget Update at lbschools.net. See the Feb. 2 heading.

• Linked Learning Takes Hold in High Schools

(Continued from first page)

Learning students attended community college – a difference of 11 percentage points. The same percentage difference holds true one year after high school.

Read the full study at irvine.org. Type CART in the search field.

In Long Beach, the Linked Learning method builds upon high schools’ Smaller Learning Communities that have been developed over the years to create more personalized learning

experiences within large high schools.

Four more Long Beach high school programs are slated to obtain Linked Learning Certification this year, including the engineering program at the California Academy of Mathematics and Science, the visual and performing arts program at Renaissance High School for the Arts, Millikan High School’s COMPASS visual and performing arts program, and Millikan’s PEACE Academy emphasizing social justice.

Kindergarten Fests Back by Popular Demand

The first of four Kindergarten Festivals for incoming 2011-12 kindergartners and their families is 9 a.m. to noon this Saturday, Feb. 5 at Chavez Elementary School, 730 W. Third St. in Long Beach.

Coordinated by the Long Beach Early Childhood Education Committee, the popular Saturday festivals include parent workshops on how to support successful students, free H1N1/flu vaccines to the first 200 preschoolers (provided by Molina Medical), free dental screenings (provided by the Molina Mobile Dental Van), and \$2,500 in free children’s books provided by Long Beach Rotary and Charitable Foundation. Each incoming kinder-

gartner receives a free book and backpack with school supplies.

Parent workshops on math, reading and kindergarten readiness run from 9:20 to 10 a.m., 10:10 to 10:50 a.m. and 11 to 11:40 a.m.

The Long Beach Police Department will provide free fingerprinting at each festival.

Other sponsors include Verizon, Los Angeles Universal Preschool, the National Council of Jewish Women and the California Community Foundation.

Call 997-8000, ext. 8646 for more information.

Names in the News

Third grader **Kate Mlouk** took first place in the recent Gant Elementary School Spelling Bee. She advances to the Los Angeles County Regional Spelling Bee in North Hollywood later this month. Kate earned her trip to the regional by correctly spelling “duodenum.”

Teach in Yokkaichi

Teachers interested in teaching in Long Beach’s sister city, Yokkaichi, Japan for two years beginning in August, are invited to an informational meeting on Thursday, Feb. 10, from 3 to 4 p.m. at CSULB’s Career Development Center, Brotman Hall, Room 250.

Applications will be available at the meeting along with representatives from the Long Beach Yokkaichi committee to answer questions. For information, call ext. 8025.

Kindergarten Festivals

(9 a.m. to Noon)

Saturday, Feb. 5

Chavez Elementary School
730 W. Third St., Long Beach

Saturday, March 5

Jefferson Leadership Academies
750 Euclid Ave., Long Beach

Saturday, April 2

Hughes Middle School
3846 California Ave., Long Beach

Saturday, May 14

Dooley Elementary School
5075 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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