



December 19, 2014

## Board OKs 5% Raise for Teachers, Non-Reps

The Board of Education at a special meeting this Thursday approved a 5 percent salary increase for teachers and non-represented employees, retroactive to July 1 of this year.

The raise for teachers was part of a bargaining agreement approved by both the school board and the Teachers Association of Long Beach. The board's final approval came after TALB's membership ratified the agreement last week by a 99.2 percent vote.

The target date for retroactive checks to be issued to qualifying employees is Feb. 20. Then the 5 percent increase would be reflected on subsequent paychecks. The 5 percent increase also applies to career increments (longevity), retroactive to July 1, for TALB members and non-represented employees.

When combined with last year's 3 percent raise, the board's action this week brings the total salary increase to 8 percent over two years for these employees, with no monthly premium

co-payment for health plans.

The agreement with TALB includes minor increases in deductibles and maximum out-of-pocket limits for the PPO health plan, but there is still no monthly premium co-payment for this plan. The same holds true for non-represented employees. The minor changes to the PPO plan will not take effect until 2016.

The TALB agreement includes a change in the health plan year from the current calendar year to match the school district's fiscal year (July 1 to June 30). Open enrollment in benefits will shift to May, with changes effective July 1. This will affect both teachers and non-represented employees.

The newly approved TALB contract will run through June 30, 2015.

The school district plans to negotiate compensation with the local California School Employees Association chapter in the coming weeks.

## A National Model for Boosting AP Access

A national "How-To" guide for school districts looking to expand student participation in Advanced Placement college prep courses among students of color includes the Long Beach Unified School District and four other school systems "making significant progress in this effort."

The College Board in partnership with the Council of the Great City Schools produced the guide, "District Leadership Playbook: Expanding Access to Advanced Placement for Students of Color." Long Beach is referenced repeatedly in the 13-page document:

**Examine your data.** Long Beach began its efforts to expand AP opportunities in 2004 when data revealed that students of color were under-represented in AP courses.

**Secure board support.** Long Beach leaders gained early support by making a presentation to board members outlining the goals and strategies of the proposed initiative before formally launching it.

**Signal your seriousness.** Leaders interviewed for this effort all made sure to demonstrate that the superintendent was leading the charge. For example, Long Beach Superintendent Chris Steinhauser asked principals to send their building action plans for expanding AP access directly to him instead of to their regional superintendents.

**Convene school leaders to create action plans.** Long Beach Superintendent Chris Steinhauser convened all high school AP leadership teams on a monthly basis to create action plans, analyze data and progress, and share lessons learned. He made it a priority on his calendar to attend monthly meetings until the mission and goals of the initiative became embedded within the district's culture.

**Offer tangible rewards.** In addition to ensuring clear messages to students about the real academic and life benefits of AP, superintendents should consider tangible ways to

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## Smith Elementary Celebrates Its New Name

Former Board of Education President Bobbie Smith joined Long Beach Unified School District officials, community members, the student body of Smith Elementary School and a Grammy-winning singer at the official renaming ceremony held recently at the school.



**SCHOOL'S NAMESAKE** – Former Board of Education President Bobbie Smith speaks during the naming ceremony for Bobbie Smith Elementary School. View more photos and video at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).

The Board of Education had approved the renaming of Burnett Elementary School to Smith Elementary School in September. Bobbie Smith was the first African American member on LBUSD's school board, where she served from 1988 to 2004. She completed four terms as president on the school board during major reforms that earned national recognition, including the implementation of school uniforms and standards-based instruction, and she worked for more than 20 years as a librarian at Long Beach City College.

"Today I feel like I won a Grammy, Emmy, Oscar and Tony award all rolled into one," Smith told an audience of about 1,000 students and guests on the playground. "There's an abbreviation for that. It's called a GEOT – Grammy, Emmy, Oscar, Tony – and not too many people have accomplished that. You can also add to that list, 'Lifetime Achievement Award,' because that's how this feels."

Smith is a life member and Golden Heritage member of the Long Beach Branch NAACP, life member and past president of the National Council of Negro Women in Long Beach, and the recipient of numerous honors and awards from national and local organizations. She lives in Long Beach.

Among those joining Smith for the ceremony were current school board members, LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser, former Superintendent Carl A. Cohn and Grammy-honored singer Thelma Houston, who attended Burnett as a child. A friend of the Smith family, the singer earned enthusiastic applause for a soulful rendition of God Bless America.

Smith also was presented with a commemorative plaque from the Long Beach School

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## School Year to Start Prior to Labor Day

Due to an entire week off school for Thanksgiving in newly approved calendars for next school year and the following year, classes will start before Labor Day instead of just afterward.

For students at traditional and Track B calendar schools, the first day of school in 2015 will be Sept. 2. In the following year, or 2016, the first day for students will be Aug. 31. As usual, the first day for teachers will remain one day prior to the first day for students.

View school calendars at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net) under Calendars, School in the A-Z index.

## • Bobbie Smith Elementary School Ceremony

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Library Association.

Board of Education Vice President Felton Williams, who holds the same board district seat that Smith held until her retirement, told the audience that Smith serves as a role model for students who come from all walks of life.

"She has always stood for the right things, and she has done so with dignity and grace. In

the process, she helped to put our school district on the map nationally," Williams said. "Bobbie has been a courageous leader whose lifelong work – including her many key decisions while serving on the school board – was always guided by what's best for students.

Thank you, Bobbie, for all that you have done for our students and schools. Congratulations on this very well-deserved honor."

## School's Namesake Reflects on Honor

*Comments by Bobbie Smith at Smith School's Naming Ceremony*

Thank you so much for this tremendous honor. Thank you to everyone who made this happen, especially the Board of Education, superintendent and all of you. Thank you also to Doug Heath of Cubberley School, who helped to initiate the school's name change.

We've called this school "Burnett" for so long. Switching to "Smith Elementary" might take some getting used to. But personally, I like the sound of it.

I attended grade school in Mississippi. That was a long time ago, when black children had to attend separate schools from white children. Most of us were children of sharecroppers trying to make a living by growing corn, sweet potatoes, peanuts and cotton. I never dreamed that one day I'd have a school named after me. But I did have dreams of a better life, and I was fortunate to have caring teachers and a family that broke free from the cycle of poverty.

A few years after I attended school in Mississippi, the United States Supreme Court

ruled that schools could no longer separate black children from other students based on the color of their skin. This year marks the 60th anniversary of that decision, the landmark *Brown vs. The Board of Education* ruling. How far we have come since then.

Yes, sometimes change is a good thing.

Today I look at the faces of these 800 children, and I think of another person who dreamed of a better life for all of us. His name was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. King's dream, which he said was deeply rooted in the American Dream, was that one day this nation would rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

That's a big dream. It's easier said than done, and we're still working on it. But schools like this are places where that dream can become a reality. Dignity and equality come from a good education. No one can take that away, ever.

In my life, education has made all the difference. And it will do the same for the students at this school for many years to come. To have my name attached to such a worthwhile mission fills my heart with joy.

A friend of the family is rooting me on today. Her name is Thelma Houston, and she's a Grammy winner. Well, today I feel like I won a Grammy, Emmy, Oscar and Tony award all rolled into one. There's an abbreviation for that. It's called a GEOT – Grammy, Emmy, Oscar, Tony – and not too many people have accomplished that. You can also add to that list, "Lifetime Achievement Award," because that's how this feels.

To our students, I encourage you to take advantage of the great opportunities in our schools. If you work hard, you never know where it will take you. It'll probably take you beyond your wildest dreams. When that happens, you'll understand how I feel today. I certainly did not expect all of this. But that's quite OK. Change is a good thing.

## • AP Access

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reward students for taking and succeeding in AP courses. In Long Beach, students wear special colors during graduation ceremonies based on their participation and success in AP courses, among other academic achievements.

**Equip students and teachers for success.** Many districts have instituted "summer bridge" programs for students who will be experiencing AP for the first time the following school year. Such programs provide students with academic strategies and study techniques critical to succeeding in college-level course work. Long Beach has offered an AP Summer Bridge program since 2005.

**Share data and be transparent.** Long Beach aligned board, superintendent and principal goals for AP expansion and publicly reported progress three times a year. The district has now gone a step further by making campus action plans public.

LBUSD students took nearly 9,000 AP college level exams in 2014. That's a 20 percent increase over the prior year, and a 154 percent increase over the past 10 years.

The number of local students taking AP exams is expected to increase again this school year because LBUSD is helping parents pay for the exams, which can cost hundreds of dollars per student when tests are taken in multi-subjects.

## Surprise! Free Bikes

Each of the more than 120 third graders at Stevenson Elementary School was surprised with a new bicycle, helmet and bike lock last week.

Stevenson was selected by Long Beach-based Velo Allegro Cycling Club and the YMCA to be recipients of the Bikes for Kids program.

Velo Allegro began the program this year to promote cycling, health and civic responsibility in Long Beach. The group chose Stevenson for an essay contest for third graders. The students were told that only one essay contest winner would be selected in each class, and each student wrote to the theme, "What can I do to make my community a better place, and how would a new bike help me?"

After the winning essays were read aloud and the winners honored during a school assembly, all of the bikes were unveiled, much to the surprise of the third graders who learned that each of them would receive a new bike.

Velo Allegro members and local businesses contributed more than \$10,000 for the new bikes, locks and helmets. Club members also volunteered to assemble the bikes.

## Dates to Remember

### January

1	New Year's Day
1	Emancipation Proclamation Anniversary
1-3	Japanese New Year Festivities
6	9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00 – "I Have a Dream: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
7	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 – "Martin Luther King, Jr./Black History Month," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
8	9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "Everyday Creativity," Grades 4-12, ed.tv 8
9	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "The Boyhood of Martin Luther King, Jr.," Grades 4-6, ed.tv 8
13	9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00 – "I Have a Dream: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," Grades 6-8, ed.tv 8
14	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 – "The Wright Brothers," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
15	9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "Dare To Dream," Grade 9, ed.tv 8
16	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "What Liberty and Justice Mean," Grades 3-4, ed.tv 8
18	World Religion Day
19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
20	9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00 – "Silversmith of Williamsburg," Grade 5, ed.tv 8
21	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 – "Thomas Edison," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8
22	9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "School Bus Safety," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
23	10:00, 11:20, 12:20 – "First Moon, Celebration of the Chinese New Year," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
27	9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00 – "George Washington," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
28	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 – "Abraham Lincoln," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
29	Fall Semester Ends
29	9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "Abraham Lincoln," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
30	Spring Semester Begins
30	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "The Klan: A Legacy of Hate in America," Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

Official publication of the Long Beach Unified School District issued bi-weekly during the school year from the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, California 90810. (562) 997-8000. [www.lbschools.net](http://www.lbschools.net)

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Superintendent of Schools

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## In Memoriam

**Thomas Dekraai**

former teacher

Dec. 2, 2014

**Stephen Sarantakis, Jr.**

JROTC teacher, Cabrillo

Dec. 12, 2014