

Public Comments Submitted Electronically for the December 14, 2023 Board Meeting

Items not on the agenda, within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board

Name	Comment
Parent, Voter, and Taxpayer	My family and I enjoyed our week off at Thanksgiving this year. I heard this would go away next year? If that is the case please reconsider this decision! Some of you must of enjoyed this time with your families and being able to travel. Right? Let's get all 5 board members present to vote Please!
Anonymous	I wanted to share my thoughts on this year's calendar. The two day start at the beginning of the year was very beneficial because it was the perfect amount of time for students and teachers to get to know each other. It allows students two days to get back in the groove of school and then have the weekend off to decompress. It was also wonderful having the week off at Thanksgiving to match other districts. It allowed to plan family time without worrying about taking time away from school. I am curious if there is a plan to revisit the calendar decision when all five board members are present. Thank you!
Anonymous	As a parent of a high schooler, I appreciated the week off for Thanksgiving to spend time with family and decompress. Typically, the Monday and Tuesday of Thanksgiving week he says that so many kids are absent and wants to take off too. I always send him, but noticed that teachers struggle to push curriculum forward because so many students are gone. I hope we can have the week off of Thanksgiving in the coming school years. Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts on this matter.
Anonymous	I am writing to share my thoughts on this year's calendar with a two day start and full week at Thanksgiving. As a parent, easing back into the school year on a Thursday-Friday was an ideal way for my kids to get familiar with their classes, teachers and routines before the fatigue of a full week sets in. My kids entered the weekend excited for school to resume on Monday. Having a full week at Thanksgiving gave us time as a family to relax before the hustle & bustle of the Thanksgiving holiday. We host 20+ people so it is not exactly a relaxing time for us. I am hoping board members will revisit this topic at a meeting when all five members are present. Thank you for your consideration.
Anonymous	Would like to ask the board to reconsider the upcoming school calendars. Having the full week off at Thanksgiving this year was beneficial in so many ways. As a family we were able to spend quality time together and also be on the same schedule as my college son who was home for the week. It was nice to have the same schedule as surrounding districts as well. I also feel that the stress level of my high school student was less because curriculum stopped for the week and she was able to have a true break before coming back to the last few weeks of fall semester and upcoming finals. Please reconsider the structure of the calendar and it's impact on families and students.

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Laura Sewell	I am a Laguna Beach Unified parent, and I would like the matter of a full week off of school for Thanksgiving to be considered by the board for future years. Getting the full week off was helpful for planning trips to visit family and not having to miss school. I work in Tustin Unified, which gives the whole week off, so it was nice to align with my daughters on vacation.
Anonymous	I would like to address the Board and their decision to change the calendar for next year AFTER it was ratified by the board, administration and LaBuFa a year or two ago. The fact that the calendar was changed back to school attendance on the Monday and Tuesday of Thanksgiving week makes no sense. I have not heard from any other parent at our school or TOW that didn't thoroughly enjoy the whole week off and the time spent with family to rest and recharge. Attending the Monday and Tuesday is a waste of student and teacher time. You cannot advance the curriculum- especially when attendance is so poor! And this time off is not "hostile to working parents" as one board member stated. It is quite the opposite. I also feel that when the district returns to school in August, starting on a Thursday is much healthier for students and teachers to ease into the new school year and learn rules and routines. Returning in August and attending school the entire week is hostile to students, parents, and school staff. PLEASE have the board revisit this item at the next board meeting and vote again on the calendar when ALL 5 BOARD MEMBERS are present! Thank you.
Maureen Starace	I support having the full week of Thanksgiving off in the upcoming school years. It focuses on the importance of family time and will help with attendance. Possibly the days off in November could be made up in August or June.
Carli	I loved having my kids start school Thursday and Friday for the first week. I hope this continues in years to come. Furthermore having a full week at Thanksgiving was the best!!!! It was amazing to spend the entire week with family. My vote is to 100% continue this calendar for the next years!!!!
Annie Bochenek	As a teacher and parent in the district, I loved starting school on Thursday this year. It was just the right amount of time for me to get to know my students and build relationships before diving into curriculum. My own children loved spending time getting to know their classmates and teachers in this way. Teaching the two days before Thanksgiving have always been challenging. I often had many absences and it was hard to dig into curriculum. The two days at the beginning of the year weren't wasted, like I said the time was well spent building a classroom family which sets the year off in a great direction. Please consider starting school on Thursday and giving us the week off for Thanksgiving. Thank you.

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Action Item: Approval of the 2023 Ten Year Facilities Master Plan Update; a Dynamic Living Document that is Board Approved on an Annual Basis and Serves as a Planning Tool to Reflect Current and Future District Needs

Name	Comment
Maura Short	YES
Leilani Fitzgerald	Please approve the 50 meter pool for the community. Not just for the aquatics program through the high school but for our community. For the young preschool son I have, that I would love to have a pool for year round swim lessons, for weekends to play, since we do not have a pool in our backyard, and for me. I grew up a swimmer and can't swim during the hours currently available. A pool that is big enough to host everyone from lap swimmers, to the swim team and water polo programs. I also have children who are a part of the nationally recognized water polo team. Laguna Beach water polo has for years has done well at a national level but can't host games and practices run until 9 at night for 9 year olds. We have multiple tennis courts around the city, we could lose two right next to the pool and really have an aquatics center that's up with the times and for use by everyone who lives here. The water polo programs of both the boys and girls teams have ranked nationally and perform better than our tennis teams. And while we sit at practice, the tennis courts remain empty. Please approve and move forward with an updated pool for the long term community.
Laura Jumani	I support the 50m pool to improve our aquatics facilities for our kids and community. I also support the TOW sand volleyball courts - beach volleyball is a relatively new CIF sport for girls, and accessibility to district sand courts will help our D1 program to succeed. Thanks for investing in our facilities and our kids!
Kelly Zinser	I fully support the 50 meter pool, as the Board knows from my previous testimony. I hope that the Board will also figure out how to have a temporary pool in town. I believe that Long Beach Wilson did this during their pool's construction. These kids spend so much time at practice, we should not add additional travel time to the students already busy schedule. I do wonder why the Board did not look at building a pool at the District parking lot with parking underneath and then replacing the current pool with parking and/or District Offices. That seems like a better plan and we could keep our current pool until the new pool is ready.
Diana Rose	I support a 50m pool. Laguna Beach families would benefit from having updated aquatics facilities. The entire community would benefit. I am shocked that a small group of pool neighbors have pushed negative feedback, and made wild claims that the pool "only benefits a small number of athletes". The pool is a community resource and a special place for me and my young children. A 50m pool is absolutely the best option for all the aquatics programs. I think the focus should now be: finding a way to not disrupt access to pool use & practices when construction begins. Thank you!

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Melissa Norelli	<p>I support the sand volleyball courts at TOW. I feel this is an easy lift and would like to see them installed next year. My daughter is a Freshman at LBHS and played on JV indoor volleyball this Fall and I hope to see her make the Sand Volleyball team in January. It would be a great service to this rising program to have these courts installed for immediate use for our CIF run (it is a D1 sport at LBHS).</p>
Dawn Knepper	<p>My comment is related to the pool. We are in need of a larger pool. My daughter, Ava Knepper, is a senior this year. We have no league games at our own pool because it is not big enough. Our "home" games are at Newport, CDM, and at times, Los Alamitos. It is unbelievable that we have such an incredible program, that has allowed many young athletes to go on to play in college, that we do not have a pool of sufficient size to play league games. The restrictions on the pool size and capacity has been a large impact on my family for many years. I also have an 8th grader, Lars Knepper, who will be playing in high school next year. We have had to have practices when the kids were in age group late at night, because that is the only time that the age group has access to the pool. Ava, in high school, has to go to El Toro High School, 30 minutes away, to do her club because there is insufficient capacity to have club water polo go beyond 14U. This means that some days, she is doing weights at the high school at 6 am, then going to school, then going to El Toro for practice from 7-9 pm, getting home at 10 pm. What a long day!</p> <p>Finally, but there has got to be a plan for a temporary pool while construction is underway. Otherwise, that will kill the program at both the club level and high school. Participation in the program was already significantly impacted by COVID because of the City's restrictions on the use of the pool during the pandemic. Thank you.</p>
Scott Kibbey	<p>Having closely followed the updates and study sessions related to the FMP, it is evident that thoughtful consideration has been given to various projects, including the replacement of the existing LBHS pool with a new 50-meter pool. As a member of the Aquatics community, I believe that investing in such a facility will not only enhance the overall educational environment but will also provide significant benefits to our community as a whole.</p> <p>A 50-meter pool is not only a valuable asset for aquatic sports and competitions but also serves as a resource for physical fitness and wellness programs. The potential positive impact on our community's health and well-being cannot be overstated. Furthermore, it aligns with the broader goals of promoting an active and healthy lifestyle among students and residents alike.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to witnessing the positive changes that the approved Facilities Master Plan will bring to our community.</p>
Tara O'Connell	<p>Dear Board members and citizens of Laguna Beach, developing a 50 meter pool at the Laguna Beach high school is critical to our town. Over the decades to follow, innumerable youth in our city will benefit from the healthy physical</p>

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	<p>activities and social skills that develop through the athletic endeavors in the pool. The current pool space is extremely constrictive, limiting enrollment in pool activities, ability to hold home games and limits involvement of family and community to enjoy watching our youth succeed.</p> <p>Currently, high school, community youth and adult programs are hindered by our pool size and space. This year I have witnessed increasing number of families travel to other cities to enroll the youth of our town into programs elsewhere. Our coastal community is currently falling short on providing a healthy and robust pool program to develop water safety and aquatic health for our constituents. If we don't pass and proceed with a new pool in a timely fashion, I feel this will be a great failure to our current youth and many generation of kids to follow. Change is possible. Incredible joy, health and community celebration will come with the new pool. Please support our community.</p> <p>Sincerely - Tara</p>
Julian Harvey	<p>Fully support the construction of new, 50 meter pool to meet the needs of the school district and the community. As a coastal city, with a renowned water polo program, our community needs a pool which will better serve the needs of its residents and student athletes.</p>