

Public Comments Submitted Electronically for the
December 16, 2024, Regular Board Meeting

Only Board items with public comments are listed.

**Action Item: Election of Chairman/President Pro-Tem of
Chairman/President Pro-Tem**

Name	Comment
N/A	<p>The person selected as the president pro-tem and the person elected to be president for this board for the next year should be someone who TRULY understands the role and the purpose of a board of EDUCATION. I believe that person is Joan Malczewski. Someone new to the board, especially who does not understand education governance or standards should not be at the helm of the district. Saying you are the guru of governance means nothing if you don't understand education.</p> <p>This is a role that should support the students and staff first and then the community, not the other way around. School Boards ensure progress and accountability, and they advocate for students. School boards are responsible for hiring and evaluating the superintendent of schools, but they allow the superintendent and the administration to run the day-to-day operations of the school district. While informing and encouraging feedback from the community important, STUDENTS COME FIRST and STAFF should not be disregarded or disrespected.</p>
Emily Rolfing	Joan Malczewski
Lauren Boeck	<p>Prior to tonight's meeting of the LBUSD School Board, I would like to share my thoughts on who I believe would be the best candidate to serve in the role of board president. I believe Dr. Joan Malczewski is the best choice for this role for a variety of reasons. Through my campaign, PTA leadership positions and mutual friends in the community, I have gotten to know Joan during her time serving on the board and have found her to be a thoughtful, collaborative and objective leader. She is able to listen respectfully while also sharing her opinions on issues and does a great job of working toward consensus in groups. Not only does she have a wealth of knowledge of LBUSD schools, but she also has experience with her older children</p>

	<p>from NYC public schools, and I have been impressed by some of the ideas and research based information she brings to discussions.</p> <p>In addition to Joan's attributes that I believe would make her an excellent choice for board president, I believe it is critical that we have the leader of the board be someone who has experience previously serving on the board. Any time someone is new to a role, there is a learning curve, and it is wise for them to be awarded the gift of time. Having Joan serve as president, I am confident she will be able to provide the new board members with the time and resources they need to learn about board policies and practices and thereby more effectively serve the members of the community they were elected to represent.</p>
<p>Valiha Strecker</p>	<p>Leadership That Reflects Our Families</p> <p>Dear School Board,</p> <p>We are a family with two children in the district, attending TOW and Thurston. We deeply value our schools and actively volunteer to support not only our children but all the youth of Laguna Beach.</p> <p>As the board transitions with new members, it's crucial that leadership reflects the priorities of families currently in our district. I strongly urge you to approve Joan Malczewski as president. She is the only member with a child entering the district next fall, ensuring decisions are grounded in the experiences of families actively engaged in our schools.</p> <p>Leadership should come from those with a direct stake in our students' success. Please prioritize this perspective as you organize for the year ahead.</p>

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

Name	Comment
N/A	Sheri Morgan has publicly stated that she ran to support the 70% of the community who don't have students in the district.

	Wake up families with children, is that what you want --people who don't have children in the district driving the direction of a district that has been rated in the top 5 for many years and #1 this year? Those who voted for this should be ashamed. Why would you want the voices of a few loud community members overriding what is best for your our children, students in the district who deserve the very, very best and have been getting that for years! I am afraid of what is coming next.
Kortney Lillestrand	When moving forward with the school calendar in the years to come, please consider the having the week of Thanksgiving break off as the families and teachers union want it off.

Discussion: Board Consideration for the Process of Hiring or Appointing an Interim Superintendent

Name	Comment
N/A	Bring back Superintendent Vitoria
Lauren Boeck	Please hire Dr. Jason Vitoria to serve as Interim superintendent in order to make the transition to leadership smooth and seamless. Our students and staff deserve the least amount of disruption as possible.

Discussion: Board Consideration for the Process of Hiring a Superintendent

Name	Comment
N/A	Bring back Superintendent Vitoria
Lauren Boeck	Please involve all stakeholders in the process of hiring a new superintendent. I have a wealth of knowledge of educational leadership through my work experience and graduate studies in educational administration and would be happy to serve on a committee.
Laura Sewell	Please seek someone out who has Vitoria's open-mindedness, expertise, kindness, staff support, and work ethic

Information Item: Laguna Beach High School Pool Modernization Update

Name	Comment
Anna-Clare Redmond	I would like to raise my support for the HS Pool modernization. As a resident who uses this pool regularly, I am shocked at how outdated the pool and facilities are. The elementary and middle school students never get to use the pool, it is obvious to me the pool requires updating and better access for all to use, residents and students alike.
Erinne Dobson	As a mom of 3 LBUSD kids, we need the pool plan to move forward as-is as soon as possible. All of our student athletes and recreational swimmers in the community are counting on this.
Newth Morris	Pool discussion
N/A	Move forward with the current design. You are wasting time playing games with staff and making them do extra work for no reason. 45 meters is the smallest pool we should have, our teams need it and it ensures the community can use it as well. STOP being ridiculous and let staff do their work.
Susan Anderson	Dear LBUSD School Board, I am writing in support of the approved High School Pool modernization. Please proceed with the plans to improve and repair the High School Pool. This pool will serve our Water Polo, Swimming, Track and Field, and Surf Team athletes. It will also serve the water sports youth teams and clubs that feed into high school athletics. This pool has served our community for 30 years supporting our water sports teams, athletic teams, swimming education, Lifeguard training, Diving Certification, and Scouts. Our young people and families deserve a safe, clean, modernized facility for years to come. Susan Anderson
Lisa Abaid and Stephen Barber	We are longtime Laguna residents and have children who are 8 and 11, both of whom use the high school pool and have participated in Chad Beeler's swimming programs since they were 5 and will continue to do so. The pool is not adequate to support the needs of this community, as evidenced by crowded lanes and swim team practices going past 8pm for elementary school kids. Between water polo, swim team, and

	<p>community use, we need additional space. We strongly support the modernization plan and would be opposed to any attempts to walk back the prior approval. Thank you</p>
<p>Kari Damato</p>	<p>As the high school coach for over 15 years, anything less than a 45-meter pool would be a disservice to our students and community. In order to allow multiple sports (water polo, swimming, cross country, surfing, age group polo/swim) to use the pool, it needs to be as big as possible. I have always been proud of our district because we put our students first. I hope everyone remembers that's why we are proposing the building of this larger pool. Our kids deserve it.</p>
<p>Emily Rolfing</p>	<p>I am writing to voice my strong support for the approved Laguna Beach High School Pool Modernization Update. The pool project is an important investment that will benefit ALL LBUSD athletes, youth athletes, and community members for decades to come.</p> <p>Revisiting the approved pool project at this stage would no doubt result in additional costs to redesign already-approved concepts, increased maintenance expenses for the aging, existing pool, and add a delay in delivering this much-needed facility improvement.</p> <p>I have attended the meetings where many of our valued community members, especially our young athletes and students, have voiced their support for this project. I echo their sentiments as a parent who has seen my own XC/Track runner benefit from cross-training in the pool. This project will allow more accommodations far beyond just LBHS aquatic athletes. This is an important investment for our students and community.</p> <p>I believe it is essential to move forward as planned to ensure our students and the broader community have access to a safe, modern, and functional facility that meets the needs of current and future generations. Thank you.</p>
<p>Jennifer Seybold</p>	<p>I encourage the board members to move forward with the pool plans as they were approved unanimously in October. All 5 board members worked together for many months and then agreed that this was the best plan for the district and its community. Even Howard Hills, who was running for the board</p>

	<p>at that time, stood up at that October meeting and agreed to the pool plan. I'm not quite sure why one of the first items on his agenda as a new board member is to create a discussion item on the pool plan. Please remember that hundreds, and perhaps, thousands of your constituents have approved of and encouraged this new pool plan-current and former boys and girls water polo players and parents; current and former boys and girls swimmers and their parents; current and former age group water polo and swim lesson players and parents; lap swimmers; members of other athletic teams who would like the opportunity to utilize the pool for their own conditioning; LBUSD staff members; LBHS staff members and principal; LBHS athletic director. Please do not be the type of board members who slow down progress and put band aids on problems. Fix the issues as they exist today, and look forward to future generations.</p>
<p>Ashly Frasso</p>	<p>Move forward with current plans</p>
<p>Lauren Boeck</p>	<p>We need the pool that was previously approved. I believe the staff and board have thoughtfully developed a concept that is able to serve the needs of the students and community. Based on my experience serving on the city of LB recreation committee, the city is nowhere near building a second pool due to location and financial constraints. It is best for all for us to proceed with the previously approved plan.</p>
<p>Allison Eggers</p>	<p>Please move forward with the pool modernization update. As a parent of two elementary aged children who are in the pool more than twice a week, building a bigger pool to accommodate all the community programs would be greatly appreciated. It is very difficult when your child does not finish at the pool until after 9PM and then has to struggle to be on the school bus at 7AM the next morning. Being able to have more than one team practice at the same time will make it possible for my children to finish their day earlier and to get a decent night's sleep. We all want our children to be able to become their best selves. Being forced to swim in the pool past their regular bedtime is untenable for all our children. Please do not hamstring this project that is long overdue for improvement.</p>
<p>Kortney Lillestrand</p>	<p>Please move forward with the approved already invested (time and money) pool plan in the facilities master plan as the pool</p>

	<p>is outdated and our community needs a regulation size pool for our athletics and everyone who uses the pool. We need more than one group in the pool at one time. Many kids and families use the pool for swim lessons, recreation, timed laps for Junior Guards qualifications, and so much more. The new pool will benefit our community at large, athletes, and students of all ages for years to come. Please do not go backwards on the pool plans. This will derail all the progress that was made and require more money to redesign it and increase costs for maintenance for the existing pool. Laguna needs a new pool where all can enjoy it and benefit from it</p>
Morgan Lamb	In support of current pool modernization plan. Students best interest to have pool associated games at home to increase school unity.
Lauren Sewell	Please move forward with approved pool plans to modernize the pool

Closed Session Agenda Items *IF NEEDED

Name	Comment
N/A	Bring back Superintendent Viloría