

Public Comments Submitted Electronically for the  
January 9, 2025, Regular Board Meeting

Only Board items with public comments are listed.

**Closed Session Items**

Name	Comment
Anonymous	<p>Interim Superintendent-in closed session please direct HR to discuss serving as Interim with each of the Asst. Superintendents. Any of the three are great. Mr. Dixon has served for sixteen years. Because he does not have a teaching credential, he cannot ever be an actual Superintendent. He will simply stick what is best for the students while the Board conducts a search process for Superintendent. This decision should occur in closed session and the report to the public should not mention confidential information or what candidates were discussed via name or position. The report out should note only that HR has been instructed to contact certain potential interim candidates and is doing so, with further action to be taken as soon as possible. Although a member of the public can mention names, the Board itself should NOT mention a candidate by name or position until that candidate has verbally accepted the position and consented to disclosure, as there is no legal obligation to mention candidate names, it is likely illegal to do so, and it creates problems, as we have already seen. None of the board should be trying to perform interim superintendent tasks. It is inappropriate and none of the board is qualified to do so, as none (other than perhaps Jim Kelly) have the administrative experience to do so. Please select an interim superintendent from the well-qualified of the three assistant superintendents and then focus on your superintendent search.</p>

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

Name	Comment
Elizabeth	<p>Mr. Hills, PLEASE STOP WRITING LIES TO THE NEWSPAPERS.</p> <p>There's a certain irony in watching someone such as yourself so incapable of telling the truth posture as though you are above reproach. Each question is met not with candor, but with a carefully rehearsed façade, as if the truth itself might shatter your fragile image. Your arrogance, palpable in every scoff and smirk, doesn't mask your dishonesty; it magnifies it.</p> <p>Instead of answers, there are evasions—a pompous sidestep here, a condescending rebuttal there. Questions are treated as insults, not invitations to engage. Every word that drips from your lips reeks of self-importance, as though to acknowledge the truth would be beneath someone of your supposed caliber.</p> <p>It's not just your dishonesty that grates—it's the insufferable air of superiority with which you dismiss the idea of accountability. As if your lies are so sophisticated, so artfully constructed, that the rest of us should be grateful just to witness your deception.</p> <p>The truth, of course, is that your arrogance is nothing more than a thin veil for your insecurity. Pompousness is your armor, wielded clumsily against questions that demand honesty you simply don't possess. It's a tragic performance, really, watching someone so desperate to project power while your integrity crumbles beneath you.</p>
Dawn Hunnicutt - LBHS Retiree June 2022	<p>As a retiree, I am deeply connected to LBUSD. I have formed lifelong friendships with many people and former students, and even though I live in Idaho, I pay attention to my beloved LBUSD. Mr. Hills, all of this is to say, I am distressed by your behavior in print and in public and your lack of trust in the leadership at the district office and at the school sites. You mentioned in your comments that an interim needed to be</p>

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	<p>chosen "expeditiously," but there is no reason to be hasty when you have the best of the best in your assistant superintendents, your directors, your school site administrators, your teachers, and your support staff. All of these people are experts in their fields, and they ALL managed the complexities of COVID with precision and dedication during what was the most challenging time in public education's history. California regulations were complicated, and they all navigated the pandemic as well as could be expected. They are beyond qualified to soldier on until a permanent superintendent is selected during what I would consider "peace time." Dr. Vilorio, the best superintendent I have ever worked under, left the district in beautiful shape, and there is no reason to distrust the abilities of the professionals he hired. In addition, I would hope you would conduct yourself in a manner more befitting an elected school board member going forward. You are one member of a 5-person body, and as such, you need to respect everyone's opinions, comments, and time. Thank you.</p>
Leslie Elliott	<p>I am writing to express my strong support for promptly moving forward with the approved 45-meter pool plan for LBHS as unanimously decided by the previous school board in October 2024.</p> <p>Unfortunately, I am deeply concerned by the discussions at the December 2024 school board meeting, where some newly elected members expressed positions seemingly designed to delay or obstruct the approved project. Revisiting decisions that have already undergone thorough review and received unanimous approval risks wasting valuable time, resources, and momentum.</p> <p>The decision to construct the new pool was the result of years of public feedback, thoughtful collaboration, and careful consideration of design options to address the limitations of the current 30-year-old pool. A comprehensive presentation highlighted the financial responsibility of the plan, as well as</p>

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	<p>the significant benefits the new pool will bring to our students and the broader community.</p> <p>I urge the school board to uphold the decision made in October and continue moving forward with the approved plan. This project represents progress and an important commitment to the well-being of our students and the community.</p>
Anonymous	Please follow through on the already approved Facilities Master Plan.
Kortney Lillstrand	Can you please add the Facilities Master Plan CEQA Report to the March 13th meeting in regards to keep the pool renovation project moving forward?
Anonymous	<p>Please stop referring to Howard Hills as a "constitutional lawyer"--he is not a constitutional lawyer and not a lawyer. He attended Western State Law School here in Orange County. Western State was not even bar accredited when he attended, and is universally regarded even today as one of the worst law schools in the state and country. He is not a member of the California bar and has never practiced constitutional law. He has given administrative advice and was indicted in Guam in connection with funneling money to a DC lobbyist. He was once a member of the Washington D.C. bar but was suspended from that bar, and does not hold a legal license anywhere. Please do not rely on Mr. Hills for legal comment or advice, as he is not qualified, as shown most recently by the fiasco in which he mentioned a job candidate by name in violation of confidentiality norms, proper practice, and common sense. Finally, occasionally someone says something about Howard Hills and Harvard. Mr. Hills attended an executive seminar at Harvard that was open to the public for a fee, and he has never attended any Harvard University undergraduate or graduate degree program, ever. Finally, he has no experience in education law at all. Please do not defer to Howard Hills on legal issues. Thank you.</p>

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Discussion and/or Action: Board and Administrative Staffing Pending  
Interim Superintendent Assumption of Duties

Name	Comment
Anonymous	<p>This would be micro managing squared. Even if there is a code or policy that allows this it is a bad idea. To the new majority of three----restrain yourselves and concentrate on finding an interim. The long time district staff will be just fine w/o a board member hanging around.</p>
Elizabeth	<p>In public education, the distinct roles of governing boards and superintendents are essential for effective leadership. Boards are responsible for setting policy, vision, and accountability, while superintendents handle the daily operations of the district. State law allows boards to delegate specific duties to a superintendent but does not require it. Without a superintendent, boards would need to take on technical responsibilities like certifying actions, managing finances, and maintaining records—tasks that present significant logistical and legal challenges.</p> <p>The day-to-day demands of running a school district require constant oversight and flexibility, which boards, bound by the notice and meeting requirements of the Brown Act, cannot provide. Attempting to assume operational control would lead to inefficiencies, delays, and potential violations of governance laws.</p> <p>Additionally, when boards step into operational roles, they risk undermining their ability to objectively oversee the district and advocate for students, staff, and the community. This blending of governance and management disrupts the checks and balances necessary for effective leadership.</p> <p>The collaborative structure of boards and superintendents ensures schools operate efficiently, transparently, and in alignment with community goals. For a board to take on operational control jeopardizes this system and the success of the district as a whole.</p>

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Leslie Elliott	<p>I respectfully request that the school board members support the selection of one of the highly capable and experienced current LBUSD Assistant Superintendents to serve as Interim Superintendent while a broader search for a permanent hire takes place. Choosing an internal candidate ensures a smooth transition with an administrator who is already familiar with the district's values, priorities, and operations. This approach not only provides continuity but also upholds the high standards of education and student-centered values that LBUSD is known for. Expanding the board's role into the daily operations of the district may disrupt this stability and is not in the best interests of our students. I urge the board to prioritize the needs of our students by maintaining continuity and leveraging the expertise of our current leadership team.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Ed Code section 35028 states: A person shall not be eligible to hold a position as city superintendent, district superintendent... unless the person is the holder of both a valid school administration certificate and a valid teacher's certificate, unless the person is employed as a deputy, associate, or assistant superintendent in a purely clerical capacity.</p> <p>CA Gov Code Section 1099 prohibits public officials from holding two public offices at the same time if the offices have conflicting duties or loyalties.</p> <p>California's Education Code Section 35107 states that a school district employee cannot be sworn into office as a board member unless they resign from their employment first. If they don't resign, their employment will end automatically when they are sworn in. So a Board member should resign if they want to be an employee.</p>
Erica Rahall	<p>If you appoint an interim superintendent that is also a school board member then you are in violation of Ed Code. Your actions will appear distrustful to the community. Parents want transparency and fairness in how our school board operates.</p>

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	<p>There needs to be a balance of power. The school board exists to oversee the district and not be intertwined in daily operations and decision making. There are currently leaders employed by the district that can fulfill the interim role which would allow the school board to focus on finding a highly qualified replacement as soon as possible. Your focus should be on working diligently, and solely on behalf of parents who presently have children in our schools, to ensure that LBUSD will uphold its reputation as the best school district in OC. Thank you for your service and dedication to acting in the best interest of our students.</p>
Anonymous	<p>There are three qualified Assistant Superintendents already working in the district. There is absolutely no need to appoint, for however briefly, a Board member to act as "interim" Superintendent. This reeks of conflict of interest, back room dealing, and micromanagement. To not appoint one of the assistant superintendents as acting Superintendent would be an insult to their experience and expertise.</p>
Payal Avellan	<p>I am commenting to implore the board to make good on promises made to be transparent and include the LBUSD community in decisions made, including with the Superintendent position. Please utilize your time and duties to move forward on starting the public input process as executed in the past, and utilize existing Assistant Superintendents in the interim, who have the knowledge, experience, and education to fulfill this role during the search process. Any board member, in my opinion, should not occupy the Superintendent role, even in the interim, and rather focus on their existing roles and obligations as board members to permanently fill this position with transparency and public input. Many of us made sacrifices to have our children in this esteemed district precisely because of the high quality educators and administrators we employ. We are involved, concerned, and we are invested. In the traditions and history of our school district, involve the public, be transparent (as promised) and utilize the existing experts.</p>

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Anonymous	<p>Please see my comments about interim superintendents. None of the board should be trying to perform interim superintendent tasks. It is inappropriate and none of the board is qualified to do so, as none (other than perhaps Jim Kelly) have the administrative experience to do so. Please select an interim superintendent from the well-qualified of the three assistant superintendents and focus on your superintendent search. Please have HR discuss this with the Assistant Superintendents in separate, confidential meetings with each Assistant before proceeding--this can be done quickly. Having a board member with no experience and potential agendas try to perform interim superintendent tasks is bad for students and will likely cause administrative attrition, as well as putting the district at legal risk. Any of the Assistant Superintendents can perform the Interim job well while the Board focusses on setting policy and finding a full-time Superintendent.</p>
Kortney Lillstrand	<p>I am very disappointed to hear that there is a plan in place to have a school board member act as our "interim" superintendent when we have 3 highly qualified employees that can take on this role. Please consider our Assistant Superintendents Mike Conlon, Chad Mabery, or Jeff Dixon who know our staff, families, and district inside and out for this position. This seems very unusual and a conflict of interests in terms of being transparent and having our students best interests in mind. The school board is voted in by our community to work with a superintendent as a whole, not as an individual. How can a board member in good conscience do both? The school board is also elected to do what is best for our students in our district. This is a great opportunity for the school board to show our community that our students are front and center and the most important group in our community.</p>

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**Action Item: Approval of the November 21, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes**

Name	Comment
Elizabeth	At least district staff admit when something needs corrected.

**Action Item: Approval of Consent Calendar Items C-J**

Name	Comment
Anonymous	Ms. Perry is asking to spend \$2,000 so she can go and watch students participate in medical practices. Wasteful spending.
Elizabeth	<p>Item J Board members should carefully evaluate their participation in conferences to ensure their attendance aligns with their governance role and responsibilities. Attending a conference solely to watch students participate, while seemingly supportive, does not align with the primary duties of a board member. A board's purpose is to set policy, establish a vision for the district, and ensure accountability—not to act as spectators at student events.</p> <p>Such attendance can raise questions about the use of district resources, including time and funding, which should be prioritized for activities directly related to governance and decision-making. Observing students at a conference does not provide the strategic insight or policy-level perspective necessary for effective board leadership. Instead, these opportunities are better suited for staff or community members who can provide direct support to students.</p> <p>If the goal is to celebrate and acknowledge student success, board members can do so effectively through other means—such as recognition at board meetings or visits to schools—without diverting time and resources from their governance role. Ultimately, board members must focus on activities that advance the district's mission and their responsibility to represent the broader community, rather than engaging in activities better suited for other roles within the district.</p>