

Public Comments Submitted Electronically for the  
February 13, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

Only Board items with public comments are listed.

41 Public Comments Submitted

Closed Session: 1) Conference with Legal Counsel - Real Property Negotiators 2) Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation (§ 54956.9)- Case - Jan Doe v. Laguna Beach USD; David Brobeck Case No. 30-2024-01416384-CU-PO-CJC 3) Conference with Legal Counsel Doe, Jane v. Laguna Beach USD Case No.: 30-2022-01297898-CU-PO-NJC 4) **Public Employee Appointment - Acting Superintendent Gov. Code 54957**

Name	Comment
anonymous	To the new members who have long made accusations of many things being done in secret in closed sessions to hide them from the public, maybe you will be able to listen and learn and realize the district administration follows closed session protocols to the letter. These items have a high level of confidentiality for the benefit of the personnel and the protection of the district so please respect and honor that. Do not share.
Karly Simpson	Please finalize Mr. Dixon's Interim Superintendent contract tonight. Our schools, staff, and students need stability, and approving this contract reaffirms that Mr. Dixon can continue serving in the capacity required to lead effectively. Please take action to provide our district with the consistency and direction it needs. Thank you.
Newth Morris	Please move forward with the employment contract for Jeff Dixon. This is a standard engagement that should not be negotiated.
Leslie Elliott	Please finalize Jeff Dixon's contract promptly. This is a standard agreement, and efforts to introduce non-standard terms are unnecessary. Completing this task will allow us to focus on other priorities, such as hiring a superintendent, which is critical for the district's progress.

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Alison Mikkor	<p>It is imperative that the Board approve Mr. Dixon’s Interim Superintendent contract tonight, and I ask that you please do so.</p> <p>As Mr. Hills noted in last night’s discussion with regards to a permanent Superintendent, having stable leadership at the District will facilitate the Board working more effectively. Likewise, having Mr. Dixon as a capable Interim Superintendent during the search process will help the Board focus on the important and substantial work in front of it at present. Approving this contract reaffirms that Mr. Dixon can continue serving as an effective Interim Superintendent.</p> <p>It also will send an important message to the large group of candidates for the permanent position that the Board is expecting. Namely, by efficiently providing Mr. Dixon with a final contract, the Board will signal that this Board treats administrative leadership with respect and offers the stability and support that a leader needs to do their work. This is exactly the message that the Board should be sending to the candidate pool in order to actually land, hire, and retain the kind of exceptional, creative Superintendent our District deserves.</p>
Elizabeth	<p>There should not be any issue with approving a contract for Jeff Dixon as acting superintendent. Why is everything so convoluted since Howard and Sheri joined the Board?</p>
Julie Gersten	<p>Please get Jeff Dixon's contract to the finish line without sneaky drama and legal gymnastics.</p>
Lauren unterberger	<p>Finalize the contract with Jeff Dixon, using standard terms that reflect his proven leadership and community support. The community has overwhelmingly endorsed his appointment, emphasizing his decade plus of district experience and ability to provide stable leadership. Get this done so we can move forward with critical district priorities, such as selecting a</p>

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	permanent superintendent and maintaining operational continuity.
Anonymous	Stop dilly dallying! Finalize the contract with Jeff Dixon as Interim Superintendent NOW! The community needs stability and Jeff Dixon is the person to bring that consistency and stability to the district.
Thasa Zuziak	Please get the contract with for Interim Superintendent Dixon done so we can move forward with the important issues we have to work on as a district.
Nick McConnell	Please finalize Mr. Dixon's Interim Superintendent contract tonight. Our schools, staff, and students need stability, and approving this contract reaffirms that Mr. Dixon can continue serving in the capacity required to lead effectively. Please take action to provide our district with the consistency and direction it needs. Thank you.
Shaheen Sheik-Sadhal	It has been nearly three weeks since Mr. Dixon was appointed as Acting Superintendent and yet we still don't have a signed agreement with him. The position is subject to a standard agreement used by many districts. There is no need to get creative with contract language for a temporary position that already has a best practices, vetted agreement widely used. There are so many other priorities to focus on and the fact that this is still under consideration is mind-boggling. Please, use the standard agreement, move this item to open session for approval and and set this matter to rest once and for all.
Peggy Wolff	I wanted to share my support for Jeff Dixon as acting superintendent. Jeff is a longtime professional in the district who is respected by staff. He has the experience and the professionalism to create stability and move us forward with a focus on educational leadership.
Jeb Brown	Please finalize Mr Dixon's interim Superintendent contract tonight. Doing so will allow Mr Dixon to effectively lead as the

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	Board searches for a permanent Superintendent. Any attempts to alter what should be a standard contract are a waste of time and money when the Board has pressing issues to address.
Graham Unterberger	Finalize Jeff Dixon's contract as interim superintendent immediately using standard terms. The community has overwhelmingly endorsed him. Delaying this decision prolongs uncertainty and detracts from critical district priorities like selecting a permanent superintendent and advancing the pool project. Students deserve decisive leadership to ensure progress
	Please complete the contract for the Interim Superintendent so that the Board can move on to focus time and resources on more important matters such as the Superintendent search. This should be a boiler plate agreement and there should be no cause for it not to be already completed and signed.
Anonymous	Please finalize Mr. Dixon's Interim Superintendent contract tonight for stability and continuity. He has proven he can lead so let's move on to more pressing matters. Thank you.
	Please execute a standard contract and move on. This is ridiculous.
Emily Rolfing	Please finalize Mr. Dixon's contract and allow him to work the the highest capacity possible so we can move forward and focus the permanent superintendent search. Mr. Dixon and team have done an incredible job and I am so grateful to have them. Thank you
Lisa R.	Please finalize Jeff Dixon's contract so we have an acting superintendent for LBUSD that is solidified.
Tara T	Please finalize Mr. Dixon's Interim Superintendent contract tonight. Our schools, staff, and students need stability, and

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	approving this contract reaffirms that Mr. Dixon can continue serving in the capacity required to lead effectively.
Monica Levine	I recommend that the board finalize Mr. Dixon's contract so that the board can move forward and focus on superintendent search process.
Ryan	Please finalize Mr Dixon's contract. We need him in place to move things forward. The community support him and the students/community will benefit. Thank you for moving on this.
Jamie Jameson	I'd like to voice my support for approving Jeff Dixon's contract as acting superintendent until a permanent replacement is selected. This will allow the board to focus on many other important matters that need their attention. I'd also like to see the COP- certificate of participation approved.
	Confirm Jeff
Kortney Lillestrand	Please finalize Jeff Dixon's contract. I have worked with Jeff through PTA over the past 2 1/2 years and he's wonderful, competent, and knowledgeable on all things Laguna. We need to move forward in finding a permanent Superintendent.

**Items Not on the Agenda within the Subject-Matter Jurisdiction of the Board**

Name	Comment
anonymous	Watched the meeting last night as the board interviewed two search firms. Howard and Sheri it is more than high time to drop the old story of transition that caused chaotic meetings. Nope--if either of you had the skills to be leaders and effective board members you would have been prepared from day 1.

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	<p>Quit blaming others and try to do the work. Sheri. your continued need to be sarcastic in addressing others on the board is disrespectful and certainly shows you are not ready to work as a team.</p>
Desiree	<p>Sheri Morgan and Howard Hills, I hope you were listening closely to both of the search firms presentations yesterday--"YOU ARE HERE FOR THE KIDS," and both firms had that as their primary focus for a superintendent search; you chose the firm that spoke to that the loudest. Good for you, now remember why you are here! You are NOT here for the 79% or whatever, new community members with no children in the district who are disgruntled about a pool. In addition, I would advise you both to stop disparaging former boards and the superintendent as it is further evidence that you really WERE running as grievance candidates, and it's time to move forward. There were many different variations of previous boards, so not ONE board had power for 30 years. The superintendent was here for 8 years, and as you saw by the search firm's examples, that's a great thing. We could have had him for 14 years, like the tenure of the people you chose, but you ran him out. Lastly, Howard, stop with the "I was traumatized by the first meetings." First of all, you are misusing a word that should be relegated to real trauma, and secondly, YOU are responsible for your own behavior at those meetings, and I don't know why you are so insistent on rehashing the past, when you were the one clearly in the wrong on so many occasions. Grow up, reflect, and learn from your mistakes--they are yours.</p>
Anonymous	<p>One thing is clear from the superintendent search interviews is how fortunate we were with past boards and our former superintendent, and the LCAP mid-year report is a perfect example of that. Please know, board, YOU are the problem right now, and I hope at your governance meeting you straighten yourselves out so we present the best version of our district possible going forward. I don't have much hope</p>

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	with the two new members and Dee, who make up the majority, but try to pull it together.
Elizabeth	I watched the meeting last night, and I'm not buying Howard's contentment or his toned-down demeanor, nor am I convinced by Sheri's smiles and self-proclaimed "passionate" attitude. You are both undermining the great work of this district. I sincerely hope FUEL members continue their efforts and pressure to hold you accountable—and don't fall for the façade either.
Nick McConnell	Leaders don't look backwards to condemn what has already been done; they look forward to create a better future. -Mark Cuban
Erika R.	Regarding the pool: I would like to reiterate that it should not matter how many students the pool "serves" as we have gone through extensive facilities updates for other areas. Our district should be about equity, not equality. Each students' needs are different and our top-tier water polo/swim teams deserve top-tier facilities. The fact that this pool is STILL in people's minds when it's already been approved 5-0 is frustrating. Let's move on and work on recruiting a good superintendent.

**Information Item: How to access recorded Board meeting footage related to Police and Fire Department statements at the January 9, 2025 Board meeting**

Name	Comment
anonymous	This is so obvious by the background answer there is no reason this is on the agenda.

**Information Item: Monthly Financial Update - December 2024**

Name	Comment
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anonymous	As always Mr. Dixon and his team have provided a thorough and informative report. LBUSD is in great financial hands.
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**Information Item: Special Education Services Update**

Name	Comment
anonymous	This is a great report full of information that should make it clear to the new members and to the new majority who chose to go after our exceptional special education department and services to use that as a vehicle to mislead the voters. It was shameful and hurt many people who work tirelessly to meet the needs of special ed students and their families Ms. White is dedicated and takes her work to heart. Another opportunity to listen and learn, discover what the three of you did not know and perhaps, apologize.

**Information Item: Mid-Year Report: Update on the 2024-25 Local Control and Accountability Plan**

Name	Comment
anonymous	Wow what a mid year report with so much information. LBUSD is not afraid to show the data when it shows growth is needed. This is the meat of what we do for ALL students and it shows why as the prospective search teams referred to LBUSD as a flagship district and a district that has made great strides in recent years.

**Action Item: Approval of 2025-26 LBUSD Comprehensive District and School Safety Plan**

Name	Comment
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anonymous	Thorough and again credit to all who work on this plan and make sure it is known by all staff. Parents can feel confident their students are safe at school and that the staff are prepared for many situations.
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**Action Item: Resolution No. 25-01: Resolution of the Board of Education of the Laguna Beach Unified School District Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of the Laguna Beach Unified School District 2025 Certificates of Participation in an Aggregate Principal Amount of Not to Exceed \$23,000,000, Authorizing the Distribution of an Official Statement in Connection Therewith, and Authorizing the Execution of Various Documents and Related Actions**

Name	Comment
anonymous	Carbon neutral by 2030 is ambitious and it will take this approach to let LBUSD get there. This goal is a timely message to our students and families that it is important to be globally responsible as to climate change and what can (must) be done.
Newth Morris	This is a financial sound move that will save the district money. Please vote in the affirmative
Sarah Benson	Hello, my name is Sarah Benson. I am an English teacher and FLOW coordinator at the high school, as well as a parent to two children at El Morro Elementary School. I request that the board move forward with the approval of the COP for the LBUSD Energy Master Plan. As the leader of our environmental cross-curricular program at the high school (called LBHS FLOW), I think it is important that the operations of our district align with the sustainability education we are providing

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	<p>our students. I am proud to be a part of providing students with innovative and real-world relevant learning experiences, and I believe that our district needs to model the principles taught in our classrooms by moving forward with this thoughtful and intentional plan to reach carbon neutrality. Thank you.</p>
Leslie Elliott	<p>Let's move forward with approving the Certificate of Participation. The interest on this debt will be fully offset by savings from energy efficiency improvements. The Facilities Master Plan (FMP) already allocates \$2.1 million annually for energy management, while the annual principal payment is only \$1.5 million. This creates a \$600,000 surplus that can be redirected to other priorities within the FMP, ensuring the plan remains cost-neutral.</p> <p>Furthermore, California state law mandates carbon neutrality by 2040, but our District is committed to achieving this goal by 2030. This initiative isn't optional—it's a matter of when, not if. Let's take action now and get it done.</p>
Gloria Harwood	<p>Hi, I am Gloria Harwood, our Coordinator of Environmental Literacy. Our Earth Day Board Resolution, BP 3510 (Sustainability), and BP 6142.5 (Environmental Literacy) support our goal of carbon neutrality by 2030. Our seniors, born in 2006-2007, have witnessed rising CO2 levels—from 382 ppm in 2006 to a projected 429.65 ppm in 2025—highlighting the urgency of action. Students must be equipped with the knowledge and skills to address climate challenges. LBSD, California's highest-scoring sustainable school district for 2024-25, must continue investing in energy resilience. In January alone, Grid instability, LA wildfires, and power outages disrupt learning and health. Neighboring districts like Irvine USD and Capistrano USD have already implemented solar solutions. Sustainability is embedded in CA student learning in learning standard frameworks. AB 285 further mandates climate change adaptation and mitigation</p>

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	<p>education, ensuring students understand climate resilience and energy transition. TOW/EMS students design solar projects, middle schoolers analyze climate data graphs to make solution-based art, and IS1/Physics high schoolers engage in renewable energy and policy. Our Green Teams, Energy is Everything program, and future sustainability dashboard provide real-world applications. Approving the COP for the Energy Master Plan ensures LBUSD leads in environmental resilience, student health, and financial sustainability, which is rooted in our district goals and Learner Profile.</p>
Elizabeth	<p>Thank you for bringing this forward for approval. Being responsible stewards of our community and its resources is more important than ever, especially as federal protections are being rolled back. We are incredibly proud of the district's commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2030—a bold goal, but one we believe is achievable with this crucial next step. If the Board moves forward tonight, kudos to you. If not, shame on you.</p>
Julie Gersten	<p>I am so proud of our district's sustainability efforts, which have been properly budgeted. Please approve the COP.</p>
Lauren unterberger	<p>I recommend moving forward with the approval of the Certificate of Participation. The interest associated with this debt will be entirely offset by the cost savings generated through energy efficiency improvements. Additionally, our District remains steadfast in its commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2030. This initiative is not optional—it is a necessary step toward a sustainable future. Let's take action and make it happen.</p>
Vince Fabella	<p>I'm a parent of a 6th grader at TMS and a staff member. I'm here to express my strong support for the approval of the Certificate of Participation (COP) for the Energy Master Plan. This plan is a critical step in Laguna Beach USD's commitment</p>

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	<p>to decarbonization and achieving carbon neutrality by 2030. With strategic investments in solar energy, battery storage, and EV charging infrastructure, we will reduce our reliance on fossil fuels while creating a healthier, more sustainable learning environment for our students. Beyond environmental benefits, this initiative strengthens our financial sustainability by cutting long-term energy costs and reinvesting savings into education. Our district has long been a leader in sustainability, and approving this plan ensures we continue setting the standard for future-ready schools. I urge the board to move forward with this essential investment in our students and our community.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Please approve the 2025 COP. Laguna Beach has always been a forward looking, environment minded community. We should continue that lead and move forward with the COP to make the district energy neutral as soon as possible.</p>
Shaheen Sheik-Sadhal	<p>If approved, the COP allows public agencies to go into a special debt market to have lenders bid to be debt servicers. It's the optimal way for a public agency to get the best debt service for capital expenditures. Based on the agenda background, the interest on the debt would be covered by the savings received on energy efficiencies and the like. Additionally, the Facilities Master Plan has already allocated \$2.1m/year to manage energy, etc. with the annual principal payment on the debt being only \$1.5M. Between those two things, that creates a net annual savings of \$600K, which can be deployed to other needs within the FMP. In this case, taking on debt saves the District money. Seems like such a no-brainer, fiscally, let alone from a sustainability perspective. To boot, the sustainability measures are now built into our curriculum like gardens and the FLOW project at the high school. This carbon neutrality issue comes from a state law that required CA to be carbon neutral by 2040. The District passed a resolution in 2022 to get carbon neutral by 2030. So this is not a question of whether this work needs to get done;</p>

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	it's a matter of when. So let's get it done and let's approve the COP.
Alison MIkkor	Please approve the 2025 Certificate of Participation. This is a responsible, cost-effective way to move forward with essential infrastructure improvements while maintaining our goals.
Jeb Brown	Please approve the 2025 COP which is necessary to keep our district on track with its commitment to ur sustainability goals. Approving the COP will allow LBUSD to fund important sustainability projects while saving money in the long run. This is a responsible, cost effective way to move forward with essential infrastructure improvements while maintaining our goals.
Rob Elliott	<p>I recommend approving the Certificate of Participation. The proposed debt's interest will be comprehensively offset by anticipated savings from energy efficiency improvements. Net financial impact is neutral to positive.</p> <p>LBUSD has established a commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2030. We need to maintain progress toward the goal.</p>
Anonymous	I support LBUSD's commitment to carbon neutrality by 2030. Approving the 2025 Certificate of Participation keeps us on track, funding sustainability upgrades that save money and benefit our schools long-term.
	<p>Please approve and move on. Let's focus on the students and stop trying to run personal agendas that are a waste of time.</p> <p><b>Action Item: Adoption of the Laguna Beach Unified Faculty Association and Laguna Beach Unified School District's Joint Proposal for the Reopeners to the 2023-2026 Collective Bargaining Agreement</b></p>
Emily Roling	Please approve the 2025 COP - approving will allow LBUSD to fund important sustainability projects while saving money in the long run with upgrades in energy efficiencies, relieving

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anonymous	Howard and Sheri-----listen and learn what you don't know, Respect the process.

**Action Item: Adoption of the Classified School Employees Association, Chapter 131, and Laguna Beach Unified School District's Joint Proposal for the Reopeners to the 2024-2027 Collective Bargaining Agreement**

Name	Comment
anonymous	Howard and Sheri-----listen and learn what you don't know, Respect the process.