



# Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Nov. 5, 2020

CONTACT: Jahmal Corner PHONE: 310-886-1600 ext. 8004

CONTACT: Amanda Nieto PHONE: 909-447-2407

## Lynwood Unified Reviewing Construction Concerns at Lynwood High School

**Lynwood** – An engineering review of Lynwood High School buildings launched after a collapse of exterior soffit ceiling panels in June has yielded preliminary findings that indicate more extensive construction issues may exist at the 22-year-old facility, Lynwood Unified officials announced Thursday.

The review, which is still in progress, was launched out of an abundance of caution after the unexpected failure of a section of the exterior panels, called soffits, in one of the high school's buildings during summer break. LUSD's Board of Education initiated an independent engineering review by Peter Sarkis-Petra Structural Engineers of all campus structures.

"Lynwood Unified is conducting a thorough and intensive investigation into construction issues at Lynwood High School," Lynwood Unified Superintendent Gudiel R. Crosthwaite said. "Our District places the highest priority on the safety of our students and staff, and we are determined to provide the top-quality facilities our community deserves."

The section of exterior soffit panels collapsed June 16. By June 24, the District had launched a joint review with the Division of the State Architect. In September, the District authorized removal of the soffits across campus to expedite repairs.

It was in late October that the engineer's findings suggested more extensive structural issues may exist with the campus buildings. The District must await the final report, which is expected later this month or in December, before determining next steps.

As they have since the June 16 incident, officials will provide regular community updates as information becomes available.

"Lynwood Unified is committed to serving our students and community with integrity, transparency and tenacity," Board of Education President Gary Hardie, Jr. said. "We are conducting a thorough review of the buildings on this campus as we prioritize the continued safety of our students and staff, with open communications with our community."

Construction of Lynwood High School began in January 1995. The \$98.4 million school partially opened with substantial completion in 1998. Final construction work was completed in July 2000.

###

The **Lynwood Unified School District** is dedicated to offering students a world-class education to prepare them for success in college and career in the 21st century. Under its Achieving Greatness Initiative, the district is realigning all aspects of its organization to strengthen and expand instructional programs, enrichment and extracurricular activities, and support system for students and staff. For more information, visit [www.lynwood.k12.ca.us](http://www.lynwood.k12.ca.us).

Follow us on  Twitter @LynwoodSchools, or "like" us on  Facebook at [www.facebook.com/LynwoodUSD](http://www.facebook.com/LynwoodUSD)