

**Public Comments Submitted Electronically for the
August 14, 2025 Regular Board Meeting**

Public Comment: Closed Session: 1) Conference with Legal Counsel Doe, Jane v. Laguna Beach USD Case No.: 30-2022-01297898-CU-PO-NJC 2) Anticipated Litigation Government Code § 54956.9 3) Conference with Labor Negotiators - Government Code § 54957.6 4) Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release Government Code Section 54957

Name	Comment
Nadiia	<p>"For over three years, my son and I have faced ongoing challenges with LBUSD in securing the protections guaranteed under the McKinney-Vento Act. My correspondence with the district and staff has documented delays in parent mentoring, needs assessments, crisis intervention, family stabilization, and housing assistance—issues that place both students and the district at risk.</p> <p>As you meet in Closed Session to discuss litigation, anticipated litigation, labor negotiations, and employee discipline, I urge you to act with transparency, accountability, and prevention in mind:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Litigation/Anticipated Litigation – Address root causes to prevent harm, rather than only defending positions. 2. Labor Negotiations – Ensure agreements include staff training and full compliance with laws protecting homeless, displaced, and disabled students. 3. Employee Discipline/Dismissal – Maintain high standards of equity, ethics, and responsiveness, addressing patterns of neglect or discrimination. <p>Laguna Beach Unified’s vision of high-quality education must extend in practice to every child, especially the most vulnerable. Let tonight’s discussions reflect that commitment.</p> <p>"</p>
community member	<p>Mr. Hills and Ms. Morgan have long expressed that previous boards hide items in closed that did not belong there. And now you are spending two hours in closed session and likely there will be no report out. Transparent? Nope!</p>

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<p>very concerned parent</p>	<p>Seems that Ms. Perry put more items on the Closed agenda than an hour could handle. It is better to spread them out rather than try to delve into too many issues over two hours. Board members come to the public session already fatigued mentally. The two board members who attend agenda review have advance info on the Closed items and the other three have to catch up and think of all aspects quickly before giving direction. That is assuming the two can resist the impulse to inform the third member of their majority group which leaves only the two most capable members at a disadvantage. Fix this. Keep in mind as you discuss any issues with the labor unions that unfounded statements in public sparked public spread. Just read the angry, incorrect and mean letter recently from Monda who adores the majority and insults Dr. M and Dr. K. BTW all three board members from 2022 were appointed as no election was held not just Dr. M.</p>
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Public Comment - Items not on the agenda, within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board

Name	Comment
<p>Nadiia</p>	<p>Good evening Board Members,</p> <p>My name is Nadiia Hardy, and I am the mother of a Thurston Middle School 7th grader.</p> <p>We live on the coast, where swimming is part of our lifestyle. I understand why pool modernization has been a major discussion—families want their children to train locally. However, while some benefit from competitive programs, others—like my son—have had no consistent chance to rebuild basic swimming skills or participate in other sports since the pandemic. I have requested year-round swimming lessons since 2022, yet they have not been provided. At my last student support meeting, I was told the school does not offer lessons, yet the district is investing in a modernized pool without ensuring equal access.</p> <p>Transportation inequities also affect learning. Students from Canyon and Artisan must be ready as early as 6:40 a.m., and</p>

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	<p>if they join homework clubs or sports, they face up to 1 hour 40 minutes on crowded, noisy buses—time that could be spent in enrichment. This daily commute is exhausting and mentally draining.</p> <p>Parents who work full time need reliable after-school programs with supervision, academic support, and healthy activities. Relying solely on the Boys & Girls Club is inadequate—many children are unsupervised and overlooked.</p> <p>Do not claim equity and high-quality education if it does not reach every child. I urge the district to improve transportation and provide full after-school programs so all students can thrive.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
community member	<p>Ms. Morgan at the last meeting you pulled a number of items off the consent calendar. You need to learn the distinction between the need to ask a quick question and the need to pull the item to act separately. Those who have been on boards or in the admin team for all the years you claimed to spend hours in the board room and knew this was not accurate it was evident that you attended sporadically and did not pay close enough attention to know every year the in lieu holidays that allow mid winter break are done every year. You can not hide behind being a new board member and still learning how it all works and the fact that simple things like this should not be new if you had actually been involved. Mr. Hills your speeches, lectures and put downs are not professional and have no place in a school board meeting. In addition to putting the district at risk of defamation legal action it is just rude. Ms. Perry in the role you have coveted do the job and stop the consumption of everyone's time by Hills and Morgan. They talk too much and much too much about their personal lives.</p>
very concerned parent	<p>Board members elected in the last election, Hills and Morgan, need to adhere to the Levine Act. It was extended to include school boards two years ago and requires a board member to abstain from any item that affects/benefits parties who contributed \$250 or more (2024 rule) to their election campaigns. The public record of campaign contributions for</p>

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	<p>both Hills and Morgan reflect significant donations from parties interested in stopping the pool project as designed and other aspects of the 10-year FMP both items that Hills and Morgan campaigned heavily that they intended to change. The influence of donations would extend to supporters of Sensible Laguna and Village Laguna who were primarily focused on stopping district facilities work and were major finance backers of Hills and Morgan. At the last meeting both Hills and Morgan should have abstained from voting on the \$132,000 to make the changes in the pool design as those were clearly indicated to not be a CEQA requirement but to appease the nearby residents. City council members have been regularly recusing and abstaining on agenda items that affect parties who contributed said amounts to their campaigns. It is the law.</p>
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Discussion of BP 5131.8 - Mobile Communication Devices

Name	Comment
Community member	The current policy is well-written and serves the students, staff, and families. This is an ever-changing and challenging arena and LBUSD has consistently revised policy to address current trends and threats.
Newth Morris	Understanding that valuable instruction can be enabled by electronic devices, I am supportive of initiatives to reduce usage on our campuses.
very concerned parent	Try to acknowledge that there are multiple feelings about students and devices among the district families. Your position requires representing all students not just putting what you personally feel would be best. Rise above enlightened self-interest when examining this complicated issue.

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Discussion of BP 6163.4 Student Use of Technology

Name	Comment
Community member	Mr. Morrison has provided dynamic leadership in guiding district policy on student use of tech. It is part of their lives and can be constructively used in the classroom.
Newth Morris	I am supportive of initiatives to reduce usage on our campuses.
very concerned parent	Very informative report by Mr. Morrison and his team. Those who pay attention know this is a fast-changing arena and needs constant adaptation. It is vital that education uses tech to the most positive outcomes with appropriate support and protection.

Discussion of BP 9310 Board Policies

Name	Comment
Elizabeth	<p>The language frames authority as top-down: the Board dictates expectations, defines roles, and controls alignment, compliance, and representation of laws. There's little mention of shared decision-making, community participation in policy creation, or reliance on staff expertise. This emphasis on centralized oversight can appear more about consolidating power than fostering collaboration.</p> <p>Redundant/Conflicting: The statement requiring programs, practices, and policies to "align with the district's vision and goals" and "be in alignment and compliance with the Board's policies and bylaws" is repetitive and unclear. If vision/goals conflict with policies/bylaws, priority is uncertain. "Alignment" (values) and "compliance" (rules) are different, yet treated as interchangeable.</p> <p>Power-Heavy: "The Governing Board shall adopt written policies to convey its expectations..." signals a one-way authority flow. "Clarify roles and responsibilities of the Board and Superintendent" frames the Superintendent as subordinate, not a leadership partner. Ensuring all programs align with Board vision grants sweeping control, potentially</p>

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	<p>overriding site-level autonomy. The clause allowing the Board to decide whether to restate applicable laws reinforces its role as ultimate gatekeeper, even though those laws apply regardless.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p>	<p>I urge you to table or reject the proposed revision to "Suspension of Policies.</p> <p>The current policy limits the Board to a narrow, one-time suspension when a policy isn't required by law. The new draft adds sweeping authority to "adopt revisions ... at any time deemed necessary and proper," including temporary suspensions. That phrase is undefined and creates a broad bypass around the normal policy-making process that relies on notice, public input, and deliberation.</p> <p>Even with the "prospective only" clause, this change would allow rapid, ad-hoc alterations to rules that students, families, and staff rely on, inviting inconsistent application, eroding trust, and increasing litigation risk. Education Code sections cited in the draft emphasize orderly policy adoption and review; this proposal instead concentrates discretion without guardrails.</p> <p>If the Board believes some flexibility is needed, please adopt clear limits: require written findings, a supermajority vote, a short sunset (e.g., 30–60 days), legal review, and prompt initiation of the standard two-reading policy process.</p> <p>Transparent, predictable policy, not case-by-case suspension, protects our students and our district.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p>	<p>Please table or amend the redline to the "Board Policies" section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Board-centric rewrite. Replacing "align with the district's vision and goals" with "in alignment and compliance with the Board's policies and bylaws" recenters accountability in the Board rather than our adopted mission, LCAP, and budget. Keep the vision/mission alignment language and require consistency with law and collective bargaining.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Student-first focus diluted. Deleting “for all students” while broadening references to parents and community weakens equity commitments. Retain explicit “for all students” and fairness language. •Resource control risk. New phrasing about “school resources dedicated to these purposes” could be read to authorize ad-hoc reallocations outside the LCAP/budget process. Specify that any changes must be consistent with adopted budgets/LCAP and not made by exception. •Transparency gap. “Makes public in a timely manner” is vague. Define it: post redlines and staff/legal analyses ≥72 hours before first reading, require two readings, and invite public comment. •Legal clarity. The clause saying the Board need not “retain or import” state/federal provisions invites stripping protective references from local policy. Require incorporation/cross-reference of applicable statutes and regulations to avoid ambiguity and litigation risk. <p>Please strike or narrowly tailor these revisions and bring back a version that preserves student-centered, transparent, and law-aligned governance.</p>
Julie Gersten	<p>I am deeply uncomfortable with this action item. Why is it being brought forward? What are the intentions? Is there a problem in need of a solution? This looks like a move to centralize authority in the board majority, remove safeguards for transparency, and create loopholes to bypass normal process and oversight. Public schools function best when the board operates with transparency, is responsive to broad community input, and works in partnership with the superintendent and district staff. These bylaws changes run counter to these values as well as CSBA best practice and will be highly detrimental to our schools.</p>
Nadiia	<p>"My name is Nadiia Hardy, and I am the mother of a Thurston Middle School 7th grader.</p> <p>BP 9310 states that Board policies should reflect the district’s vision, align with laws, and be regularly reviewed to meet the needs of all students equitably. In over three years of</p>

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	<p>correspondence with LBUSD, I have documented persistent gaps between policy and practice — especially in meeting the needs of homeless, displaced, and disadvantaged students under the McKinney-Vento Act.</p> <p>Policies must be more than words on paper. They need clear accountability measures, timelines for review, and transparent reporting so families can see results. Equity policies should have measurable outcomes, student support policies must address barriers like transportation, after-school programs, and sports, and policy reviews should include voices from marginalized families.</p> <p>I urge the Board to ensure BP 9310 is not just about maintaining a manual, but a living commitment to “accepting no limits on potential” for every child.</p> <p>Thank you."</p>
Community member	<p>This has taken a real turn for the bizarre. Individual board members should not be writing policy. The purpose of board policy workshops is to allow the board to work through policies that need yearly review, updating, revision due to legal changes, or are new policies. The administrative staff and legal counsel work along with the board in these workshops, and then draft policy comes as a first reading with an opportunity for further review before a second reading. Policy workshop meetings are public and another opportunity for parents, staff, students and community to be involved. Just imagine a scenario where three or more of the five board members rewrite an existing policy. Will all the legal and code implications be addressed? Will all who wrote a policy consult legal----or wait first they have to change the board bylaw that states only the board president should consult legal. What a mess and inefficient use of administrative time. In this case, Mr. Hills, you are not an education expert or a policy expert, regardless of how/what you claim. CSBA does the work, and well-informed boards use their expertise for policy work.</p>
Judith Andeson	"Agenda Item 7E - Proposed Revisions to Board Bylaw 9310: Board Policies

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	<p>This proposed revision of board policy seems to reduce transparency by eliminating requirements for the public to review and there to be formal board workshops before policy adoption. I strongly object to anything that would reduce transparency and permit a board majority to amend board policies without a more defined opportunity for a more involved public process. I question the motivation to expand such board authority to suspend bylaws, which are an important part of the long standing checks and balances which have always been there. Board trust is at an historic low in the community. This undermines such trust even further.</p>
Newth Morris	<p>It is not clear to me what problem the board is trying to solve here. Without this context, these changes seemed designed to limit transparency and concentrate power in making policy changes.</p>
Erin	<p>This last minute agenda proposal to change board policies, while many families are traveling and school has not started yet, is a clear attempt to undermine transparency:(which the current board majority has maligned previous board members and administrations for repeatedly) and gain control for the new board majority's selfish purposes. This is not student-centered; it is board centered which is highly problematic and disreputable. It is clear that the new board majority is trying to control without limitations and undermine student and staff welfare and ultimately, methodical and sound governance. We all see this vague language change in the policy change documents for what it is; a shameless power grab. New board majority - BBDB or BE BETTER DO BETTER for students - that is your job.</p>
Jannel	<p>After multiple generations of my family attending our wonderful schools, it breaks my heart to see what the new Board majority is doing to our district. This policy change is frightening and totally unnecessary. Just a power grab by member Hills. Sadly, this has gotten to the point where my family is seriously considering pulling our children out before the impact of the Board majority's actions start impacting the schools. So sad... You really are bad people.</p>

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Leslie Elliott	<p>School isn't even back in session, and yet the board is pushing these bylaw changes while many families are still on vacation. How many parents are present tonight? The timing feels deliberate — a last-minute move designed to catch parents off guard. There is no urgent reason these changes couldn't have waited for full community review.</p> <p>If adopted, these amendments would erode transparency, weaken accountability, and give a board majority unchecked authority to change or suspend the rules at will — without clear criteria, time limits, or public input. This is exactly the opposite of what several of you pledged when you ran for office on platforms of openness and transparency. Voters took you at your word.</p> <p>Our community deserves governance that is open, consistent, and fair — not loopholes that allow rules to be bypassed behind closed doors. For the sake of public trust and the integrity of this board, I urge you to reject these changes and honor the commitments you made to the public.</p>
Karly Simpson	<p>I do not support the proposed changes to BB 9310. The revisions reduce clarity, introduce unnecessary complexity, and represent a break from the transparency that has long guided our policy process. I urge the Board to retain the existing policy without modification.</p> <p>I do not appreciate the board proposing changes to the bylaws during school break when families are not available to attend the meetings or would not be properly advised of these proposed changes. Additionally, adding this to the agenda after it was posted is an egregious breach of transparency.</p>
Lauren Unterberger	<p>"Adding this action item just one week before school starts—when many families are away—raises valid concerns about transparency. The district has spent 12 years aligning policies with California School Boards Association (CSBA) standards to ensure consistency, legal compliance, and protection from ad hoc decision-making. Such last-minute changes undermine trust and limit community input.</p>