

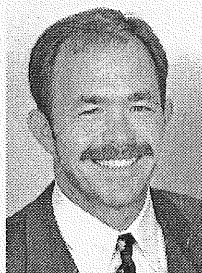


January 24, 2003

We'll Get Through These Tough Times

by Chris Steinhauser
Superintendent of Schools

The Long Beach Unified School District will survive the state's massive budget crisis better than most other large urban school districts, but it will take sacrifice and hard work. Our top goals are to avoid sending out layoff notices to our employees, and to keep cuts



away from the classroom as much as possible. Despite the statewide crisis, we are much more fortunate than many other school districts.

San Diego is proposing layoffs for 300 custodians in the first round of cuts alone, while certificated layoffs and the elimination of class size reduction remain on the table. Oakland is bankrupt. Fresno is struggling after making \$32 million in cuts, and Los Angeles faces \$480 million in cuts and the prospect of massive layoffs.

We have been working for many months to live within our means without imposing such drastic reductions in services to students and employees. We know it won't be easy. We now face mid-year cuts of up to \$28 million as a result of unprecedented state budget cuts. Fortunately, in anticipation of leaner times, we've steadily trimmed costs over the past 20 months. We've continued our freeze on classified hiring and equipment purchases, cut central office budgets by 20 percent, held all schools to strict staffing levels, reduced staff through attrition, and implemented many other cuts for a total of more than \$12 million in savings so far. In the meantime, though, the state has disclosed further deterioration of its fiscal condition as California's deficit has climbed past a staggering \$34 billion, almost a third of its annual budget.

To cope with this escalating crisis, we have recently imposed strict limits on overtime, which now can be used only when health and safety are at stake. This cut will save us another \$1.5 million. We're also working with Sacramento to free ourselves from some of the

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New Teachers Meet

To gather feedback about the effectiveness of LBUSD support programs for new teachers, the superintendent is convening a New Teacher Forum.

New teachers are invited to attend the forum on Wednesday, February 5, 4-5 p.m. at the Teacher Resource Center ABC Conference Room. For information, call ext. 2901.

Millikan Uniforms Win Board Approval for Fall

The Board of Education this week unanimously approved the implementation of mandatory school uniforms at Millikan High School. Millikan will phase in its uniform policy one year at a time starting with this fall's freshman class.

The Long Beach Unified School District in 1994 became the first large school district in the nation to require uniforms districtwide in kindergarten through eighth grade. The decision sparked a nationwide trend. Schools found that uniforms helped reduce absences and behavior problems while contributing to higher achievement.

Wilson High School became the district's first high school to implement uniforms in 1997. Since then, with mandatory uniforms the school has improved attendance and achievement and reduced suspensions. Many parents have placed their children on waiting lists to enroll. Hundreds of students have moved from private schools to Wilson.

"The comment we frequently hear from our parents at Millikan is that Wilson provides a private school education without any additional cost to parents," said Millikan co-principal Dr. Jeffrey Cornejo. "Parents and staff are excited about bringing uniforms to Millikan. It's going to make us more competitive."

Students will wear khaki/tan or Navy blue pants, shorts, jumpers or skirts and white or navy blue collared shirts or turtlenecks. The idea was proposed by parents who wanted students to look more professional. At a recent parent information meeting, nearly all of the 1,000 parents present applauded the move to uniforms. Staff at Millikan also voted in favor of uniforms.

In addition to wearing uniforms, incoming freshmen will participate in smaller learning communities which are expected to contribute to student performance, school climate and parent satisfaction. Teachers will work in teams serving the same group of students, providing a strong system of support and sense of belonging for students. Uniforms have been most successful when they are part of a larger plan to raise standards not only in dress, but also in behavior and achievement.

"Mandatory school uniforms work," said Superintendent Chris Steinhauser. "They are an effective component of an effective instructional program. They produce safer schools. They reduce distractions. They provide an academic environment which supports the serious business of learning."

A decade ago, parents here expressed strong support for several pilot uniform programs then operating throughout the district. They asked the Board to adopt a mandatory school uniform program for grades K-8. The Board responded to their requests on January 18, 1994, and the schools went about the task of making the program a success. The students, parents, teachers and schools were so successful in implementing the program that it became a model for other school districts throughout the nation.

Because of the success of the K-8 uniform program, parents asked the school district to consider adopting uniforms for high school students as well. The Board responded to that request on February 18, 1997 by approving mandatory uniforms for Wilson Classical High School, which has attracted students from throughout the district.

Bixby, Lowell Librarian Named to State Board

Governor Gray Davis has appointed Lucy Lin, librarian at Bixby and Lowell elementary schools, to the Library of California Board.

The mission of the Library of California Board is to make certain that all Californians have free and convenient access to all library resources and services for the enrichment of their lives and for lifelong learning, regardless of their age or ethnicity, or any geographical, financial or administrative constraints. Board members do not receive salaries.

Lin credits a visit by California's First Lady Sharon Davis to Bixby Elementary School in 2000 with starting her on the path to her nomination to the state board. Davis, visiting the school because of its outstanding API growth, was scheduled to spend 30 minutes in the library. She was so taken with what Lin and the district had done using technology to support learning that she stayed for two hours. Then, last fall, the governor's office called Lin to ask if she would like to apply to serve on the state board.

LBUSD's exemplary commitment to school libraries impressed the governor. During the

past four years, libraries here have been computerized and networked, something that is unusual in the state.



Lin

Unlike some other districts, LBUSD has always employed credentialed librarians to provide high quality service to students and teachers. "I bragged about that to Mrs. Davis," said Lin.

Lowell has been honored as a recipient of the Governor's Reading Award and was featured as a Model Library by the California State Librarians Association Conference. During that conference in Long Beach 60 librarians from throughout the state toured the Lowell library to see its up-to-date information technology.

Lin has been with the district since 1973. She is a member of CTA, the Librarians Association of Long Beach and Computer Users in Education (CUE).

Yokkaichi Beckons

The Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association is now accepting applications from teachers and high school students interested in traveling to Japan this summer (July 21-August 11) as goodwill ambassadors from Long Beach. One teacher and two students who reside in Long Beach will live with Japanese families in Yokkaichi, a bustling Japanese seaport 300 miles south of Tokyo. All expenses are paid.

All LBUSD teachers and high school students in the tenth or eleventh grade who live in Long Beach are eligible to apply.

For an application or more information, contact Dr. Lionel Gatley at 598-6704. Deadline to apply is February 17.

• Tough Times Ahead

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regulatory burdens that limit our budget flexibility. For instance, we're seeking statewide concessions from legislators on class size reduction that will not penalize us for exceeding the 20-student limit by one or two students, as long as our average primary grades class size remains at 20 students. We're also seeking flexibility on categorical funds that traditionally can be used only for strictly defined purposes. These and other carefully considered reallocations and cuts are urgently needed to help us balance our books this year.

The next two years promise to be a real test for our educators and support staff. Every school and department is unique, so we're all carefully examining where we can continue to cut costs while giving our students the best education possible. Times will be tough, but we will do everything we can to remain one of the best-run, most efficient and fiscally sound school districts in the nation—one that despite economic challenges continues to make strong, steady gains for students.

ELL Training Begins

The PALMS Office is offering SB 395 training for certification to work with English Language Learners. SB 395 is a 48-hour course that is an alternative to CLAD, Cross-Cultural Language and Academic Development training. In order to be eligible to take SB 395 training, teachers must have had regular contract permanent status on January 1, 1999. Elementary teachers without nine years of full-time experience will need to take an additional 48-hour course. Substitute release money is available from a federal grant.

Courses begin February 5. For information or to enroll, call ext. 8031.

In Memoriam

Lewis Dexter
former teacher
November 9, 2002

Jerry Iovine
former teacher
December 16, 2002

Lev Elkind
former electronics technician
January 17, 2003

Dates to Remember

February

- Black History Month
- National Children's Dental Health Month
- 1 Chinese New Year
- 2 School to Career Groundhog Job Shadow Day
- 3-7 National School Counseling Week
- 4 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Valentines Day," Grades K-4, ed.tv Channel 8
- 5 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00-- "Abraham Lincoln," Grades 2-8, ed.tv Channel 8
- 6 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Presidents' Day," Grades K-3, ed.tv Channel 8
- 7 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Boyhood of Abraham Lincoln," Grades 4-6, ed.tv Channel 8
- 10 Lincoln Day--Holiday
- 11 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "George Washington," Grades 3-5, ed.tv Channel 8
- 12 Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
- 12 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00-- "George Washington," Grades 2-8, ed.tv Channel 8
- 13 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Abraham Lincoln," Grades 3-5, ed.tv Channel 8
- 14 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "The Klan-- A Legacy of Hate in America" (Brotherhood Week), Grades 9-12, ed.tv Channel 8
- 15 Susan B. Anthony's Birthday
- 17 Washington Day--Holiday
- 17 National PTA Founders Day
- 18 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv Channel 8
- 20 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "School Bus and the Exceptional Child," Grades K-12, ed.tv Channel 8
- 21 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Riding Your School Bus Safely," Grades 6-12, ed.tv Channel 8
- 22 George Washington's Birthday
- 25 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Why We Need Each Other: The Animals' Picnic Day" (Brotherhood Week), Grades 1-4, ed.tv Channel 8
- 26 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00-- "Thomas Edison," Grades 4-8, ed.tv Channel 8
- 27 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "New Zebra in Town," Grades 1-3, ed.tv Channel 8
- 28 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "The Jackie Robinson Story" (Black American Day), Grades 6-12, ed.tv Channel 8

Names in the News

Winners of the Nell Meckna Youth Leadership Award of the Citizens Advisory Commission on Disabilities (CACOD) are **Dona Painpraseut, Poly; Irene Villegas, Jordan; and David Young, Wilson.**

Robert Doyle, student at EPHS, recently earned the Boy Scout rank of Eagle Scout.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

Official publication of the Long Beach Unified School District issued bi-weekly during the school year from the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, California 90810. Phone (562) 997-8000.

CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
Superintendent of Schools

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Reading Recovery

Schools interested in having teachers trained in Reading Recovery during the 2003-04 school year may send a team to an awareness meeting on Wednesday, January 29 from 3:45 to 5 p.m. at the Sutter Elementary School auditorium.

Reading Recovery is a short-term intervention program for the lowest achieving first grade readers. It supports the goals of the national No Child Left Behind legislation and can be instrumental in reducing first grade retentions.

Teams attending the meeting may include the principal, facilitator and interested teachers. Applications will be available at the meeting and are due by Friday, February 14. Applicants can sign up for interviews at the meeting. Interviews will be held during February. For information, call the Reading Recovery Center at 984-5897.

Workshop Trimmed

As a result of the state budget crisis, the Instructional Materials Workshop will no longer be open on Saturday mornings. It will remain open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Saturday closure will begin February 1. The workshop will open two Saturdays, March 22 and 29, to assist teachers in their preparations for Public Schools Week.

Summer School Jobs

Applications are now being accepted for elementary and K-8/middle school summer school administrators and lead teachers. The 2003 summer session is June 16 through July 25.

Letters of application should be sent by Friday, January 31, to:

- Karen DeVries, assistant superintendent, for summer elementary school administrator and lead teacher openings.
- Dorothy Harper, deputy superintendent, for summer middle school administrator openings.

Free Family Theater

International City Theatre is offering two free shows for families with school-age children during February as part of its Saturday Family Theatre Series at the Center Theater, 300 E. Ocean Blvd.

"The Breeze, The Gust, The Gale and The Wind" will be performed on Saturday, February 8, and "The Foolish King" will be performed on Saturday, February 22. Both shows are at 11 a.m.

Reservations are required. For reservations, call 436-4610.

LBCC Fastrax

Long Beach City College is now accepting instructor applications for Fastrax, its summer academic enrichment classes for students in grades 3 through 11. Classes will be offered in three sessions from June 16 to August 14. Call 938-5051 for an application or log on to www.lbcc.edu/fastrax. The deadline to apply is January 31.

Retirement Event

Honoree	Date	Contact
Fred Kimbrel	Jan. 31	Barbara Lee 427-9766