

**Public Comments Submitted Electronically for the
October 22, 2026 Regular Board Meeting**

C) Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9) Laguna Beach Unified School District v. National Church Residences of Laguna Beach, et al. Case No. 30-2025-01518292-CU-OR-CJC

D) Conference with Legal Counsel— Anticipated Litigation (Government Code section 54956.9)

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(2) (One potential case)

E) Conference with Labor Negotiators - Government Code § 54957.6 Employee Organizations: LaBUFA and CSEA

Name	Comment
concerned parent	It is critical that the newest board members honor the commitments made by every school board at the annual organization meeting each year to be prepared to take back the former Aliso Elementary School site (known as Vista Aliso) in 2041. This is a major financial impact for LBUSD and holding NCR to existing agreements is essential. Not surprised there is anticipated litigation on most Closed session agendas. The behavior of the board majority toward staff, students, parents and community members is so rude and disrespectful (yes Sheri you need to own your outrageous behavior at the last meeting and do not try to explain it away.) You three put the district at risk as lies catch up. Karma exists.
retired staff and resident voter	It is incumbent on the board to protect the financial interest of the district in the sold Aliso Elementary School property where the NCR agreed at the onset to sell the property back to the district in 2041 for \$1. Under the leadership of previous CBOs the various boards over the years have committed funds to purchase the property in event of default. Every board before this current chaotic majority run board has been stewards of this investment. There is no legal counsel indicated for the anticipated litigation. With the behavior of the majority the district is at constant significant exposure to litigation.

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Public Comment - Items not on the agenda, within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board

Name	Comment
Dawn Hunnicutt (retiree)	To Samiyah and Logan, our student board representatives: First, I commend you for your service to LBUSD. Giving your time to serve district students is noble, and our community deeply appreciates you. I am sorry you are enduring an experience that has historically been positive and inspiring. Laguna has had disagreements, but our board traditionally conducted itself with decorum and professionalism, respecting CSBA principles and the Brown Act. Never have we witnessed such dysfunction from a board majority, such disregard for diplomacy, governance, and community input, or such a breakdown in trust between district employees and the board. Never have staff and parents been vilified with the horrific labels used by this majority. This unprofessionalism is unprecedented and deeply troubling. I am also sorry that Howard Hills recklessly referred to LBUSD students as a group needing "AI, recreational drugs, and tutors" to graduate. This disrespects hardworking students and the teachers and staff who educate them. These issues exist in schools everywhere; they are not unique to LBUSD. It was a harmful, irresponsible statement from someone elected to represent students first. I hope a new majority takes office in December so you can witness how elected board members should conduct themselves. Your service is valued, and I hope November brings voters who elect leaders worthy of this community.

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concerned parent	Mr. Hills you have some serious issues and need to deal with them. You are getting more and more redundant in your comments. You are not able to apologize, you are not able to EVER "stand corrected", you make statements that turn out to be false(i.e. students passing a resolution on gay/lesbian students in 1969 of which there is not proof and timelines of gay history dispute). Dr. Kelly was tactful in trying to address memory issues. Your use of social media along with Ms. Morgan is so unprofessional and defensive. If either of you actually deserved to represent LBUSD and serve the community as board members you would not continually feel the need to lecture and shame those who work for this district and those who attend the meetings. Both of you use Dee Perry as a puppet and she does this district a disservice by being unable to be independent and to outright lie. Dee you continue to insist you were blocked from entering the May 14th meeting and other untruths about how the words upset you. It is time for you to be off the board and let the micro managing stop. Staff is very, very dismayed with this direction.
concerned staff	Howard Hills' October 16 email is deeply disturbing, but most appalling is his decision, as a sitting school board trustee, to circulate images and videos of OUR CHILDREN throughout the community for political purposes just weeks before an election. That is unexcusable and he needs to be removed. He is unfit for duty. These are students he was elected to protect, not publicly shame, ridicule, or use as political ammunition. The taxpayer-funded independent investigation found no criminal activity or intent to cause physical harm. Video evidence confirmed no one approached, touched, or pushed Mrs. Perry. She had approximately five feet of space around her and stumbled forward into a parent. Yet Mr. Hills continues promoting a narrative contradicted by

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	those findings. He then attacks our high school students, suggesting they rely on recreational drugs, AI, and tutoring to graduate. What an insulting, sweeping accusation against the very students he represents! He also disparages our district's investment in student well-being while ignoring data showing 96% of our students report having a trusted adult at school they can turn to. Our teachers, counselors, and classified staff work tirelessly to support these students every day. How does publicly humiliating children demonstrate the kindness, empathy, and anti-bullying values our district teaches? Political disagreements are between adults. Our children should NEVER be used as political weapons by an elected trustee.
	Howard Hills, there is something majorly wrong with you. Your conduct is unbefitting of a School Board Member, or a person with any integrity! Photographing students, incorrectly identifying them, and posting their images with commentary on social media creates potential legal, reputational, and governance risks. - Legal risk: False and damaging statements may create defamation liability under California Civil Code §§ 44-46. - Student privacy and safety: Public posts may expose students to embarrassment, unwanted attention, or harassment. - Reputational risk: Such actions may undermine public

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	trust in the Board member and school district. - Governance risk: The conduct may raise concerns about professional judgment, ethical responsibilities, and Board standards of conduct.
Iva Pawling	I am writing as a concerned parent, appalled by the recent comments widely shared by Howard Hills, a sitting LBUSD board trustee, about the children he was elected to serve. To characterize Laguna Beach students as academically unprepared, lacking confidence, and reliant on AI, drugs, and tutoring to succeed is disgraceful. It demonstrates a stunning lack of respect for our students, educators, and community, along with an extraordinary lack of intellectual judgment from someone entrusted with overseeing their education. This has nothing to do with the upcoming election. It is about basic moral character, intelligence, judgment, and the responsibility of public office. His comments reveal contempt for our children and a fundamental inability to appreciate the weight of his position. Our children deserve leaders who believe in them, celebrate their accomplishments, and recognize that even excellent schools have room to improve. Instead, we get a disgusting message of dismissal from someone entrusted with their future. This board majority will be remembered for the damage it has done to trust, leadership, and the culture of our district. Hills' relevance to the future of LBUSD may be fading, but his obligation to conduct himself with decency, intelligence, and respect remains. His comments are an

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	embarrassment to this district and the office he holds.
Briana Heathcott	What is the board going to do about Howard Hills emails of videos from the dais? Are we really waiting three weeks to meet about his conduct? For all other items, I implore every board member to ask "does this action or information move us closer to our vision?" Not everything a community member references should be a board agenda item. I would encourage each of you to challenge the community members on what steps have they taken before asking the board to solve it.
retired staff and resident voter	Oh so much to cover. Howard Hills is an embarrassment to public service, education, LBUSD and any person of any age who has opinions and thinks. Sheri cannot control herself. Approaching a public speaker is unwise at best and juvenile. The way you spoke to Member Kelly at the last meeting was rude. As was said to you why do you let others meaning yourself and Howard go on at length with bullying comments and yet cut off Kelly who was tactfully making a point. You are such an angry person, and it is clear in the way you speak to Joan. You need a major reset in civility. Dee, you cower and hide behind Sheri and Howard who have had your ear for all the years since you became a board member and your vote since they joined you on the board. Pretending to not be a part of their schemes is insulting to the public. Howard and Sheri, all the people including the union presidents and the student board member who called out your offensive behaviors and comments at the last meeting in addition to public comments doing the same perhaps you need to realize you should never have been elected and for the future of LBUSD you need to resign.
Concerned LBUSD Parent	President Morgan, in one of your very first meetings you asked for grace. Expecting grace as a leader while while actively campaigning for school board candidates and running paid Instagram ads that present disparaging

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	claims about opposing candidates as facts raises serious questions about leadership, fairness, and accountability. Grace must go both ways. It's difficult to ask the community for understanding while engaging in conduct that undermines respectful, fact-based public discourse. Leadership requires integrity, transparency, and respect for the entire school community - not just those who share your views.
Vivian Tran	Members of the Board, I am writing about the email and private videos Board Member Howard Hills took of children. The email called them "frenzied," used them as props for adults, and wrongly named them as Joan Shaheen's and Kimberly's children. The footage is circulating, and I don't know how far. This is not about the political dispute. The children behaved as children do and did not deserve criticism in a mass email from an elected official. Our bylaws require the highest ethical standards and action in every student's best interest. We cannot ask students to be thoughtful about what they share of one another if an official does the opposite. I ask the Board to: Direct Mr. Hills to stop sharing the images and ask recipients to delete them. Review his conduct under the bylaws and ethics policy, and report the outcome to me in writing. Send a written correction to all recipients about the misidentified children. Explain what policy governs Board members' use of student images, and whether it will be updated.

Information Item: Thurston Middle School 2025-2026 Targeted Growth Area

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Name	Comment
concerned parent	It has long been an issue in a community with high wealth families and parents who have great employment flexibility or employment travel opportunities for students to miss school as the family takes advantage of travel. Independent study options are addressing this however the overarching goal should be an appeal to parents to avoid missing days of school and scheduling travel during school vacations day. Mid winter break was originally started as ski week to ask parents to take their ski trips during that week. There are even more high wealth families in LBUSD now than ever so this will remain an issue to deal with.
retired staff and resident voter	Principal Vidal is always very thorough and open in his presentations not shying away from identifying areas that need to be addressed. In a community with many wealthy families who have the freedom to travel it is a real challenge to work with that and independent study fits. Bottom line though not attending and interacting is a loss even if course work can be completed.

Information Item: Learner Profile Dashboard - Student Story

Name	Comment
concerned parent	Consider those students who find the pressure to look at career and long range goals too stressful at such a young (elementary and middle school) age. There needs to be awareness that growth and development should be of highest priority and not to rush the path to adulthood and those challenges. Exposure to concepts through career days, etc are well and good but let our young students explore and grow first.
retired staff and resident voter	Never been a fan of such push in elementary and middle school to have students identifying their strengths and choosing possible careers. There is so much development still to come and so much to be gained in self-awareness.

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	Exposure is beneficial and even better are the many opportunities LBUSD provides for exploration. Letting students blossom is as important as trying to get them on a path too early. If not, we would have so many firefighters and trash truck drivers and superheroes (favorites in K) it would be a glut.
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Information Item: Ability Awareness Project ation

Name	Comment
concerned parent	Note this presentation is at the request of a board member. Imagine that is Dee Perry who thinks the district is not doing enough(there would never be enough when Dee wants to bring in her outside contacts). The district does plenty and has made significant progress on kindness and students feeling safe. The bullied and those who bully BOTH need attention. The biggest impact this board majority could have is to treat the other two board members, the staff, students and parents who attend meetings with kindness. People do not need to be lectured (Sheri yes you have said you have a right to do it and will do it anyway--but how does that belong in a business meeting?) It is time for Hills and Morgan to talk a whole lot less lecturing and practice active listening skills. There is a snide tone that both of you use which is rude. Along with the facial expressions it is clear neither of you want to be bothered with all those pesky commentors.
concerned staff	The timing of this agenda item raises serious questions. Just days before an election, Trustee Dee Perry's personal friend is being given a platform to present a bullying prevention program to our district. How was this presentation arranged, who requested it, and what process was followed? LBUSD already employs a Director of Social Emotional Learning, counselors, and dedicated professionals who

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	work every day to support students' emotional well-being and address bullying. Were these professionals consulted? Have they identified a need for this outside program? Where is the data supporting that need? Bullying prevention is important, but our students and staff deserve decisions driven by evidence, not personal relationships or political timing. The appearance of a potential conflict of interest should concern this community. Even if no financial or legal conflict exists, transparency matters. Personal connections should be disclosed, and outside programs should be evaluated through an objective process. Our staff deserve respect for the work they already do, not an implication that an outside organization must come in and fix a problem without evidence demonstrating the need. I am asking the district to explain why this presentation is on the agenda now, who initiated it, whether staff recommended it, and whether any future contract or expenditure is being considered. Our students deserve transparency, accountability, and decisions based on facts.
Briana Heathcott	What board member recommended this? Do we have a staff member requesting this resource?
retired staff and resident voter	Come on Dee Perry this is your baby and the district does not need to pursue a 25-week course with Shadi. Yes, she had dedicated herself to kindness and the best use of her work would be to hire her to work with Howard, Sheri and yourself to stop bullying people in general and staff and parents in particular. There are major personal problems with all three of you, and it is evident by tone of voice, word choice, facial expression and seated posturing that shows obvious disinterest. Bullies usually

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Information Item: PARS Retirement Incentive

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Dawn Hunnicutt (retiree)	Why is this not an action item? It's a no-brainer. If it's not fiscally advantageous to the district, the incentive is not offered. Don't let members of the community guide your thinking on this matter like they did with graduation. That cost the district \$35K+; please let the experts put forth this incentive, field interest, and then do the math to see if it is a financially sound plan for the district.
concerned parent	To the board majority a reason not to offer retirement incentive is because you have targeted certain staff you want to get "rid of". I can only imagine the comments made in closed or your outside "meetings" where you are not discussing district business.
concerned staff	The PARS Supplemental Retirement Plan is a fiscally responsible option for our district. We have repeatedly heard concerns from board leadership that our district is overstaffed and that we must be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars. Here is an opportunity to address staffing levels through voluntary retirement incentives rather than layoffs or forced reductions. The PARS presentation projects \$174,257 in first-year savings and \$246,509 over three years, based on one position not being replaced. These are actual financial projections that deserve thoughtful consideration. There is a timeline to this so move forward in respect of staff and the timeline Dr. Austin has suggested. Show us you support staff.

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	Our employees have dedicated years, often decades, to serving our students. Providing an opportunity for those ready to retire, while potentially generating savings and managing staffing through attrition, deserves serious consideration. If we are going to talk about fiscal responsibility and overstaffing, then we must be willing to examine solutions based on facts, financial projections, and respect for our employees. That is the accountability our community deserves.
Briana Heathcott	This was listed as an action item and that information included in the presentation. Why was it changed? Who authorized that change?
retired staff and resident voter	Would be interesting to hear what is said in closed sessions about who Sheri and Howard and Dee are targeting to be rid of. And speaking of that what in the world happened to our CBO. No one has said a word, and nothing has appeared as to a leave for whatever reason. Who is leading that department as budget work begins and who even took Raymonds place.

Action Item: Approval of Consent Calendar Items B - P

Name	Comment
retired staff and resident voter	Is Mr. Pearl no longer doing any work for the board or Dr. Austin or is he doing it gratis and not charging. Sudden cut off of legal fees paid seems like maybe it is being delayed in the warrants to draw the attention away. On the CCA global hospitality item. Make sure students are aware that careers in this field are among the lowest paying and do not pay a living wage. To not advise as such would be misleading.