The Board of Education of the City of Los Angeles, acting as the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District, met in regular session on Tuesday, March 24, 2009, at the Los Angeles City Board of Education Administrative Offices, Board Room, 333 South Beaudry Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

President Mónica García called the meeting to order at 1:43 p.m.

The following Members were present: Ms. Marlene Canter, Ms. Tamar Galatzan, Ms. Marguerite P. LaMotte, Dr. Richard Vladovic, and President Mónica García. Ms. Yolie Flores Aguilar and Ms. Julie Korenstein arrived at 1:43 p.m. and 1:52 p.m., respectively.

Superintendent Ramon Cortines was present.

Dr. Vladovic led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

CELEBRATING CESAR CHAVEZ DAY

Superintendent Cortines welcomed the pre-kindergarten students from Farmdale Elementary School who entertained the Board with a performance celebrating the life of César Chávez.

A video from Teaching Tolerance entitled “Viva La Causa” which focused on the grape strike and boycott led by César Chávez and Dolores Huerta in the 1960s was presented.

The following students addressed the Board on the celebration of the life of Cesar Chavez:

- Mr. David Cortez-Lopez, Dorsey High School (poem)
- Mr. Jonathan Martinez, Sepulveda Middle School Gifted/High Achiever Magnet (essay)
- Mr. Jesus Barraza, Dana Middle School (drawing)
- Ms. Enya Gonzalez, Dana Middle School (speech)
- Mr. Charly Acevedo, Woodlong Elementary School (skit)
- Ms. Nadia Carmona, Woodlong Elementary School (skit)
- Ms. Polly Pierone, Canterbury Elementary School (poem)
- Mr. Sebastian Balboa, Canterbury Elementary School (poem and drawing)

President García modified the Order of Business.
BOARD MEMBERS RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION

Ms. Flores Aguilar moved the following resolution on *Sí Se Puede: Honoring the Life and Legacy of César E. Chávez*:

Whereas, César E. Chávez founded United Farm Workers of America to contest the poor treatment of the workers in the fields and sought to empower those workers by organizing the first union to acquire labor contracts for farm workers;

Whereas, César E. Chávez was an adherent to nonviolent civil disobedience, which he manifest through fasts, strikes, and boycotts focused on safe working conditions, fair wages, housing, and the banning of child labor;

Whereas, César E. Chávez changed the attitudes of the workers in the fields and the nation far beyond by leading them to live the La Causa slogan, “*Sí Se Puede,*” empowering all to fight for civil rights, and to strive for justice for all minorities;

Whereas, César E. Chávez’ efforts extended to include the education of migrant children, organizing voter registration drives, and standing up against police mistreatment;

Whereas, César E. Chávez espoused the “Education of the Heart” for all students because he believed that it is not enough to teach our young people to be successful, to seek achievement, and to make progress as individuals while forgetting about progress and prosperity for their community, and while leaving friends and neighbors behind; he believed that our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others;

Whereas, César E. Chávez’ has inspired millions of people, was a recipient of the Martin Luther King Jr. Peace Prize, and was also awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his outstanding contributions to our country, which is our nation’s highest civilian honor;

Whereas, It is befitting that the life and accomplishments of this inspirational Mexican American civil rights leader be recognized through an annual César E. Chávez holiday on March 31st, the day he was born;

Whereas, SB 984 (Polanco) was passed by the California Senate on August 10, 2000, thereby establishing March 31 as an official paid state holiday in honor of César E. Chávez and his tireless efforts toward equality for all;

Whereas, SB 984 states, “Existing law authorizes the public schools to close on March 31 for César E. Chávez Day…” if the governing Board agrees to close schools for that purpose, pursuant to a memorandum of understanding based on specifics of the Government Code (Chapter 10.7 of Division 4 of Title 1, commencing with Section 3540);

Whereas, The Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District passed a resolution on December 12, 2000, fully endorsing all components of SB 984 and directed the Superintendent to work collaboratively to implement the full intent of SB 984;
Whereas, The California Federation of Teachers adopted a resolution at their 2007 state convention calling on every school district in California to abide by the spirit and letter of SB 984 and recognize César E. Chávez’ birthday as a paid holiday for workers;

Whereas, District students have held marches and collected signatures in recent years requesting the establishment of César E. Chávez Day as an official District holiday, with the same recognition and status as other state and federal holidays;

Whereas, The District annually supports the César E. Chávez Day of Service and Learning, created for public school children to promote service to the communities of California, but has not designated an official holiday in his honor; and

Whereas, César E. Chávez is a heroic civil rights activist, akin to Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy, and as such, is an exemplary role model for all District students, including more than 500,000 Latino and Hispanic students, who would benefit directly from an official District holiday in recognition of his life and contributions to humanity; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District recognizes March 31st as César E. Chávez Day and establishes it as an official District holiday;

Resolved further, That the Superintendent encourage students, staff, school administrators, teachers, and community members to implement service-learning projects based on his life, work, and values, and realize the full intent of the State-established César E. Chávez Day of Service and Learning;

Resolved further, That the Board directs the Superintendent to work with all necessary departments (Staff Relations, Calendar Committee, Budget, and any others) to develop an action and negotiating plan, in an effort to establish César E. Chávez Day as a paid employee holiday in lieu of Admissions Day (or another paid holiday), and to establish service-learning projects in his honor beginning no sooner than the 2010-11 school year;

Resolved further, That the Superintendent will provide the specifics of the action and negotiating plan to the Board of Education within 90 days; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board reiterates its support for federal legislation to create a national holiday in honor of César E. Chávez and his legacy, and urges the United States Congress to pass legislation to this effect.

Ms. Korenstein seconded the motion.

The following speakers addressed the Board on the resolution:

Dr. David Moguel
Ms. Alicia Loncar, SEIU Local 99
Ms. Julie Chavez Rodriguez, Chavez Foundation
Mr. Hoku Jeffrey, By Any Means Necessary (BAMN)
Ms. Magally Miranda, BAMN
Ms. Alma Soriano
Mr. Otto Zamueio
Remarks were heard from Board Members.

After discussion and by general consent, the resolution was adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Hon. Ana Rosa Rizo, Mayor Pro-Tem, City of Maywood, addressed the Board on South Region High School No. 8.

Later in the meeting, the following speakers addressed the Board on the subjects indicated:

- Mr. Manuel Aldana, Education
- Ms. Erika Torres, Diploma Project Advisor, Success Data
- Ms. Esperanza Ramirez, Franklin High School, Diploma Project Advisors
- Ms. Kathy Patrini, Diploma Project Advisors
- Mr. Alan LaPolice, AEWC, Diploma Project Advisors
- Ms. Stephanie Magdaleno, Diploma Project Advisors
- Mr. William Nestlehutt, Diploma Project Advisors
- Mr. Trent Shaw, Diploma Project Advisors
- Mr. Robert (no last name stated), Diploma Project Advisors
- Ms. Emily Hernandez, Diploma Project Advisors
- Ms. Kenny Jones, Diploma Project Advisors
- Ms. Nancy Saldana, Direction of Superintendent
- Ms. Marné Langlois, Reduction in Force Notices
- Ms. Collette Hawkins, Reduction in Force Notices
- Ms. Daisy Kim, Reduction in Force Notices

President García resumed the Order of Business

SPECIAL REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

SUPERINTENDENT’S 2008-2009 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS
SUPERINTENDENT’S 2009-2010 INITIAL PERSONNEL BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

The following speakers addressed the Board:

- Mr. Bill Ring
- Ms. Victoria Hurley, Moms Unite
- Mr. Carl Weintraub, We Tell Stories
- Ms. Kathy Mrasz
- Mr. Bill Lloyd, SEIU Local 99
- Mr. Darin Greenblatt, Parents of Westwood Charter
- Mr. William Otto, Associated Administrators of Los Angeles (AALA)
- Mr. Mike O’Sullivan, AALA
- Ms. Susan Gosman, California School Employees Association (CSEA)
Superintendent Cortines addressed the Board on his budget recommendations scheduled for action at the Special Board Meeting of March 31, 2009. He discussed deficits, midyear cuts, personnel reductions, early retirement incentives, furlough days, federal funds, State revenue, and carried forward funds. Ms. Megan Reilly, Chief Financial Officer, addressed the Board on the Superintendent’s recommendations. She began her presentation by reviewing the budget development and budget timelines. She discussed the District’s projected deficits and the impact of the State financial crisis on the District.

Ms. Reilly reviewed the strategies used to address the initial $427 million deficit for 2008-09, such as use of one time fund balances, delaying textbook adoptions, delaying implementation of class size reductions, central and local district reductions, and personnel reductions. She also discussed the proposals used to balance the $140 million mid-year deficit for 2008-09. These proposals include exercising Tier 3 categorical flexibility, bringing forward workers compensation balances, utilizing unused Certificates of Participation, recognizing additional E-rate revenue, and reducing District leases.

Ms. Reilly noted there is a projected deficit of $596.1 million for 2009-10. In order to address this, the District will have to do more with less, reorganize, provide services differently, and be extremely focused. The priority in addressing this deficit is to minimize the impacts on the classroom. She provided a summary proposal for all 2009-10 budgetary reductions, including personnel reductions, rightsizing the central office, streamlining local district offices, reducing school support norms, and class size increases. Ms. Reilly discussed mitigation of the impact on schools by allocating new Title I funds and the Federal stimulus package and concluded her presentation with a discussion of next steps and the outlook for the future.

Superintendent Cortines and Ms. Reilly responded to questions from Board Members regarding furlough days, State deficit, program improvement schools, diploma project advisors, management, guidelines, instructional impacts, accountability, timelines, flexibilities, general fund, Title I funds, advocacy, stimulus funds, contracts, Board ratification, impact of delaying vote, meeting with legislators, reduction in force notices, and mitigation measures.

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President García modified the Order of Business.

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BOARD MEMBERS RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION (continued)

Ms. Galatzan moved the following amended resolution regarding LAUSD Clean and Green:

- Whereas, The Los Angeles Unified School District is committed to being a leader in renewable energy technology, water conservation, green building, creating green jobs and environmentally responsible consumption;

- Whereas, Going green will reduce the District’s $85 million annual utilities expenditure while maximizing health benefits and environmental responsibility;

- Whereas, The District is working with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) to increase incentives for renewable energy projects and water conservation;
Whereas, By 2012, the District will utilize new restroom fixtures, smart irrigation controllers, water brooms, and cooling tower conductivity controllers that will reduce current water consumption by 10 percent, which is the equivalent of 200 million gallons of water;

Whereas, District’s Maintenance & Operations Division has a pilot Custodial Greening Program, including the introduction of screened and approved green chemicals, microfibers, towels and mops, more efficient vacuums with improved filtering systems and floor cleaning systems;

Whereas, Maintenance & Operations and the Office of Environment Health and Safety (OEHS) are working with KLCS to develop training videos for the pilot Custodial Greening Program to showcase proper handling and disposal of all chemical cleaners along with other custodial best practices to their staff;

Whereas, OEHS has a Material Safety Data Sheet for each chemical product used or stored at the school or facility (California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 5194) which looks at health hazard data, hazardous components, spill or leak procedures, reactivity data, fire and explosion data just to name a few;

Whereas, The Office of Environmental Health and Safety evaluates each chemical product used or stored at District sites based on a review of health hazards, hazardous components, reactivity, fire and explosion data, toxicity, and Proposition 65 status;

Whereas, OEHS Site administrators ensures that the run off from those diluted cleaners, which are not prohibited wastes per Los Angeles City Industrial Waste Control Ordinance, Bureau of Sanitation Section 64.30.B1, are emptied into the sewer drain so the water containing the chemicals can be treated as opposed to going into the storm drain which goes directly into the ocean;

Whereas, The District made a commitment to establish a Green Accountability Program with quarterly reports from the Superintendent about the District’s progress towards a more sustainable future; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That in 60 90 days, the Superintendent provides the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District with a report on cleaning supplies that meet the Green Seal Standard or other standards established by independent certifying organizations; the cost of those cleaning supplies; and the environmental impacts of the existing products as compared to the green cleaning supplies; and

Resolved further, That the Superintendent directs and encourages staff to communicate and collaborate with local environmental groups, such as Apollo Alliance, Coalition for Clean Air, Environment NOW, Green LA Coalition, Heal the Bay, LA Conservation Corps, Sierra Club, and Tree People to share best practices and the results of our green cleaning program as it is implemented to further develop the Green Accountability Program.

Ms. Flores Aguilar seconded the motion.
The following speakers addressed the Board on the resolution:

Ms. Robina Suwol, California Safe Schools
Ms. Susie Santilena, Heal the Bay
Mr. Ken McKnight

Ms. Yi Hwa Kim, Interim Director, Office of Environmental Health and Safety, and Mr. Neil Gamble, Director, Maintenance and Operations, responded to questions from Board Members regarding testing of cleaning products, green products, Green Seal, product approval, and certification.

After discussion and on roll call, the resolution was adopted as amended, 6 ayes, 1 abstention, Ms. Korenstein.

NEW BUSINESS FOR ACTION

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 301 – 08/09
Student Expulsions

Ms. Canter moved that the report be adopted. Ms. Galatzan seconded the motion.

Dr. Julio Fonseca, Coordinator, Student Discipline Proceedings Unit, responded to questions from Board Members regarding reinstatement, delegation of authority, and charter school expulsions.

After discussion and by general consent, the report was adopted. Ms. Galatzan was absent.

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President García resumed the Order of Business.

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BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 286 – 08/09
Various Purchasing Transactions

Dr. Vladovic moved that the report be adopted. Ms. Canter seconded the motion, which by general consent was adopted. Ms. Galatzan was absent.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 287 – 08/09
Agreements and Amendments

Ms. Canter moved that the report be adopted. Ms. Korenstein seconded the motion.

On roll call, the report was adopted, 5 ayes, 1 no, Dr. Vladovic. Ms. Galatzan was absent.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 288 – 08/09
Ratification of Contract Actions and Approval of Professional Services Contracts

Ms. Korenstein moved that the report be adopted. Ms. Galatzan seconded the motion.

Superintendent Cortines responded to questions from Board Members regarding various contracts, external evaluators and the use of funds.
After discussion and by general consent, the report was adopted.

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President García modified the Order of Business.

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BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 294 – 08/09
Routine Personnel Actions

Ms. Canter moved that the report be adopted. Ms. Korenstein seconded the motion.

The following speakers addressed the Board on the report:

Ms. Adrianna Salazar, Teamsters Local 572
Ms. Teresa Ventura
Ms. Graciela Cruz
Ms. Rosalinda Berumen
Ms. Elena Juarez

Mr. Michael Eugene, Business Manager, responded to questions from Board Members regarding the State cuts to lunch program.

After discussion and by general consent, the report was adopted.

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President García resumed the Order of Business.

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BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 289 – 08/09
Amendment to the Existing Facilities Strategic Execution Plan to Fund Alteration and Improvement (A&I) Projects, Measure K Unallocated Project, and Board Member Priority Projects at Various Schools

Ms. Canter moved that the report be adopted with the amendment to include the Bond Oversight Committee recommendations and resolution. Ms. Flores Aguilar seconded the motion, which by general consent was adopted as amended.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 290 – 08/09
Amendment to the Planning and Development Strategic Execution Plan to Authorize the Use of Measure Y Innovation Funds at Maclay Middle School for a Youth Technology Center and Field Improvements

Ms. Korenstein moved that the report be adopted with the amendment to include the Bond Oversight Committee recommendations and resolution. Ms. Canter seconded the motion.

Superintendent Cortines responded to questions from Board Members regarding demonstration sites and funding.

After discussion and by general consent, the report was adopted as amended.
Amendment to the Planning and Development Branch Strategic Execution Plan to Authorize the Use of Measure Y Innovation Funds to Relocate and Expand the Gage Middle School Health Clinic

Ms. Flores Aguilar moved that the report be adopted with the amendment to include the Bond Oversight Committee recommendations and resolution. Ms. Galatzan seconded the motion, which by general consent was adopted.

Non-Routine Personnel Actions

Ms. Flores Aguilar moved that the report be adopted. Ms. Galatzan seconded the motion, which by general consent was adopted.

BOARD MEMBERS RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION (continued)

Ms. Flores Aguilar moved the following resolution, Support of the English Plus Resolution (HR 3):

Whereas, In order to globally compete in the 21st Century, today’s students need to develop linguistic and cultural literacy and functional proficiency in one or more world languages;

Whereas, More than 55 different languages are spoken in the homes of students in the Los Angeles Unified School District, creating a rich and culturally diverse environment that benefits students as they are educated to succeed in a global society;

Whereas, Students in the District’s Dual Language Program consistently demonstrate higher academic proficiency scores than their non-dual language counterparts, which parallels research findings for other dual language programs across the nation;

Whereas, The Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District passed the “Mandarin, Spanish, and Other World Languages in the Schools Initiative” on October 28, 2008, to encourage and expand opportunities for multilingualism;

Whereas, The English Plus Resolution, as introduced in the House of Representatives on January 6, 2009, by Congressman José E. Serrano, aligns with the goals of District’s world languages initiative;

Whereas, The English Plus Resolution recognizes the value of multilingualism and declares that the United States Government should pursue policies that:

• encourage all U.S. residents to become fully proficient in English, as well as learn and/or maintain skills in other world languages;

• aid in preserving native languages and cultures on the verge of extinction;

• continue to provide services in other languages as needed; and,

• oppose “English-only” measures; now, therefore, be it...
Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District strongly supports the English Plus Resolution and its objectives; and

Resolved further, That this resolution of support be transmitted to Congressman Serrano, the Los Angeles Congressional delegation, appropriate Congressional committees and leaders, Senate representatives, and all other parties as appropriate.

Ms. Korenstein seconded the motion, which by general consent was adopted.

**MOTION REQUESTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Ms. Canter moved the following motion:

Resolved, That Board of Education of the City of Los Angeles ratifies the reappointment of David Jenkins, representing the Associated General Contractors of California (AGC), as a Member of the School Construction Bond Oversight Committee commencing April 1, 2009, and John Hakel as alternate representative.

Ms. Flores Aguilar seconded the motion, which by general consent was adopted.

**BOARD MEMBER RESOLUTIONS FOR INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

Ms. Galatzan - Working With Our Neighborhoods

Whereas, A number of neighborhood schools use marquees as a means of communicating important messages to students, teachers, and parents;

Whereas, Marquees advertise to the nearby community the activities and awards of a particular school, which enhance feelings of pride and unity;

Whereas, School marquees are increasingly using flashy neon letters to increase visibility;

Whereas, Marquees tend to be located at the front of school, often overlooking a busy intersection, which provides maximum exposure;

Whereas, Neon lettering has the potential to distract residents and drivers;

Whereas, Some residents have contacted the Los Angeles Unified School District to report loss of sleep and other problems caused by marquees;

Whereas, The District has no existent policy governing the location, placement, hours of service, types of lettering, and other issues involving marquees; and

Whereas, The District is committed to being a good neighbor; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Superintendent will, in the next 60 days, convene a task force consisting of community leaders, District staff, school police, and the General Counsel’s office for the purpose of developing a workable policy governing operation of marquees.
Ms. García - Declaring March 2009 as National Women’s History Month – “Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet” (For action at the Special Board Meeting of March 31, 2009)

Whereas, With passion and courage, women have taught us that when we band together to advocate for our highest ideals, we can advance our common well-being and strengthen the fabric of our Nation;

Whereas, Each year during Women’s History Month, we remember and celebrate women from all walks of life who have shaped this great Nation. This year, in accordance with the theme, “Women Taking the Lead to Save our Planet,” we pay particular tribute to the efforts of women in preserving and protecting the environment for present and future generations;

Whereas, Ellen Swallow Richards is known to have been the first woman in the United States to be accepted at a scientific school. She graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1873 and went on to become a prominent chemist. In 1887, she conducted a survey of water quality in Massachusetts. This study, the first of its kind in America, led to the Nation’s first state water-quality standards;

Whereas, Women have also taken the lead throughout our history in preserving our natural environment. In 1900, Maria Sanford led the Minnesota Federation of Women’s Groups in their efforts to protect forestland near the Mississippi River, which eventually became the Chippewa National Forest, the first Congressionally mandated national forest. Marjory Stoneman Douglas dedicated her life to protecting and restoring the Florida Everglades. Her book, The Everglades: Rivers of Grass, published in 1947, led to the preservation of the Everglades as a National Park. She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1993;

Whereas, Rachel Carson brought even greater attention to the environment by exposing the dangers of certain pesticides to the environment and to human health. Her landmark 1962 book, Silent Spring, was fiercely criticized for its unconventional perspective. As early as 1963, however, President Kennedy acknowledged its importance and appointed a panel to investigate the book’s findings. Silent Spring has emerged as a seminal work in environmental studies. Carson was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom posthumously in 1980;

Whereas, Grace Thorpe, another leading environmental advocate, also connected environmental protection with human well-being by emphasizing the vulnerability of certain populations to environmental hazards. In 1992, she launched a successful campaign to organize Native Americans to oppose the storage of nuclear waste on their reservations, which she said contradicted Native American principles of stewardship of the earth. She also proposed that America invest in alternative energy sources such as hydroelectricity, solar power, and wind power;

Whereas, These and other women helped protect our environment and our people while challenging the status quo and breaking social barriers. Their achievements inspired generations of American women and men not only to save our planet, but also to overcome obstacles and pursue their interests and talents. They join a long and proud history of American women leaders, and this month we honor the contributions of all women to our Nation; now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District join with the governors of states, city councils, school boards, U.S. Congress and the President of the United States in celebrating the extraordinary achievements and contributions of American women by observing this month of March with appropriate ceremonies and activities to honor the history, accomplishments, and contributions of all women.

Ms. Galatzan - Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month

Whereas, Every child deserves to grow up in a healthy, safe, nurturing environment free from the threats, dangers, and harmful effects of child abuse and neglect;

Whereas, Child abuse and neglect can mean the endangerment of the physical, emotional, and/or cognitive well-being of a child, which can lead to poor educational outcomes, detrimental behaviors and mental and physical illness for children;

Whereas, During periods of economic challenges, families are much more vulnerable, and the incidence of abuse increases across all segments of our society, with risk factors greater in families where the parent abuses alcohol or drugs;

Whereas, According Child Welfare Information Gateway agency, more than 1,500 children died nationally from abuse in 2006;

Whereas, At the state and national level, child abuse is considered to be one of our nation's most serious public health problems, with scientific studies documenting the link between the abuse and neglect of children and a wide range of medical, emotional, psychological and behavioral disorders such as depression, alcoholism, drug abuse, severe obesity, juvenile delinquency, and the need for special education services;

Whereas, Prevention strengthens families and is cost effective, and it is estimated that nationally, $94 billion is spent on the treatment and consequences of child maltreatment;

Whereas, The Los Angeles Unified School District has produced and, through the Health Education Programs, will distribute a Personal Safety Video for Pre-Kindergarten through 5th grade in April;

Whereas, The Child Abuse Prevention Parent Subcommittee, through the District’s Parent Collaborative, works with the “Darkness to Light” non-profit agency to train parents to become advocates for the prevention of child abuse in their community; and

Whereas, Child Abuse Prevention Month in April is an acknowledged community responsibility; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District proclaims April 2009 as Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month.
Ms. García, Ms. Flores Aguilar – Celebrating Support for our Students: Declaring March as Professional Social Work Month (For action at the Special Board Meeting of March 31, 2009)

Whereas, Social workers connect individuals, families, and communities to available resources;

Whereas, Social workers are dedicated to improving the society in which we live;

Whereas, Social workers are positive and compassionate professionals;

Whereas, Social workers stand up for others to make sure everyone has access to the same basic rights, protections, and opportunities;

Whereas, Social workers help people help themselves, whenever and wherever they need it most;

Whereas, Social workers have been the driving force behind important social movements in the United States and abroad;

Whereas, Social workers have the right education and experience to guide individuals, families, and communities through complex issues and choices; and

Whereas, A social work career is one filled with purpose and possibilities; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District recognizes professional social workers by proclaiming March 2009 as Professional Social Work Month and celebrating their commitment and dedication to individuals, families, and communities everywhere.

Ms. Korenstein – Food Drive

Whereas, Given the economic crisis that is facing our State, Counties, and Cities there is an increase in the number of homeless people as well as those vulnerable to these circumstances;

Whereas, The current unemployment rate in the State is 10.1% and growing. The unemployment rate for Los Angeles has soared to 12%. Many of people have given up looking for jobs and, therefore, are not counted in these numbers. Due to this factor, many experts are claiming that our unemployment numbers are much higher;

Whereas, There is a 25% increase across Los Angeles County of people accessing Department of Public Social Services, which include food stamps, cash aid, and homeless services;

Whereas, Only 54% of Californians who are eligible for food stamps actually receive them. In order to receive food stamps, you must be a legal resident. Due to immigration status, some families are hesitant to apply for assistance, although their US born children may qualify for services;
Whereas, The cost of essentials such as food, rent, mortgage, and gasoline has been increasing while people are experiencing wage reductions or unemployment. Many families are being forced to decide whether to buy food or pay their bills;

Whereas, Food pantries have experienced a 41% increase in demand;

Whereas, Due to the rising cost of food and of gas to deliver items, the food bank has received fewer donations;

Whereas, In 2008, 30% of the need for food assistance went unmet in Los Angeles.

Whereas, 78% of Los Angeles Unified School District students qualify for free or reduced breakfast and lunch;

Whereas, Homeless children nationally are 1.5 times more likely to perform below grade level in reading; 1.5 time more likely to perform below grade level in spelling; and 2.5 times more likely to perform below grade level in math;

Whereas, The District has 12,000 children who are homeless;

Whereas, Inadequate nutrition places children and youth at risk for increased illness and impacts their cognitive development, behavior and academic success. Without the proper nutrition, children are more likely to experience irritability, fatigue and difficulty concentrating compared to children with a proper diet. This is evidenced by grade repetition, absenteeism, tardiness, anxiety, aggression, and poor math scores; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District authorizes a Food Collection Campaign immediately to collect food for the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank (they will bring containers and pick up the food); and be it

Resolved further, that the Board directs the Superintendent to assign appropriate staff to organize and begin the Food Drive.

CORRESPONDENCE AND PETITIONS

Ms. Canter moved that the recommended disposition of the items of correspondence as indicated in the Report of Correspondence be approved. Ms. Korenstein seconded the motion, which by general consent was adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Flores Aguilar moved the approval of the following minutes of the governing board of the Los Angeles Unified School District:

10 a.m., Special Board Meeting, February 17, 2009
11 a.m., Special Closed Session, March 10, 2009

Ms. Korenstein seconded the motion, which by general consent was adopted.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Flores Aguilar moved that Ms. Marlene Canter, Member of this Board, be found absent due to hardship from the March 17, 2009, Special 10 a.m. and Special 10:30 a.m. Closed Session meetings. Ms. Korenstein seconded the motion, which by general consent was adopted. Ms. Canter and Ms. Galatzan were absent.

Ms. Flores Aguilar moved that Special Board Meetings be called on March 31, 2009, for Resolutions of Necessity at 10 a.m., and for budget consideration at 1 p.m. in the Board Room. Ms. LaMotte seconded the motion, which by general consent was adopted. Ms. Canter and Ms. Galatzan were absent.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. LaMotte moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Korenstein seconded the motion, which by general consent was adopted. Ms. Canter and Ms. Galatzan were absent.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

APPROVED BY BOARD: May 26, 2009

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MONICA GARCIA              JEFFERSON CRAIN
PRESIDENT                  EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE BOARD