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, April 14, 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 1:55 p.m.

The following Members were present: Ms. Marlene Canter, Ms. Yolie Flores Aguilar, Ms. Tamar Galatzan, Ms. Julie Korenstein, Ms. Marguerite P. LaMotte, and President Mónica García. Dr. Richard Vladovic arrived at 1:59 p.m.

Superintendent Ramon Cortines was present.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

BUDGET

OLD BUSINESS FOR ACTION

Board of Education Report No. 305 – 08/09
Adoption of Recommended Staffing Reductions for 2009-10

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

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Ms. Maria Elena Durazo, Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO
Ms. Jackie Goldberg
Hon. Felipe Aguirre, Councilman, City of Maywood
Mr. Steve Rosen, Parents of West Valley Special Education Center
Mr. Bill Ring
Ms. Ida Talalla, Greater Echo Park/Elysian Neighborhood Council
Ms. Ana Mota
Ms. Delmi Inestroza
Mr. Paul Nagle, Palisades Elementary Charter School parent
Ms. Daphne Gromich, Palisades Elementary Charter School parent
Mr. Robert Contreras
Mr. Mike O’Sullivan, Associated Administrators of Los Angeles
Mr. John Mockler
Mr. James Ream, representing the Los Angeles School Police Association, Unit A
Ms. Susan Gosman, California School Employees Association
Superintendent Cortines addressed the Board on the budget and his staffing recommendations. He discussed the impact of declining enrollment and revenues, the contribution of all District employees, options for the use of Federal stimulus and Title I funds, work with bargaining units, norm changes, reductions to central office and local district administration, support personnel, and decentralized decision making.

Ms. Reilly reviewed the strategies used to address the 2008-09 budget deficit. This deficit was addressed primarily with one-time savings and resulted in a loss of 535 filled positions. Ongoing reductions must be made to address the 2009-12 projected deficits.

The District has focused on improving instruction through small learning communities, new facilities, and smaller classes. Despite declining enrollment, these efforts have been met with success, but the District can no longer sustain the necessary staffing levels in the current economy. Employee health benefits have been a priority for the District though maintaining the current health benefits package is an investment that contributes to the projected deficit.

Ms. Reilly discussed the projected remaining deficits after the Federal stimulus funding has been considered. The majority of the Federal stimulus funding is restricted. She stated the funding must be allocated thoughtfully. If the funding is front loaded in the first year (2009-10), the District will be faced with a funding and personnel reduction “cliff” in the following years. Ms. Reilly reviewed the various funding sources being used to save jobs, including State Stabilization, IDEA, Title I, and Federal stimulus. She discussed the restrictions associated with each funding source.

Mr. David Holmquist, Chief Operating Officer, informed the Board that the District has been meeting with all of the collective bargaining units, both individually and collectively, to identify potential alternatives to reductions. To date, no agreements have been reached, but the units have agreed to continue meeting.

Ms. Reilly next discussed central office and Local District cuts. The District has focused on streamlining both the central office and Local Districts. Central office and Local District positions were reduced by 10% in 2008-09. Ms. Reilly reviewed the proposal for additional reductions in 2009-10. Additionally, the District has reduced non-essential consultant contracts and taken other cost control actions such as reducing vehicles to administrators, travel costs, facility rental expenses, and professional service contracts.

The control of resources and decision making has been conducted centrally for years, but the District has not seen the necessary academic process. For this reason, the District is decentralizing these activities in order to allow for decision making to happen closest to the students. All schools will be held accountable for their data-based decisions. Ms. Reilly reviewed the proposed class size norm changes and “out of classroom” position norm changes. She also discussed Title I and Title II allocations to schools. Schools may be able to add back positions with this categorical funding. The District is pursuing early retirement programs to help minimize the number of layoffs.
Ms. Reilly reviewed timelines and discussed the importance of having a vote on the budget at this meeting. Ms. Reilly concluded the presentation with a discussion of next steps.

Dr. Vladovic requested that Ms. Reilly report back to the Board on everything that is being done to limit actual layoffs.

Superintendent Cortines responded to questions from Board Members regarding decentralization, fiscal stabilization funds, timelines, use of Title I funds to preserve more jobs, and the difference between supplementing and supplanting school program funding.

Ms. Canter requested that the Superintendent come back to the Board with the instructional strategies that will be put forward in order to continue the academic growth within the District. She also asked that the Superintendent identify resources from the Federal Stimulus funds that can be allocated to moving the District forward without creating a huge bureaucracy.

Superintendent Cortines, Ms. Reilly, and Ms. Roberta Fesler, General Counsel, responded to questions from Board Members regarding timeline for job reinstatement, guidelines, buying back of counselor positions, allocation of funds by the legislature, classified personnel changes, expenditure restrictions for federal funds, supplement funds, supplant funds, class size reduction funding, funding amounts, and collective bargaining agreements.

After discussion and on roll call, the report was adopted, 4 ayes, 3 noes, Ms. Galatzan, Ms. Korenstein, Ms. LaMotte.

**INSTRUCTIONAL ITEMS**

MILLER SPECIAL EDUCATION VIDEO

This item was postponed.

**NEW BUSINESS FOR ACTION**

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 307 – 08/09

Ratification of the Approval of Six New Charter Schools: College Ready Middle Academy Nos. 4 and 5, Endeavor College Preparatory Charter School, Futuro College Preparatory Elementary School, Academia Moderna, and Valor Academy

Ms. Canter moved that the report be adopted. Ms. Flores Aguilar seconded the motion.

This item was held open to allow staff the opportunity to provide further information.

Later in the meeting, Mr. José Cole-Gutiérrez, Executive Director, Charter Schools Division, responded to questions from Board Members regarding the Endeavor College Preparatory Charter School application and commitment letter.

After discussion and by general consent, the report was adopted. Ms. Canter, Ms. LaMotte, and Dr. Vladovic were absent.
Ms. Korenstein moved that the reports be adopted. Ms. Galatzan seconded the motion.

Ms. LaMotte requested a written legal opinion on Board Members recusals from voting.

The following speakers addressed the Board on the report:

Ms. Judy Giller
Ms. Ellen Brown, Association of Career Educators of Los Angeles
Ms. Vera Padilla
Ms. LaToya Castillo, Lincoln High School student
Ms. Rocio Gaxiola, Cleveland High School student
Mr. Joe Tijerina
Ms. Virginia Adams
Mr. Bruce Piña

Superintendent Cortines and Mr. Ed Morris, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Adult and Career Education, commented on the elimination of career advisor position, increased workload for counselors, state funding, and Board decisions.

Later in the meeting, Mr. Jose Torres addressed the Board.

After discussion and by general consent, the reports were adopted. Dr. Vladovic was absent.

This item was withdrawn by staff prior to the meeting.

President García modified the Order of Business.

Ms. Galatzan moved the following resolution regarding 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; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Superintendent will, by no later than September 30, 2009, report the findings and recommendations of the task force to the Board.

Ms. LaMotte seconded the motion.

Ms. Beth Dymond, Studio City Residents Association, addressed the Board on the resolution.

Superintendent Cortines and Ms. Galatzan responded to questions from Board Members regarding committee formation and universality of guidelines.

After discussion and by general consent, the resolution was adopted as amended. Dr. Vladovic was absent.

Ms. Galatzan moved the following resolution regarding Child Abuse and Prevention 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 to the 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 use in 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. Canter seconded the motion, which by general consent was adopted. Dr. Vladovic was absent.

Ms. Galatzan moved a waiver of Board Rule 72 to allow action on the following resolution regarding National Volunteer Week. Ms. Canter seconded the motion, which by general consent was adopted. Dr. Vladovic was absent.

Ms. Galatzan moved:

Whereas, 61.8 million people, or 26.4 percent of the US population, volunteer annually, dedicating more than 8.1 billion hours of service to their community;

Whereas, The Los Angeles Unified School District has shown its dedication to volunteerism since the inception of the District’s School Volunteer Program in 1963;

Whereas, The District’s School Volunteer Program annually recruits, screens, trains, and places nearly 8,000 volunteers within 543 District schools serving 440,000 K-12 students;

Whereas, The average volunteer spends two to three days a week in the classroom resulting in a net worth valued at over $7,000,000;

Whereas, Utilizing volunteers can increase the longevity of some services and programs that would have otherwise been affected by the District’s budget crisis;
Whereas, Exposing our students to volunteerism will instill an appreciation for selfless service to their community; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Los Angeles Unified School District hereby recognizes the importance and value of volunteers and volunteerism during National Volunteer Week, April 19 – 25, 2009.

Ms. Flores Aguilar seconded the motion.

The following speakers addressed the Board on the resolution:

Ms. Susan Snelgrove, LAUSD School Volunteer Program
Ms. Wilda Kier, LAUSD School Volunteer Program (presented video)
Mr. Brian Williams, Think Kindness
Mr. Arlan Berglas, Pass It Forward
Mr. Justin Weiss, Pass It Forward

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

NEW BUSINESS FOR ACTION (continued)

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 318 – 08/09
Public Consideration of Bids and Approval to Sell Property in the Wilmington Area of Los Angeles

President García made the following statement:

The Board is conducting a public meeting to dispose of the Wilmington Parcel pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Board of Education on March 20, 2009, and in accordance with Education Code Sections 17466-17478. This item has been posted and published as required by statute.

Mr. Scot Graham, Director, Real Estate Branch, addressed the Board on the report.

President García announced that there was one bid and asked if there were any oral bids from the audience. There were none.

President García opened the bid and declared the bidder to be Mr. Antonio Rios and the bid amount to be $100.

Mr. Graham described the parcel.

Ms. Galatzan moved that the bid be accepted. Ms. Korenstein seconded the motion, which by general consent was adopted. Ms. LaMotte and Dr. Vladovic were absent.
BOARD MEMBER RESOLUTIONS FOR INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Ms. Canter, Ms. Galatzan – Teacher Quality: A Call to Legislators

Whereas, The Los Angeles Unified School District’s priority is providing high quality instruction to all students, and integral to that effort is quality teaching;

Whereas, Teacher quality has been proven in study after study to have a tremendous impact on student outcomes, and it is essential to the success of our students;

Whereas, In 2001, the Peer Assistance and Review Program (PAR), a joint project of the District and United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA), began assisting teachers who received a “below standard performance” on their Stull performance evaluations;

Whereas, PAR provides support to participating teachers by collaboratively setting goals and by one-on-one coaching;

Whereas, A teacher or certificated employee receives tenure and becomes a permanent employee with certain rights and guarantees after two years of probationary service with the District;

Whereas, We hear from the public, parents, students, principals and other stakeholders about assignments where a poor quality teacher is reassigned instead of dismissed or the reassignment of poor quality tenured teachers instead of dismissal, is a symptom of a flawed dismissal system;

Whereas, The retention of teachers who have received more than one “unsatisfactory” performance reviews has a detrimental impact on student learning and employee morale and limits the District’s ability to attract and retain high quality teachers;

Whereas, The District recognizes that teaching is a complex profession and provides support and professional development to teachers;

Whereas, Despite District professional development programs, like PAR, and ongoing support and professional development, some individuals may continue to receive below standard performance evaluations, but the District usually only considers proceeding with dismissal cases after a teacher has had two full years of below standard Stull evaluations;

Whereas, The California Education Code that sets forth the “causes” for which a permanent certificated employee may be terminated needs to be updated and clarified and includes outdated and irrelevant language regarding grounds for termination such as “membership in the Communist Party”;

Whereas, When school districts decide to dismiss a teacher for unprofessional conduct or consistent poor performance, state policies make the dismissal process ineffective and costly;

Whereas, When dismissing teachers, school boards must issue written charges, vote to approve dismissal, and provide teachers written notice (only in non-summer months) that they will be dismissed within 30 days, and, in the case of unprofessional conduct, provide an additional 45-days notice and, in the case of unsatisfactory performance, an additional 90 days notice;
Whereas, During the notice process for dismissal, the teacher usually remains in the classroom;

Whereas, A permanent certificated employee who receives notice of dismissal has the right under state law to request a hearing and the school board must act again to determine if the dismissal process will continue;

Whereas, A permanent certificated employee who receives notice of dismissal has the right under state law to have a full administrative hearing within 60 days, and the hearing process lasts, on average, over a year during which time the employee continues to be paid;

Whereas, Once a hearing has been requested by a permanent certificated employee, the school district no longer has the authority to dismiss the employee; authority is granted to an outside panel consisting of two educators and an administrative law judge, known as the Commission on Professional Competence (CPC) – an ad hoc panel constituted in accordance with requirements set forth in the California Education Code;

Whereas, The CPC has the ultimate authority to either dismiss or reinstate the employee regardless of the school board’s determinations; if they choose to reinstate the employee, which happens in most cases, districts are liable for all costs including those related to the teacher’s designated panel member and the employee’s attorneys’ fees;

Whereas, The CPC is made up of an administrative law judge, one member appointed by the school district and one member appointed by the teacher, both of which must be educators who have recently worked in the same subject area and grade level as the appellant;

Whereas, Given our size, it is a challenge for the District to find non-District teachers to sit on the CPC who are willing to dedicate the weeks or months needed to participate in a hearing to dismiss a peer, and the mandate that these individuals have at least five years’ experience within the past 10 years in the discipline of the employee effectively eliminates highly experienced administrators from serving on the commission;

Whereas, During the hearing process, the school district is prohibited from providing evidence to the CPC panel over four years old based on the filing date by the school board of the notice of intention to dismiss, making it challenging for the school districts to submit the historical perspective of the teacher’s performance which can create a perception that performance issues are not deeply rooted; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Governing Board of Education of the Los Angeles Unified School District directs the Superintendent to actively pursue state legislative changes that:

1. Update “causes for termination” language and define unsatisfactory performance more clearly, allowing for two consecutive unsatisfactory performance evaluations to constitute unsatisfactory performance for the purposes of dismissing permanent employees;

2. Revise the notice of dismissal period to at least 30 days and allow the school district to remove the teacher from the classroom immediately;

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3. Remove the summer moratorium on dismissal filings when the subject teacher is on track during these months;

4. Allow the school district to appoint an administrator, parent or citizen as their representative on the CPC;

5. Revise the current CPC model, such that its decisions are advisory, as is the case with the California Community College Districts, in which certificated employees are afforded a hearing before the CPC, but its decision is a recommendation back to the board, and not the final decision;

6. Allow the CPC panel to consider evidence presented by the school district related to matters which occurred more than four years prior to the date of the filing of the notice of intention to dismiss; and

7. Institute a new standard that employees not agreeing to complete hearings within a prescribed number of days would forego salary beyond that time; and be

Resolved, That these requested changes be incorporated into the District-Sponsored Legislation report adopted November 25, 2008, and that this resolution be transmitted to the appropriate State Legislators.

Ms. Canter, Ms. Galatzan – Ensuring and Supporting Teacher Quality

Whereas, Teacher quality has been proven in study after study to have a tremendous impact on student outcomes, and it is essential to the success of our students to attract, hire, and offer tenure to the best and brightest teachers;

Whereas, The California Education Code mandates that a certificated employee who has provided active service to a school district for two complete consecutive school years, shall be considered a permanent employee, referred to as “securing tenure”, upon commencement of the third consecutive year;

Whereas, In the Los Angeles Unified School District and under state law, in the absence of a deliberate decision to the contrary, teachers are automatically awarded permanent status on or before March 15 of their second complete consecutive year in probationary status;

Whereas, Granting tenure is a sign of confidence in a teacher’s abilities and affords teachers a high degree of security in their position, such that a tenured or permanent employee has a right to due process before dismissal;

Whereas, The District recognizes the teaching profession is increasingly complex and on-going professional development and support for teachers and principals are essential for student success;

Whereas, Despite ongoing support and professional development, some individuals may continue to receive below standard performance evaluations and are recommended for dismissal;
Whereas, The New York City Department of Education has created a Labor Support Unit in which retired administrators work directly with principals and teachers to provide guidance and general assistance in creating professional development and other support systems for struggling teachers;

Whereas, The New York City Department of Education created the Teacher Performance Unit to assist principals in understanding and following district policies, state laws, and collective bargaining rules in teacher dismissal cases; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District directs the Superintendent to strengthen the process by which we attract and retain the best and brightest teachers using best practices and sound research, including the District’s 2002 Teacher Quality Strategic Plan;

Resolved further, That the Superintendent perform a needs assessment and evaluation of current District teacher professional development programs, as well as programs for struggling teachers, and bring a report forward to the Board by June 9, 2009, with a strategic plan for strengthening such programs;

Resolved further, That the Superintendent consider implementing the New York Teacher Performance Unit model;

Resolved further, That the Superintendent present to the Board by June 9, 2009, a support and accountability system that ensures teacher evaluations are done effectively and in a timely manner, including a notification system for monthly email;

Resolved further, That the Superintendent ensure beginning in the 2009-10 school year by February 1 of each year, principals must affirmatively act to recommend permanent status for a teacher and that in the absence of action, non-reelection will be triggered;

Resolved further, That the Superintendent work with administrators to develop a mandatory professional development program covering the review and evaluation of non-permanent and permanent teachers and the dismissal process, as proscribed by the District and California law, and that the proposed program, including the necessary implementation resources, such as Title II funds, be presented to the Board by June 9, 2009; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Superintendent perform a needs assessment and evaluation of current resources dedicated to support principals in dismissing ineffective teachers, consider implementing models such as the NY Labor Support Unit, and bring a report to the Board by June 9, 2009, with a strategic plan for strengthening such programs.

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President García resumed the Order of Business

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NEW BUSINESS FOR ACTION (continued)

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 315 – 08/09
Resolution of Intention to Dedicate Easement at South Region
Elementary School No. 3

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 317 – 08/09
Authorization to Issue Request for Qualifications and/or Proposals to Develop
Workforce Housing and Amenities at Norwood Elementary School

Ms. Flores Aguilar moved that the report be adopted. Ms. García seconded the motion.

Mr. John Creer, Director, Planning and Development Branch, responded to questions from Board Members regarding survey of interest and increased enrollment.

After discussion and by general consent, the report was adopted. Ms. Canter, Ms. LaMotte and Dr. Vladovic were absent.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 306 – 08/09
Student Expulsions

Dr. Julio Fonseca, Coordinator, Student Discipline Proceedings Unit, responded to questions from Board Members regarding Board policy on imitation firearms.

Ms. Flores Aguilar moved that the report be adopted with the amendment to withdraw Case No. 022A – 08/09. Ms. Galatzan seconded the motion.

Dr. Fonseca responded to questions from Board Members regarding the withdrawn case.

After discussion and by general consent, the report was adopted as amended. Ms. Canter, Ms. LaMotte, and Dr. Vladovic were absent.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 321 – 08/09
Report of Warrants Issued, Request to Reissue Stale-Dated Warrants, Reimbursement of the Controller’s Revolving Cash Fund and Donations of Money

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 322 – 08/09
Special Education Annual Service Delivery and Budget Plan for 2008-09

Ms. Korenstein moved that the report be adopted. Ms. Flores Aguilar seconded the motion.
President García made the following statement:

Before action is taken on Board of Education Report No. 322 – 08/09 regarding the Special Education Annual Service Delivery and Budget Plan for 2008-09, a public hearing must be held.

This constitutes a public hearing on the report, and a maximum of 12 individuals who wish to address the Board on this item will be heard. Those who wish to speak to this report should go to the recording booth at the back of the Board Room and fill out a speaker’s card. Those individuals will be heard after any speakers already on the list.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Hon. Dan Medina, City of Gardena
Ms. Sonja Luchini
Mr. David Wyles
Ms. Zella Knight
Ms. Jacqueline Smith-Conkleton
Ms. Kirsten Shaw
Ms. Angeles Perez

Ms. Gloria Lopez, Director, Division of Special Education, and Superintendent Cortines responded to questions from Board Members regarding late application.

After discussion and by general consent, the report was adopted. Ms. Canter, Ms. LaMotte, and Dr. Vladovic were absent.

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President García modified the Order of Business.

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BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 324 – 08/09
Specific Waiver Request – Instructional Materials Funding Realignment Program “24 Month” Rule

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

CORRESPONDENCE AND PETITIONS

REPORT OF CORRESPONDENCE INCLUDING WILLIAMS/VALENZUELA SETTLEMENT UNIFORM COMPLAINT – QUARTERLY REPORT SUMMARY

President García made the following statement:

Before action is taken on the Report of Correspondence regarding the Williams/Valenzuela Settlement Uniform Complaint Quarterly Report Summary from Renee Jackson, Executive Liaison Administrator, a public hearing must be held.
This constitutes a public hearing on the report, and a maximum of 12 individuals who wish to address the Board on this item will be heard. Those who wish to speak to this report should go to the recording booth at the back of the Board Room and fill out a speaker’s card. These individuals will be heard after any speakers already on the list.

There were no speakers.

Ms. Korenstein moved that the recommended disposition of the items of correspondence as indicated in the Report of Correspondence be approved. Ms. Flores Aguilar seconded the motion, which by general consent was adopted. Ms. Canter, Ms. LaMotte, and Dr. Vladovic were absent.

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President García resumed the Order of Business.

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NEW BUSINESS FOR ACTION (continued)

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 323 – 08/09
Various Purchasing Transactions

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

BOARD MEMBERS RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION (continued)

Ms. Korenstein moved the following resolution regarding 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 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 finally

Resolved, that the Board directs the Superintendent to recommend an individual to help get the information out to the schools. The food drive will be voluntary.

Ms. Galatzan seconded the motion, which by general consent was adopted. Ms. Canter, Ms. LaMotte, and Dr. Vladovic were absent.

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President García modified the Order of Business.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

The following speakers addressed the Board on the subjects indicated:

Ms. Lyndal Johnson, Alternative Education & Work Center
Ms. Jose Loza
Mr. Victor Martinez
Ms. Carol Valentine
Mr. Samuel Marin, Venice High School student
Ms. Patricia Valdivia, Venice High School student

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

- Ms. Gloria Caro: Payroll Issues
- Ms. Maria Ortiz: Parental Involvement
- Ms. Maria del Carmen Sanchez: EL Students at Burbank MS
- Ms. Cleo Ray: African American Parent Involvement
- Mr. Andy Vizcarra: JROTC
- Ms. Leticia Infante: Lay Offs
- Mr. Lamar Queen: Lay Offs
- Ms. Nicenia Espinoza: PICS Counselors
- Ms. Ida Talalla: Environment

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President Garcia resumed the Order of Business.

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**BOARD MEMBERS RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION (continued)**

Ms. Galatzan moved a waiver of Board Rule 72 to allow action on the following resolution Declaring April 22, 2009, as Denim Day. Ms. Korenstein seconded the motion, which by general consent was adopted. Ms. Canter, Ms. LaMotte, and Dr. Vladovic were absent.

Ms. Korenstein moved:

Whereas, In 1998, an Italian Supreme Court decision overturned a rape conviction because the victim wore jeans. People all over the world were outraged and wearing jeans became an international symbol of protest against erroneous and destructive attitudes about sexual assault;

Whereas, Peace Over Violence (formerly Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women) organizes Denim Day in LA every April during National Sexual Awareness month;

Whereas, Denim Day seeks to invite public discourse and eventually to eliminate attitudes that blame victims and prevent them from seeking assistance;

Whereas, This year, Denim Day in LA will take place on April 22, 2009, and marks the 11th Anniversary of this event;

Whereas, On that day, people throughout Los Angeles will wear their jeans as a visible sign of protest against the myths that still surround sexual assault;

Whereas, Every two and a half minutes, somewhere in America, someone is sexually assaulted;

Whereas, Women neither ask for nor deserve to be raped, EVER;

Whereas, Silence does not equal consent;
Whereas, By participating in Denim Day in LA on April 22, 2009, people promote prevention through education; make it possible for more survivors of sexual assault to reach out and find help; and help men and boys to understand the critical role they play in preventing violence against women;

Whereas, This day in the schools, offices and streets of Los Angeles County, people unite against rape of girls, women, boys and men, stand in support of survivors, and break the silence to end sexual violence; now, therefore, be it

Resolved. That the Governing Board of Education of the Los Angeles Unified School District declares April 22, 2009, Denim Day and directs the Superintendent and all District staff to support activities which promote education and prevention of sexual assault.

Ms. Flores Aguilar seconded the motion, which by general consent was adopted. Ms. Canter, Ms. LaMotte, and Dr. Vladovic were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The approval of the following minutes of the governing board of the Los Angeles Unified School District were postponed to the Regular Board Meeting of April 28, 2009:

1:00 p.m., Regular Meeting, January 27, 2009
1:00 p.m., Regular Meeting, February 10, 2009
10:30 a.m., Special Closed Session, March 17, 2009
10:00 a.m., Special Meeting, March 31, 2009
11:00 a.m., Special Closed Session, March 31, 2009

ANNOUNCEMENT

The motion finding Ms. LaMotte absent from a Board Meeting was postponed to the Regular Board Meeting of April 28, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned for lack of quorum at 7:32 p.m.

APPROVED BY BOARD: June 9, 2009