



IN THE KNOW!

Lowell Joint School District

Board of Trustees: Janet B. Averill, Darin W. Barber, James A. Najera, Gayle K. Rogers, Fred W. Schambeck
Superintendent: Patricia A. Howell, Ed.D.

Highlights of the October 19, 2009, Board of Trustees Meeting

Timely Information

Holly Wolfe, of the Curriculum Department, was recognized for preparing the bulletin boards in the Board Room. The bulletin boards highlight the new English/language arts adoption.

Dr. Howell shared that Olita Elementary School hosted “A Fairy Tale Ball” for Kindergarten through third graders. The students brought their mother or father to the event and dressed in their Sunday best. The Ball was held at Rancho-Starbuck Junior High School’s multiuse room. The room accommodated all those who attended.

Reporting Out Action from Closed Session

In Closed Session this evening, the Board voted unanimously (5 – 0) to deny a claim for damages from representatives of student #810299.

Red Ribbon Week

The Board of Trustees is committed to providing the best educational system to our students. Our commitment, as Trustees, is to continue our current programs and expand our range of educational offerings to further ensure that our students will make wise, moral, and healthful decisions about their choices in life.

It was moved, seconded, and carried by unanimous roll call vote (5 – 0), to adopt Resolution 2009/10 No. 499 supporting “Red Ribbon Week,” October 23 through October 31, 2009, and authorized the Superintendent or designee to execute the necessary documents.

Availability of Textbooks and Instructional Materials for 2009/10

Pursuant to *Education Code* Section 60119, California school districts must adopt a resolution that determines steps to ensure availability of textbooks and instructional materials for the 2009/10 school year. State guidelines for adoption of the resolution include holding a public hearing.

It was moved, seconded, and carried by unanimous roll call vote (5 – 0), to adopt Resolution 2009/10 No. 500, Determining Steps to Ensure Availability of Textbooks and Instructional Materials for 2009/10, and authorized the Superintendent or designee to execute the necessary documents.

Los Angeles Committee on School District Organization

It was moved, seconded, and carried by unanimous vote (5 – 0) to select incumbents Maria Calix and Joan Jakubowski, Second Supervisorial District; and incumbent AJ Willmer, Third Supervisorial District, for membership to the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization, and authorized the Superintendent or designee to execute the necessary documents.

Submission of the 2009/10 Operations Application for the K – 3 Class Size Reduction Program

The State of California requires as a condition of applying for and receiving Class Size Reduction Operation Program funds, the Board of Trustees must annually approve and submit an application. Class Size Reduction is operated in grades Kindergarten, one, and two under Option One which is a reduced class size for the length of the instructional day, and in Kindergarten under Option Two which is a reduced class size for half of the instructional day. Income from participation in the program was included in the 2009/10 Annual Budget.

It was moved, seconded, and carried by unanimous vote (5 – 0), to approve the 2009/10 Operations Application for the K – 3 Class Size Reduction Program, and authorized the Superintendent or designee to execute the necessary documents.

2009 Parent Survey Results

Mrs. Jennifer Shepard, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, shared the results of the May, 2009 parent survey. The parent survey is completed every year and results were tallied over the summer. The results were organized into five categories: 1) Academic Preparation; 2) Parent Communication; 3) School Environment; 4) Student Behavior; and 5) Perception of the School. A total of 24 questions were asked, and the parents were to respond with “Agree, Disagree, or Do Not Know.” The results of the surveys were shared with principals and staff members to address and develop strategies of areas that may be of concern, and District results have been shared with parents. Mrs. Shepard stated that it is important to note and commend the staff members of the District that most responses are in the 90 percentile for agreement of each specific category.

Consent Calendar	<p>Approved amendment to agreement with Turfstar for the purchase of a wide area lawn mower.</p> <p>Approved Resolution 2009/10 #501 Regarding Layoff of Classified Personnel.</p> <p>Ratified the Memorandum of Understanding with Walnut Valley Consortium for the 2009/10 Beginning Teacher Support Assessment (BTSA) Induction Program.</p> <p>Approved the Memorandum of Understanding with the Fullerton School District for the 2009/10 Title III – Immigrant Education Consortium.</p> <p>Approved the agreement with Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo for legal services.</p> <p>Ratified consultant agreements with Ms. Jennifer Church and Ms. Rayanne Thorn-Trumbo to provide after-school coaching services for the 2009/10 school year.</p>
Topics Not on the Agenda	<p>Mr. Najera shared that there is still time to register for the Lowell Joint Education Foundation's upcoming fundraiser events for Saturday, October 24, and Saturday, November 7. Anyone interested may go online at www.LJEFonline.org to register for the events.</p> <p>Mr. Barber shared that he had the privilege of meeting Mr. Jack O'Connell, California's Superintendent of Public Instruction. Mr. O'Connell, while visiting school districts in the Whittier area, stayed for a meeting where the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) was discussed.</p>
Next Meeting	<p>The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on November 2, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the District Office.</p>

Complete minutes of each Board meeting are available in the Superintendent's Office for review.

We're Proud That...

- **El Portal Elementary School** is proud of **Kelly Fitzgerald** for receiving the Making the Difference award this month. We are also proud to announce our Fall Student Body Officers: **Hannah Vasquez** - President, **Tesa Indelicato** - Vice President, **Chad Hughes** - Secretary, **Hannah Butler**, **Eddie Vasquez**, and **Gilbert Andre-Duran** are our Treasurers. Lastly, we want to thank the PTA for a wonderful movie night and a Red Ribbon Week filled with fun activities.
- **Jordan Elementary School** is proud of those **students** who earned Citizen of the Month for the month of October. We would also like to thank our **PTA** for there awesome fundraiser, the Fit-A-Thon. We must also thank our office manager, **Ronnie Mayer** for creating our very own Jordan blog. Now parents are able to keep abreast of what is happening at jordanelementary.blogspot.com. We would also like to thank **Angie Hutcherson**, parent, for making a wonderful Jaguar for the front of the school.
- **Macy Elementary School** is proud of our **families** and **friends**. Recently several notices have gone out to our Macy families regarding concerns that have arisen when dropping off or picking up students in high-traffic zones, as well as, safety issues with children being escorted to their rooms by adults. The staff members applaud our families for responding so quickly and adhering to our practices and policies without complaint. **THANK YOU MACY FAMILIES!**
- **Meadow Green Elementary School** is very proud of the ten students who scored a perfect 600 on the CST mathematics test. These ten students are: **Danae Christerson, Ryan Cavanagh, Erin Fuller, Isaiah Solis, Nicole Tryon, Austin Maldonado, Solomon Ramirez, James Fernandez, Benjamin Helmer, and Victor Ruiz**. Each of these students received a math super star trophy for their accomplishment. Congratulations to our Meadow Green Math Stars!
- **Olita Elementary School** is proud of **Eddie Martinez, Pete Garcia, and Andy Jauregui** for leading the custodial team this past summer. Olita has always been a well-kept campus, but it has an extra shine after **all of the custodians'** hard work. Many thanks to **Shawn Gatewood** and the **maintenance team** for their hard work with the library renovation. They always came to help move a bookshelf or fix something in the library at a moment's notice.
- **Rancho-Starbuck Junior High School** would like to thank Board of Trustees Vice President, **Mrs. Janet Averill**, for coming and speaking to our eighth-grade students on Constitution Day and giving our students a pocket sized copy of the United States of America Constitution. We are also proud of our Students of the Month, **Philip Prohoroff, Kirstin Bishop, Garrett Kern, and Karly Miyamoto**. Congratulations to these great students.