



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 November 2, 2009, Board of Trustees Meeting

- Timely Information** Gracia Haworth, Kindergarten teacher, and Deborah Coleman, first-grade teacher, from Olita Elementary School were recognized for preparing the bulletin boards in the Board Room.
- 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 #910136.
- School Reports** Board Members shared highlights and events occurring at each of the schools.
- Establishment of December 7, 2009, as the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board of Trustees** *Education Code* Sections 35143 and 72000 require the Board of Trustees to hold an annual organization meeting each year within a prescribed fifteen-day period. For 2009, this fifteen-day period is December 4 through December 18.
It was moved, seconded, and carried by unanimous vote (5 – 0), establishing Monday, December 7, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. as the Lowell Joint School District Annual Organizational meeting to be held in the Board Room, 11019 Valley Home Avenue, Whittier, and authorized the Superintendent or designee to execute the necessary documents.
- GASB 45 Report** Andrea Reynolds, Chief Business Official, reported an update on GASB 45 to the Board of Trustees. GASB 45 is the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, Statement 45. The GASB is a private, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization which was founded in 1984 under the auspices of the Financial Accounting Foundation. GASB 45 is a nationwide accounting requirement for government agencies to disclose the actuarially determined liability for Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) in annual financial statements. The District provides post employment health, dental, and vision benefits depending upon the retirement option selected. The results of the actuarial valuation which was recently completed by an outside actuarial firm at no cost to the District through ASCIP, the District's liability insurance carrier, will be reflected in the annual audit report as prescribed by GASB 45.
- Presentation and Approval of Single School Plans for Student Achievement** Mrs. Jennifer Shepard, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, disclosed the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 requires districts to be more accountable for academic progress of all students. One of the regulations outlined in NCLB is that schools must develop a Single School Plan For Student Achievement (SPSA) each year that is approved by the local School Site Council for each school. The SPSA consolidates programs with the single target of improving academic achievement of all students with emphasis on those students most at risk of not meeting academic standards. Although State and Federal entitlements may limit how and for whom certain funds can be used, the intent is for school staff members to examine all funding sources and develop a single coordinated plan.
Mrs. Shepard presented the Single School Plans for Student Achievement as an information item only, and formal approval of the Single School Plans for Student Achievement will be requested at the December 7, 2009, Board meeting.
- Consent Calendar** Approved sale/disposal of surplus item Howard Price Hydro Power 180 wide area lawn mower.
Ratified agreement with Orange County Department of Education to provide Language Arts training for the staff of El Portal Elementary School during the 2009/10 school year.
Ratified consultant agreement with David Edwards to provide instructional computer service for the 2009/10 school year at Rancho-Starbuck Junior High School.
Ratified agreement with Mardan School, a nonpublic nonsectarian school, to provide educational services for the 2009/10 school year.
Ratified contracts with Surround Care Options effective September 1, 2009, through December 31, 2014, at El Portal and Jordan Elementary Schools.
Ratified contract with Surround Care Options effective August 1, 2009, through July 31, 2010,

Consent Calendar Continued.. at Meadow Green Elementary School.

Topics Not on the Agenda Mr. Najera shared that the Lowell Joint Education Foundation fundraising event on Saturday, October 24, was a success. Many community members attended.

Dr. Howell stated that there is time to sign up for the November 7 Lowell Joint Education Foundation 3rd Annual Turkey Trot.

Mr. Barber extended his sincere appreciation for Dr. Karen Herbst, Director of Special Education, and Mrs. Sandy Jan, Special Education secretary, for their hard work behind the scenes on confidential student matters which may not be discussed.

Next Meeting The Board of Trustees Organizational meeting will be held on December 7, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the District Office.

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 and so thankful for all of the **people** and events that take place at our school. Events like: Movie Night, Reflection Contests, Newsletters, Red Ribbon Activities, Pumpkin Carving Contest, Stacking Contests, Intervention Classes, Art Masters, Science on the Go, Fieldtrips, and the list goes on. This is the month to be thankful and we truly are for our dedicated staff, our amazing students, and their wonderful parents.
- **Jordan Elementary School** is proud of the **Citizens of the Month** for the month of November. We would like to thank all families who participated in the Chik-fil-A fundraiser. Many thanks to our **dynamic spirit squad** for our wonderful school attire this year, everyone looks great. We are also very proud of our **Safety Patrol Students** and **Green Team Students** for working so hard every day to keep our campus looking great.
- **Macy Elementary School** is proud of our busy **after-school Science Olympians**. Participating students meet each week in a program that combines class instruction and building science projects. It is the best of both worlds! The classes are led by **volunteer parents** and **teachers**. The end goal will be our Macy Science Olympiad team going to CSULA for the big 2010 Science Olympiad competition and participating in team challenges against other competing elementary schools.
- **Meadow Green Elementary School** is very proud of the following students who were winners at the school level in the PTA Reflections Contest: K-2 Grade – **Hayden Herrera**, 1st place photography; **Tristin Jelonek**, 2nd place photography; **Logan Dulken**, 1st place visual arts, **Gwendolyn Helmer**, 2nd place visual arts; **Alexis Soto**, 3rd place visual arts. Grades 3-4 – **Ryan Edwards**, 1st place photography, **Danae Christerson**, 2nd place photography, **Lizbeth Ramirez**, 3rd place photography; **Megan Aguilar**, 1st place visual arts, **Danae Christerson**, 2nd place visual arts; **Christopher Vargas**, 3rd place visual arts; **Edwin Lalama**, Honorable Mention visual arts; **Shelby Mackey**, 1st place literature. Grades 5-6 – **Mariah Marriott**, 1st place photography; **Benjamin Helmer**, 2nd place visual arts; **Carley Christerson**, 3rd place photography and 1st place visual arts, **Jacob Cronin**, 1st place literature, and **Carley Christerson**, 2nd place literature. Congratulations!
- **Olita Elementary School** is proud of all the **teachers, staff, and students** for their hard work in raising Olita's API scores. Many students were honored for their efforts by earning 400, 500, 600 and +50 cards to redeem for rewards and special opportunities. We are proud of parent, **Gina Ramos**, for planning our Fairy Tale Ball. We are proud of parents, **Cathy Sweeney** and **Elaine Carrasco**, for planning and decorating for Red Ribbon Week. The theme this year was "Don't Monkey Around with Drugs" and Olita was decorated with monkeys in every shape and color.
- **Rancho-Starbuck Junior High School** is proud of **Rancho-Starbuck's Associated Student Body (ASB)** under the leadership of **Mrs. Jacobsen** for the great first REACH assembly and Red Ribbon/Spirit Week activities. This group brings lots of spirit to our campus. We are proud of our Red Ribbon Week Bookmark winners: 7th grade – 1st place **Jasen Perez**, 2nd place **Marcel Gisinger**, 3rd place **Jacqueline Gonzalez** 8th grade – 1st place **Rozele de Padua**, 2nd place **Betsy Hosier**, 3rd place **Vedah Berekoff**.