



# 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 December 7, 2009, Board of Trustees Meeting

<b>Timely Information</b>	<p>Dr. Howell shared that Carol Bernhard, first-grade teacher at Macy Elementary School, decorated the District Office's Board Room Bulletin Board with the character education theme of "Kindness" for the month of December.</p> <p>Dr. Howell stated that Ms. Reynolds, Mr. Gatewood, and she attended a luncheon with Martha Espinoza from ASCIP, the District's property and liability insurance company, and was presented an award of \$2,000 for active participation and for referring other school districts to utilize many of ASCIP's programs.</p>
<b>Reporting Out from Closed Session</b>	None.
<b>Organization of the Board of Trustees</b>	<p>Mrs. Janet B. Averill was elected as President for 2010.</p> <p>Mr. Fred W. Schambeck was elected as Vice-President for 2010.</p> <p>Mr. Darin W. Barber was elected as Clerk for 2010.</p> <p>Dr. Patricia A. Howell was appointed as the Secretary to the Board of Trustees.</p> <p>Mr. Darin W. Barber was elected to serve on the Nominating Committee for the Los Angeles Committee on School District Organization for one year.</p> <p>Mrs. Gayle K. Rogers was elected to serve as an alternate member on the Nominating Committee for the Los Angeles Committee on School District Organization for one year.</p> <p>Approved the "Certification of Signatures" in accordance with <i>Education Code</i> Sections 35143, 42632, and 42633, for the period of December 1, 2009, to December 31, 2010.</p> <p>Adopted the schedule of regular meetings of the Board of Trustees of the Lowell Joint School District for the 2010 Organizational Year.</p> <p>Mrs. Janet B. Averill and Mr. James A. Najera were elected to serve as the two Board Members on the Board of Directors of the Lowell Joint Education Foundation.</p> <p>Mr. Fred W. Schambeck was elected to serve on the Los Angeles County School Trustees Association for one year.</p> <p>Mr. James A. Najera was elected to serve on the Whittier Area School Trustees Association for one year.</p>
<b>School Reports</b>	Board Members shared highlights and events occurring at each of the schools.
<b>Approval of District Technology Plan (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2013)</b>	The District Technology Plan for 2007-2010 will expire on June 30, 2010. A revised Technology Plan for 2010-2013 was approved to meet the December 31, 2009, deadline to continue to qualify for programs associated with the Technology Plan, such as the E-rate requirements and Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) grant.
<b>Resolution 2009/10 No. 502, Utilization of Categorical Funding Flexibility</b>	<p>Ms. Reynolds, Chief Business Official, presented that budget trailer bill (SBX3 4) gave local school agencies the authority to use the funds received from the state for Tier III programs for "any educational purpose, to the extent permitted by federal law." As a condition of the receipt of funds, the governing board of the school district is required at a regularly scheduled, open, public hearing, to take testimony from the public, discuss, and approve or disapprove the proposed use of funding. The flexibility to transfer funds from these programs is authorized for five years from the current year through 2012/13.</p> <p>A public hearing was opened at 8:05 p.m. and no questions were asked by the members of the audience. The public hearing was closed at 8:06 p.m. It was then moved, seconded, and carried by unanimous roll call vote (5 – 0) to adopt Resolution 2009/10 No. 502, Utilization of Categorical Flexibility Funds, and authorized the Superintendent or designee to execute the necessary documents.</p>
<b>Presentation of First Interim Report 2009/10</b>	<p>Ms. Reynolds, Chief Business Official, was pleased to report that the Board of Trustees will have a "Positive Certification" for the reporting period. The First Interim is required to be submitted per <i>Education Code</i> Sections 35035(g), 42130, and 42131, to the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE). A "Positive Certification" certifies that the District will be able to meet its financial obligations for the current fiscal year and subsequent two fiscal years.</p> <p>It was moved, seconded, and carried by unanimous vote (5 – 0), to submit a "Positive Certification" to Los Angeles County Office of Education, and authorized the Superintendent or designee to execute the necessary documents.</p>

<b>Intent to Terminate Worker's Compensation Membership</b>	The District would like to explore options with other Worker's Compensation Joint Power Authorities (JPAs) for both cost benefits and/or administrative benefits. This resolution is non-binding to the District. Should the District decide to join a different JPA, a binding resolution to terminate membership will be required and a subsequent resolution to join a new JPA will also be necessary.  It was moved, seconded, and carried by unanimous roll call vote (5 -0) to approve Resolution 2009/10 No. 503, Notification of Intent to Terminate Worker's Compensation Membership with Whittier Area Schools Insurance Authority Joint Powers Authority, and authorized the Superintendent or designee to execute the necessary documents.
<b>Single School Plans for Student Achievement</b>	It was moved, seconded, and carried by unanimous vote (5 – 0) to approve the Single School Plans for Student Achievement, and authorized the Superintendent or designee to execute the necessary documents.
<b>Consent Calendar</b>	Adopted Resolution 2009/10 BGT #1 – 8 for Budget Adjustments.  Ratified student teaching agreement with California State University, Fullerton, effective July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2014.
<b>Topics Not on the Agenda</b>	None.
<b>Next Meeting</b>	The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on January 11, 2010, 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...

- **The Lowell Joint School District** is proud of the **Lowell Joint Education Foundation** for providing \$2,000 grants for each school and supporting various activities for students. The District is also proud of all its **staff members** that strive each day to ensure the students of our District are given the best education possible.
- **El Portal Elementary School** is very proud of the **students** who participated in the PTA Reflections contest. We had a total of 63 entries! El Portal is also proud of all our **Perfect Attendance, Honor Roll, VIP, and Care Award students** who were all honored at our Quarter One Assembly. We are also proud of our **32 sixth graders** who entered the Daughters of the American Revolution Writing Contest. Lastly, we are proud of **Diane Clark**, school librarian, for receiving the Making the Difference Award passed from Kelly Fitzgerald for the month of October.
- **Jordan Elementary School** is proud of its **PTA** and their continued support of the school, teachers, and students. We would like to thank **Felicia Pilkington**, parent, and **Stefanie Churchick**, sixth-grade teacher, for their work with our student leadership team. Also, we would like to give a big thank you to **Julie Borsari**, fifth-grade teacher, for coordinating the Lagnaipe Club, a club for GATE and high-achieving students. We must give gratitude to **Becky King**, Kindergarten teacher, who coordinates Jordan's School Safety Team.
- **Macy Elementary School** is proud of our **Macy Student Council** for coordinating with the City of La Habra to bring in food items for "*Operation Santa*." Macy has collected over 100 cans and boxes of donated products for those in need, and we are still receiving donations.
- **Meadow Green Elementary School** is proud to be named an **Honor Roll School by the California Business for Education Excellence/Just for the Kids-California (www.cbee.org)**. This honor was bestowed upon **909** high performing schools in the state of California in 2009 for having demonstrated consistent high student academic achievement and for having made significant progress toward closing achievement gaps among all their students. This is the second year in a row that Meadow Green has received this recognition. This achievement is a testament to the hard work and relentless focus on results for students that the school staff has shown over the years. **Congratulations to the Meadow Green staff and community!**
- **Olita Elementary School** is proud to have had Ruby, the bronze turkey, come for a visit the day before Thanksgiving. Ruby who is a pet to third-grade teacher, **Mrs. Mayhew's**, sister. The students learned all about turkeys and were assured that Ruby would not ever be served for dinner. Over **61 Olita students** came out to Skate Depot for an evening of fun. We skated and danced the Hokey Pokey with nobody getting hurt! The students had a great time! We are proud of **all the students** who earned Citizen and Student of the Month for the month of November.
- **Rancho-Starbuck Junior High School** is proud of our Students of the Month: **Jasen Perez, Grant Harris, Marissa Sorensen, and Karina Klein**. Congratulations to student, **Melodie Gonzalez**, for coming in first place at the Parks Cross Country meet. We are proud of the **Rancho-Starbuck band** who auditioned for and was chosen to perform at Disneyland on January 11.

**Merry Christmas from the Board of Trustees and the Superintendent!**