



IN THE KNOW!

Lowell Joint School District

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

Highlights of the March 3, 2008, Board of Trustees Meeting

Timely Information from the Board and Superintendent

Dr. Howell shared the Board Room bulletin board was decorated by Jeannie Nichols from El Portal Elementary School and reflected the Character Education theme of "Honesty."

Dr. Howell introduced Shannon Nolte, 8th grade student, from Rancho-Starbuck Junior High School, and Jack Weir, 8th grade student, also from Rancho-Starbuck Junior High School. Shannon won the John Greenleaf Whittier Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and District X American History Essay Contest. Jack Weir, Alex Heilmann, and Danielle Posey were the runner-ups for this event. Shannon and Jack read their winning "I Spy" essays to the Board of Trustees and were awarded a Certificate of Outstanding Achievement by President Barber.

President Barber shared a TIMES magazine article titled "How to Make Great Teachers" quoting "Research suggests that a good teacher is the single most important factor in boosting achievement, more important than class size, the dollars spent per student or the quality of textbooks and materials." Mr. Barber thanked Lowell Joint School District employees for making Lowell Joint School District such an outstanding school district.

Dr. Howell also shared La Habra High School is performing 'Music Man' at the Plummer Auditorium, and 41 of the 60 cast members attended Lowell Joint School District.

School Reports

Board Members shared highlights and events occurring at each of the schools.

Nomination for 2008 Marian Bergeson Award

It was moved, seconded, and carried by unanimous vote, (5-0) that a ballot be cast to nominate Fred W. Schambeck for the 2008 Marian Bergeson Award sponsored by the California School Boards Association.

Nomination for CSBA Delegate Assembly Election

The Board of Trustees casted six votes for candidates for the 2008 California Schools Boards Association Delegate Assembly, Region 15. The candidates selected were:

- Tammie Bullard (Tustin USD)
- Shirley A. Carey (Huntington Beach City SD)
- Meg Cutuli (Los Alamitos USD)
- Matthew Harper (Huntington Beach Union HSD)
- Donna McDougall (Cypress SD)
- Esther H. Wallace (Magnolia SD)

Week of the School Administrator

It was moved, seconded, and carried by unanimous roll call vote, (5-0) to adopt Resolution 2007/08 #460 proclaiming March 3 – 7, 2008, as "Week of the School Administrator."

Report on the State Budget and Impact on the District

Dr. Howell shared the proposed State Budget and the impact it will have on the District. The Governor proposes to cut \$4.4 billion in 2008/09, to include COLA, suspending Proposition 98, reducing almost all categorical funding including special education, transportation, and class-size reduction. The impact on the District will be less funding across the board to include decreased funding for average daily attendance, 15 categorical grant programs, special education, class size reduction, special education transportation, hourly intervention programs, and deferred maintenance.

The District is being proactive by monitoring key programs and services, maximizing use of categorical restricted funds, limiting all non-essential expenditures, reducing use of substitutes and overtime for special assignments where possible, reviewing hiring for all vacant non-essential positions, identifying all future budget increases, organizing a budget and health benefits committees, and identifying all potential budget reductions.

**Presentation of
Second Interim
Report 2007/08**

Ms. Reynolds, Chief Business Official, reported to the Board of Trustees that a “Qualified Certification” was required to be submitted, per *Education Code Section 35035(g), 42130, and 42131*, to the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) for the reporting period. A “Qualified Certification” certifies that the District may not meet its financial obligations for the current fiscal year and two subsequent fiscal years. A Qualified Certification will require the District to present a Third Interim Financial Report to the Board as of April 30, 2008, by June 15, 2008. This is required to ensure the Board is aware of, and monitors, the financial condition of the District at shorter intervals due to the uncertainty of being able to maintain positive fund balances into the future.

**CONSENT
CALENDAR**

Approved the Speech and Language Pathology Waiver.

Ratified consultant agreement with Jan Jacobsen to provide art instruction to the students at Macy Elementary School for the 2007/08 school year.

Ratified consultant agreement with Patricia Marker-White to provide speech/language specialist services for the 2007/08 school year.

Ratified the Memorandum of Understanding between the Orange County Department of Education and Lowell Joint School District for the 2007/08 school year.

Ratified consultant agreement with Goodwill Industries of Orange County – Assistive Technology Exchange Center to provide assessment for two special education students for the 2006/07 and 2007/08 school years.

**Board Member/
Superintendent
Comments**

Dr. Howell shared that the Academic Excellence Day sponsored by the Lowell Joint Education Foundation is scheduled for Saturday, March 15, 2008, at Rancho-Starbuck Junior High School, and the Foundation’s Third Annual Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, March 24, 2008, at the Hacienda Golf Club in La Habra Heights.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on March 17, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the District Office.

We’re Proud That...

- **El Portal Elementary School** is proud of the new Student Council for the second semester. **Samantha Butler** is the new president, **Janelle Ono**, vice president, **Vedah Berekoff**, secretary, and **Nicole Butler**, treasurer. **Andres Owens**, **Taylor Brewer**, **Felicia Chang**, **Greg Ghigleri**, **Camden Miller**, and **Hannah Romero** are the new Cabinet Members. We are also proud of **Mary Brimmage** for receiving the Making the Difference Award passed from **Chrissy Tarbell** for the month of February.
- **Jordan Elementary School** is proud of the **29 students** who received Citizen of the Month. Jordan is proud of **Julie Roth**, **Leslie Felton**, **Krista VanHoogmoed**, **Rebecca Monnette**, and **Rachel Madigan** (fifth- and sixth-grade teachers) for preparing their students for Academic Excellence Day. We would also like to thank **Rochelle Haworth**, computer technician, for her outstanding service to the students with computers. We would like to express our great appreciation to our Room Moms and Dads who continue to support our instructional programs daily.
- **Macy Elementary School** is proud of the **Special Programs Committee** of the Macy PTA for hosting our “Fabulous Fiesta Fundraiser” night at Las Casitas on Sunday, February 17. The event was well attended and all proceeds earned that night; including funds that were made on our silent auction baskets, will go directly back to the children of Macy School. Thank you to all who made this event a reality.
- **Meadow Green Elementary School** is proud of the **78 Meadow Green students** who participated in the Meadow Green Talent Show on February 21 and 22. There were a wide variety of acts ranging from musical talent, dancing, comedy, and singing. Thank you to **Wendy Meyers**, **Gail Crabtree**, **Krista Karr**, **Martina Espinosa**, and **Mary Jane Barger** for putting on a Parent Make It – Take It Workshop at Meadow Green Elementary School.
- **Olita Elementary School** is proud to announce that Olita has received an Honorable Mention Award for the 2008 California Distinguished School Recognition Program. Special thank you to all those who worked on this project. We are also proud to announce that Olita will receive the Wonder of Reading Library Grant. This grant will support the renovation of the school library. Thank you to all those who worked on this project.
- **Rancho-Starbuck Junior High School** is proud of the **girl’s soccer team** for making it to the finals in a tournament and the boy’s **8th grade basketball team** for taking 2nd place in a local tournament. We are grateful to our wonderful PTA for the generous gift to the library. We are proud of our Rancho staff for all they do for kids all day long! We are proud that after a site visit, Rancho received certification as an AVID school. Congratulations to **Mrs. Maria Guerrero**, AVID teacher.