

TIMELY INFORMATION
FROM THE BOARD
AND
SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Bell stated “With the new year come many exciting events and programs. First our annual Academic Excellence Day is around the corner. It will be held on Saturday, February 6, at Rancho-Starbuck Intermediate School. Also in February, we will honor the winners of the Daughters of the American Revolution Essay Contest. I am pleased to let you know all of the winners were once again from Lowell Joint School District.

At our March Board meeting, we will celebrate our Classified Employee of the Year. Another event that is on the horizon is our Education Foundation’s Golf Tournament. This is scheduled for Monday, March 21st and will be held at Friendly Hills Country Club.”

Dr. Bell shared “We are preparing to distribute technology funds to all of our school sites. We just shared the allocations with the principals, along with a list of our aging teacher computers. We have asked that teacher devices that are unable to run district-required software applications and also any device that is six years or older be replaced first. The balance of the technology funds can be used to purchase other school site technology needs. The technology department is currently researching computers and should be able to provide sites with a list of equipment so that they may purchase much needed technology by the end of the month.

Another exciting event is the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed by President Obama on December 10, 2015. This bipartisan measure reauthorizes the former No Child Left Behind. ESSA has many new provisions that will affect our work. Dr. McDonald and I will be attending an all-day workshop in the next few weeks to learn about the impacts to Lowell Joint.

Also newly signed, is the Governor’s Annual State Budget. The nuances of one of the nation’s largest State budgets are currently being analyzed. We will receive information later this week, as the Association Presidents, Allison Fonti and Darleene Pullen, LJEF Bargaining Chair, Patty Jacobsen, Ms. Reynolds and myself attend School Services of California’s presentation this Thursday.

Finally, I’d like to thank Cheri Sandoval and Brooke Padilla from Olita Elementary School for the wonderful bulletin board and student work that is on display for us in the Board Room.”

SCHOOL REPORTS

Mr. Hinz shared that on Monday, January 4, 2016, Macy Elementary School students were treated to an assembly to kick off the MARS (Macy Awesome Reading Stars) Reading Program. For the next three months, students are encouraged to read 20 minutes a night. MARS is tied to the January Character Education Theme of "Goal Setting". For those students who meet the minimum goals, prizes, and pizza parties are awarded. Today, the PTA kicked off its biggest fundraiser for the year, the Macy Fun Run. Student participation was rallied at an assembly. The first grade students will take their annual field trip to Powder Canyon on January 29. Powder Canyon is in our own backyard and students will learn about the local habitat, wild life, and flora. The rangers of Powder Canyon will share the life cycles of both flora and fauna, and will specifically address rain and its impact on the canyon. The Powder Canyon field trip helps address the first grade science standards.

Mr. Barber stated that Rancho-Starbuck Intermediate School thanked the Lowell Joint Education Foundation for funding the after-school sports program at Rancho, basketball and soccer games will continue over the next two months. Students will participate in Junior Achievement through an after-school class that began on January 8. Each Friday, students gain valuable and great information on finances. The program concludes with a simulation activity at a finance park in Burbank. Selected girls will attend the American Association of University Women's annual Math and Science Conference titled "Bridges to Tomorrow" held at Cal State Fullerton on January 14. The conference focuses on careers in math and science. The next REACH assembly will take place January 29. This assembly celebrates students with good grades and citizenship. Finally, Rancho's competitive drumline has their first competition of the season on Saturday, January 30. Thank you to Supervisor Don Knabe for making this possible.

Mr. Jones reported that during the week of December 7, all students at Jordan Elementary School participated in an "Hour of Code." This is a global movement to introduce students to computer science. Teachers reported that students loved it, and want to continue learning how to code. Fourth grade Jordan student, Titus Meisch, demonstrated the true meaning of Christmas when he told his parents he wanted to help his friend who was less fortunate than him. The Meisch family, together with their church, not only provided for "Titus's friend", but gave trees to four families and gifts to six families. The Board and staff are very proud of Titus! On January 4, Jordan welcomed a new school clerk, Lisa Russell. Mrs. Russell is taking over for Mrs. Gale Davis who retired after serving Jordan for 28 years. We wish Mrs. Davis a happy and well-deserved retirement. If you don't feel like cooking on Wednesday, January 20, please join Jordan's PTA and families at Ruby's Diner at the Whitwood Mall for "Stoves on Strike."

SCHOOL REPORTS
Continued

Mr. Schambeck shared that El Portal Elementary School students worked hard to produce another outstanding holiday performance. Mrs. Likert and staff would like to thank to Mr. Schambeck, Dr. Mc Donald, and Dr. Bell for attending this annual event. The program was tremendous Mrs. Earnestine Goldstein and Mrs. Carol Dennis. The Discovery Center is coming to El Portal Elementary School to provide a lecture on the water cycle for every grade-level. The Discovery Center has aligned their materials to the Common Core Standards for each grade-level. El Portal is once again excited to be a host school for the Orange County Department of Education Guided Language Acquisition Design or GLAD training the week of January 25th. GLAD is a model professional development program in the area of language acquisition and literacy. The strategies promote English language acquisition, academic achievement, and cross-cultural skills. The training will take place in Mrs. Pinney's 3rd classroom and will be on Eco-Systems.

Mrs. Shackelford stated Meadow Green's monthly PRIDE assembly was held on Friday, January 8. Students of the Month were recognized for the character education trait of kindness. PRIDE recipients from each class were recognized for their efforts in developing and exhibiting responsibility. The focus for the month of January is goal setting. Students will be challenged to set a personal goal to track for the rest of the school year. Meadow Green is proud to announce that its STEM Lab was installed on January 4. Trash 4 Teaching (T4T) came out for the day to assist the students in building the lab. Funds from the Lowell Joint Education Foundation and the Cheesecake Fundraiser were used to support this venture. Meadow Green School will again be participating in "The Great Kindness Challenge Week" during the week of January 25, 2016. The Great Kindness Challenge is one week devoted to performing as many acts of kindness as possible on campus and is a proactive and positively powerful anti-bullying tool. An informational flyer will go home to explain the week and suggest activities families can do to support the cause. There will be an Imagination Machine assembly held on January 29, 2016. Students wrote stories which the actors, from the Imagination Machine Company, will turn into short performances.

Mr. Jones reported that on Wednesday, January 13, Olita's 4th grade classes will be visiting the San Juan Capistrano Mission. This is always a great way for students to learn how the missions played a critical role in California's history. Students will see how they lived and learn about the importance of the work that was done for our great state. On Friday, January 15, the 5th graders will be traveling to Riley's Farm in Oak Glen. They will see war reenactments and learn about the heroes from the Revolutionary War. With any luck, they will also get to try a bite of the famous apple pie for which the area is known. Crazy for Chemistry is coming to Olita! On Wednesday, January 20, the PTA is sponsoring an assembly where students will learn how the foundations of chemistry are used in everyday life. Students will get to see experiments and learn how properties work with each other.

SUBMISSION OF
WILLIAMS LITIGATION
SETTLEMENT –
QUARTERLY UNIFORM
COMPLAINT REPORT
FOR QUARTER
OCTOBER 1 –
DECEMBER 31, 2015

It was moved, seconded, and carried by unanimous vote (5 – 0) to approve the submission of the Williams Litigation Settlement – Quarterly Uniform Complaint Report for Quarter October 1 – December 31, 2015, reflecting zero complaints to the Los Angeles County Office of Education and the Orange County Department of Education, as attached, and authorized the Superintendent or designee to execute the necessary documents.

UPDATED/REVISED
BOARD POLICIES

As the District updates/revises current Board Policies regarding Goals for the School District (BP 0200); School Plans/Site Councils (BP 0420); Volunteer Assistance (BP 1240); and Student Records (BP 5125) with current regulations and procedures, it is imperative to disseminate updated information. The proposed updated/revise Board Policies have been shared with representatives of the certificated and classified employee groups and administrators.

Further input is welcome and the revised Board Policies will be included on the February 1, 2016, Board agenda for second reading and approval.

PRESENTATION OF
INDEPENDENT AUDIT
REPORT 2014/15

Education Code Section 41020.3 requires that by January 31 of each year, the governing body of each local education agency shall review, at a public meeting, the annual audit of the local education agency for the prior year, any audit exceptions identified in that audit, the recommendations or findings of any management letter issued by the auditor, and any description of corrections or plans to correct any exceptions.

Ms. Reynolds reviewed the 2014/15 Independent Audit Report with the Board of Trustees, which was administered by Quezada, Wong, & Associates, Inc., Certified Public Accountants, and reported that there were no audit findings or recommendations, therefore no corrective actions were required. There are two phases of testing once during the spring and the other during the fall/winter. The District is in compliance with State and Federal laws, regulations, and guidelines.

EDUCATOR
EFFECTIVENESS
GRANT

Dr. Sheri McDonald, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum/Instruction, shared that the Educator Effectiveness Grant authorized under Assembly Bill 104, Section 58 (Ch. 13/2015) as amended by SB 103, Section 8 (Ch. 324/2015) provides funding to school districts for the following:

1. Beginning teacher and administrator support and mentoring,
2. Coaching and support for teachers identified as needing improvement or additional support,
3. Professional development for teachers and administrators aligned to state standards, and
4. Promotion of educator quality and effectiveness.

Dr. McDonald further shared that the funds are allocated on the basis of an equal amount per certificated Full Time Equivalent as reported in CALPADS for the 2014/15 fiscal year. For the District, the allocation is \$207,367.

As a condition of receiving Educator Effectiveness funds, the District is required to:

- Develop and adopt a plan delineating how funds allocated pursuant to this section will be spent.
- Report detailed expenditure information to the California Department of Education (CDE) on or before July 1, 2018, including, but not limited to, specific purchases made and the number of teachers, administrators, or paraprofessional educators that received professional development. The State Department of Education shall determine the format for this report.

The plan is intended to address identified needs within the District. As such, actions developed within the LCAP to meet District Goals and State Priorities that align with the criteria for the Educator Effectiveness Grant have been identified and prioritized for the professional development plan, as attached.

The Educator Effectiveness Grant is presented for first reading/information and will be brought back on the February 1, 2016, meeting for second reading and adoption.

CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved, seconded, and carried by unanimous vote, (5 – 0), to approve/ratify the following items, under a consent procedure.

PURCHASE ORDER
REPORT 2015/16 #6

Approved Purchase Order Report 2015/16 #6, which lists all purchase orders issued November 21, 2015, through December 22, 2015.

Warrant Listing Report
2015/16 #6

Approved Warrant Listing Report 2015/16 #6, which lists all warrants issued November 7, 2015, through December 28, 2015.

Employer-Employee
Relations/Personnel
Report 2015/16 #6

Ratified Employer-Employee Relations/Personnel Report 2015/16 #6, as attached, which includes hiring, resignations, contract adjustments, and retirements for certificated, classified, and confidential employees.

Approval of Consultant
Agreement with
Mr. John Watanabe to
Provide After-School
Coaching Services for
the 2015/16 School Year

Ratified the consultant agreement with Mr. John Watanabe to provide after-school coaching services for the 2015/16 school year, at the amount of \$700.00, not to exceed \$1,400.00, to be paid from monies secured by the Lowell Joint Education Foundation donation, and authorized the Superintendent or designee to execute the necessary documents.

Approval of Consultant
Agreement with
Mr. Roman Pagano to
Provide After-School
Coaching Services for
the 2015/16 School Year

Ratified the consultant agreement with Mr. Roman Pagano to provide after-school coaching services for the 2015/16 school year, at the amount of \$700.00, not to exceed \$1,400.00, to be paid from monies secured by the Lowell Joint Education Foundation donation, and authorized the Superintendent or designee to execute the necessary documents.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
COMMENTS

Dr. Bell shared that she will be performing her civic duty at the Superior Court on Tuesday, January 12. Dr. McDonald and Ms. Reynolds will be in the office.

Mr. Schambeck and Mr. Hinz shared that the evening of the Holiday performance at El Portal and Macy had threatening clouds with a few sprinkles, thankfully the performances continued.

DJOURNMENT

President Jones declared the meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m. in accordance with Government Code Section 54956.9 (a, b, c) and indicated no further public action would be taken.

Clerk/President/Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Date Approved:
