MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE
LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

March 4, 2020

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Long Beach Unified
School District, County of Los Angeles, California, was held in the
Community Room of the Administration Building at 1515 Hughes Way,
Long Beach, California, on March 4, 2020.

Present: Members Benitez, Craighead, Kerr, Meyer, and Williams
        Student Member Guillermo Molina, Sato Academy of Math & Science

Absent: None.

Call to
Order

President Williams called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. in Room 464.

Closed
Session

President Williams announced that the Board would be considering Items 4, 5, 7
and 11 as listed on the Closed Session agenda.

Call to
Order

Having completed the Closed Session, President Williams called the Open
Session meeting to order in the Community Room at 5:00 p.m. with the Pledge of
Allegiance, led by Student Member Molina.

Report of
Closed
Session

President Williams reported that the Governing Board had been meeting in Closed
Session regarding matters listed on today’s Closed Session agenda and wished to
announce that no reportable actions were taken in Closed Session.

Public
Hearing

CSEA
Bargaining
Proposal to
LBUSD

President Williams announced the Public Hearing regarding the Adoption of the
Initial Bargaining Proposals from the California School Employees Association
(CSEA), Chapter 2, Units A and B, to the Long Beach Unified School District.

There were no speakers and the hearing was declared closed.

LBUSD
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President Williams announced the Public Hearing regarding the Adoption of Initial
Bargaining Proposals for the California School Employees Association (CSEA),
Chapter 2, Units A and B, from the Long Beach Unified School District.

There were no speakers and the hearing was declared closed.

Call for
Agenda
Items/
Adopt
Agenda

President Williams asked if Board Members had any items listed on the agenda for
separate action.

Chris Steinhauser, Superintendent of Schools, asked that Item #20, Staff Report,
be moved to right after #18, Communications.

It was moved by Member Benitez that the agenda be adopted with the noted
change.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with all five members participating in
the vote.
Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Member Craighead that the minutes of February 20, 2020 be approved as written.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with all five members participating in the vote.

Communications

Member Meyer recognized Ray Sharp for his 27 years of dedicated service to the district.

Staff Report

Jill Baker, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, is pleased with the collaborative efforts with the city around Census 2020 and how we are sharing the impact of the Census with our community. She thanked all the district staff that have contributed in the efforts as it takes a team to disseminate this information. She is grateful to have the partnership of Julian Cernuda, Manager of the Census Program, and Kevin Jackson, Deputy City Manager.

Mr. Cernuda acknowledged the challenges and barriers that need to be overcome to make sure we get a complete count. They have been canvassing hard-to-count areas of the city in order to identify low visibility housing, such as garage units or granny flats, etc. As this is the first time ever going digital with the Census, in addition to the privacy concerns, they are working on the digital gap that exists in the city. There is still anxiety and uncertainty within the immigrant communities around the citizenship question. Lastly, he shared that there is a loss up to $2000 per person for those not counted, thereby Long Beach residents will not get fair representation and will receive less funding for important programs.

Kevin Jackson, Deputy City Manager, stated that they are excited to implement what they have been planning for the past several months. He reiterated the City's commitment with monetary resources and staffing towards a successful Census. They have created the Complete Count Committee comprised of 40 organizations from a variety of sectors, and have created a vision and mission statement, along with a strategic plan. The district and CSULB have interns and service learning students working in the City's Census office. Lastly, Mr. Jackson shared that the city will have approximately 37 information kiosks throughout the city.

Dr. Baker shared the potential impact for the district, giving specific examples of loss of funding that supports all families in housing, health and nutrition, both during the school day and after school as well. She also noted that every school will be set up so that families will be able to complete the census there.

Quentin Brown, Program Administrator, Office of the Deputy Supt. of Schools, shared information on the teacher and administrator engagement piece. Resources, materials and activities have been shared with all grade levels. He gave special thanks to the Association Student Body(s) of not only the high schools, but middle and some elementary schools as well, for their work on the campus campaigns.
Mr. Cernuda shared that a Census Launch event is planned for April 2, 9:00-11:00 a.m. at Renaissance High School.

Hearing of Public Testimony

President Williams asked if there was anyone present who wished to address the Board on matters of school district business listed on the agenda.

There was no reply.

Hearing of Public Testimony

President Williams asked if there was anyone present who wished to address the Board on matters of school district business not listed on the agenda.

Amber Va, former student, spoke regarding the termination of a teacher.
Nariv Hernandez Herrera, Sato Academy, spoke regarding Engineering Day.
April, former student, spoke regarding the termination of a teacher.
Michaela Hoover, former student, spoke regarding Poly alumni.
Lan Nguyen spoke regarding concerns with Poly students.
Kevin Melvin spoke regarding Poly HS.
Juvonne McNeill spoke regarding injustice and unnecessary violence.
Estefania Gallo spoke regarding concern for student safety.
Thandizar Easley spoke regarding Poly HS.
Jordan Wynne spoke regarding Poly HS.

Personnel

Member Meyer presented the Certificated and Classified Recommendations, prepared by the Deputy Superintendent of Education Services, Human Resource Services, and approved and recommended by the Superintendent.

It was moved by Member Meyer that the Certificated and Classified Recommendations of the Deputy Superintendent of Education Services, Human Resource Services, be approved and authorized.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with all five members participating in the vote.

Instruction Report

Member Craighead moved approval of the Instruction Report.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with all five members participating in the vote.

Finance Report A

Member Kerr moved approval of the Finance Report A.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with all five members participating in the vote.

Finance Report B

Member Meyer moved approval of the Finance Report B.

Member Kerr recused herself and stated that she has a potential financial interest under Government Code 1091 and 87100, as her husband works for a subcontractor who has done work for these payees.

The motion carried. The vote passed 4-0-1 with Member Kerr abstaining.
| **Business Report** | Member Kerr moved approval of the Business Report.  
                          The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with all five members participating in the vote. |
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| **Purchasing & Contracts Report** | Member Meyer moved approval of the Purchasing & Contracts Report.  
                          The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with all five members participating in the vote. |
| **Superintendent's Items** | The Superintendent of Schools, presented the following recommendation:  
                          That the Board of Education approve the readmit for Student #740.  
                          It was moved by Member Kerr that the Recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools be approved and authorized.  
                          The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with all five members participating in the vote. |
| **Unfinished Business** | None. |
| **New Business** | Member Craighead moved approval of the Adoption of the Initial Bargaining Proposals from the California School Employees Association (CSEA), Chapter 2, Units A and B, to the Long Beach Unified School District.  
                          The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with all five members participating in the vote.  
                          Member Benitez moved approval of the Adoption of Initial Bargaining Proposals for the California School Employees Association (CSEA), Chapter 2, Units A and B, from the Long Beach Unified School District.  
                          The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with all five members participating in the vote.  
                          Member Craighead moved approval of the Board Meeting Schedule.  
                          The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with all five members participating in the vote. |
                          Yumi Takahashi, Chief Business & Financial Officer, stated that this is the second look at our revenues and expenditures for the year. She thanked the fiscal team for their hard work on this report. They are recommending a positive certification indicating that the district can meet its financial obligations this year and the next two years. There was a modest increase to the ending balance previously shared, and is now at $237 million. |
Deficit spending will continue, approximately $14 million next year, due to continued declining enrollment and increased costs to the retirement systems. We await the Governor’s May revise for more clarity in the area of special education.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with all five members participating in the vote.

Ruth Ashley, Deputy Superintendent of Education Services, stated that we are in the heart of phase two with public outreach, conducting community forums and the online thought exchange. The application deadline is March 9th and the Advisory Committee will meet on March 16th to review the applications.

Ms. Ashley shared common themes that have come out of the community forums and the district stakeholder groups. The top theme of what they want to see in the next superintendent is equity, recognizing that our schools are very diverse and that the district values inclusive and equitable practices. Secondly, there’s a lot of comments with regards to students with special needs. They also want someone who knows the budget, though they recognize that the district is not in a financial crisis. Lastly, someone who leads with respect, integrity and stability.

Student Member Molina stated that he is a senior at Sato Academy of Mathematics and Science, is the secretary of the student council and is heavily involved in health occupation related clubs on campus, as well as an intern for the Public Information Office. He is starting a composting program on campus with the help of the school’s green team and the support of the biomedical innovations teacher. Sato has provided him numerous opportunities both inside and outside the classroom to gain essential leadership and life skills to benefit him in college and in the future.

Although it’s a small campus, there is so much Sato offers its students, and the teachers and staff there have always been kind and supportive. He feels fortunate to go to such an inclusive school that has given him the opportunity to feel equal to his peers. He knows Sato and the district have prepared him well for a successful future, and he is excited to take charge of his life and make a lasting impact in the world.

Member Kerr thanked those who have come out to share publicly at the forums and those that have reached out to her regarding the superintendent search. She congratulated Dr. Jill Baker, who was honored by the Mayor’s Fund for Education, along with other education superstars.

Ms. Kerr reported on the Young Gifted and Talented event and the new fitness center donated by UCLA at Hughes, the Cal State Long Beach Step event, where the Franklin Step Club participated, and the Poly production of Hairspray. She is grateful for all the hard work of folks every day and our students and families.

Member Benitez commented on the budget related decisions that impact the funding for our schools. He enjoyed the event with the Californians for Justice.

Dr. Benitez thanked the speakers and he assured them that he is listening. He encouraged them to keep engaging to ensure that their voice translates into
concrete actions and steps, as we are all interested in productive dialogue. We all have a vision around humanity, social justice, inclusion, fairness, compassion and caring.

Member Craighead echoed the sentiment that it is tough to listen without being able to engage and let the speakers know that they care, are listening and that their opinions are meaningful. The Board sets out to offer the same opportunities to everybody, no matter where you come from, what your background is, who you know, who your parents are and who they know, or what they've done.

Ms. Craighead also congratulated Dr. Baker on her recognition, and reported on the Black History Month celebration at the Administration Building, the math night and book fair at Gompers, the STEM Career Conference of the AAUW, where 250 middle school female students participated, Read Across America and a drum circle ceremony at Los Cerritos ES.

Member Meyer recognized Mona Merlo, principal at Sato Academy in the audience. The Wilson Town Hall on February 24th was quite a success, and he thanked Ms. Ashley and all the staff for being there to support him. Some parents spoke and they were listened to very carefully and he believes things are going well.

Mr. Meyer also reported on the Black History Month celebration and Dr. Baker’s recognition. He was at Fremont ES for the Saturday Program and it went very well. He thanked the Superintendent and the Board for this pilot program.

President Williams congratulated David Zaid, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, and his staff, for the phenomenal teacher and administrator workshop. It really makes a statement about this district and the interest people have in working here.

Dr. Williams thanked the Black History Celebration Committee for putting together a program that had great impact, given all the things that we’re having to deal with right now. Looking at it from a 16 year lens of being involved in this district, to see what we’re doing with respect to equity and inclusion versus what he doesn’t see across the United States in other districts. He has seen a lot of movement in this district in terms of programs, in terms of hard messages, training to speak to the issue of inclusion and the work that our administrators are doing, these are hard subjects to address. We've done a lot of good things here and we continue to do a lot of good things in this district, people need to really appreciate and understand that work.

Superintendent Steinhauser thanked Millikan HS for hosting NBC News earlier in the day. NBC News is working on a documentary regarding the district’s SAT preparatory program to bring equitable practices for all students. The story is to be aired in May.

Mr. Steinhauser shared that the Saturday Program will commence the following Saturday at 16 schools. The District will collect data and do a cost analysis on the program.
Lastly, Mr. Steinhauser shared an article published by Education Week on equity issues. The story highlights the District’s math program, and how our district prepares more young people to great programs and into colleges of their choice. It makes you really proud of what everybody does every day. This is not a perfect system, but this is a system that is striving to become great. To the students, he cannot thank them enough for what you do each and every day to push us and we'll just continue to strive to do our best for everyone.

Member Kerr invited everyone to the next Harmony Project concert taking place on March 7 at Poly HS.

President Williams thanked Deputy Superintendent Ashley for her work on the Superintendent Search.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Williams adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 in the Administration Building, 1515 Hughes Way, at 5:00 p.m.

Leticia Rodriguez
Assistant Secretary