

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
**Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District**

**SPECIAL MEETING ORDER OF BUSINESS**

333 South Beaudry Avenue, Board Room

1 p.m., Thursday, June 29, 2006

**Roll Call**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Board Member Resolution**

1. Ms. Korenstein, Ms. LaMotte, Mr. Lauritzen – Opposition to A.B. 1381 (Waiver of Board Rule 72) **ADOPTED AS AMENDED**

Whereas, Over the past five years, student achievement within the Los Angeles Unified School District has improved at a rate that outpaces California public schools' average improvement by an impressive 150%;

Whereas, The first of students to have completed elementary school during this period of improvement are just now entering secondary schools, and because of this strong foundation, will undoubtedly lift the test scores and graduation rates in our secondary schools;

Whereas, Any plan to accelerate the pace and widen the breadth of educational transformation must have the full participation of parents, students, teachers, administrators, and all relevant stakeholders if it is to support and build upon current gains;

Whereas, The democratic process, as such, is an essential and necessary component in providing stakeholder involvement in school improvement, allowing those most affected by such efforts to elect the individuals that best represent them and their interests;

Whereas, The plan for changing the governance structure of the District enumerated in A.B. 1381 was formulated by a handful of individuals behind closed doors to the exclusion of many key stakeholder, with no participation by parents, students, classroom teachers, administrators, the elected Members of the Board of Education, elected officials in the 26 cities outside of Los Angeles that the District serves, the majority of bargaining units representing District employees, and the general public;

Whereas, A.B. 1381 embodies an exclusionary style of governance, concentrating authority over educational practices, priorities, and the District budget in the executive offices of the Superintendent, and grants the Superintendent full authority over all contracts, all litigation, and the entire \$19 billion school construction program, thus deliberately removing fiduciary oversight from the elected Board of Education and the public;

Whereas, Tough proponents of A.B. 1381 state it is meant to increase local control, the bill actually diminishes local control by weighing the Mayor of Los Angeles' voting power on the proposed Council of Mayors, to 80%, thus enabling one city's interests to trump the interests of 26 other cities and structurally guaranteeing conflicts of interest around budget and land-use decisions, given the often distinct priorities of municipalities and school districts;

Whereas, Local control, as a fundamental tenant of responsive, representative government, is further diminished in A.B. 1381 by removing the Board of Education's ability to adjust budgets based on the specific needs of their constituents;

Whereas, Proponents of A.B. 1381 state is meant to increase accountability, the bill actually lessens accountability by removing deliberations involving billions o dollars from the sunshine of public hearings, allowing the Superintendent to make these determinations outside the purview of the Board and the protocols of the Brown Act;

Whereas, In an attempt to involve other stakeholder groups, A. B. 1381 actually decreases accountability by identifying and creating several distinct governance bodies, each with some involvement in budgetary and policy decisions, but only by way of vague or otherwise contradictory lines of authority, thereby dramatically weakening the public's ability to hold such entities accountable;

Whereas, Proponents of A.B. 1381 state it is meant to improve student achievement and is modeled after Mayoral takeover of other school districts in which academic gains have not be substantiated; and

Whereas, The Joint Presidents' Commission of LAUSD Governance has spent an entire year reviewing and deliberating on best practices for school governance, and recently passed motions in against mayoral involvement in the hiring and firing of the District's Superintendent and in support of the democratic principle that "any fundamental change to the District governance must be approved through the electoral process by a vote of the people who live within District service boundaries; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Governing Board of Education of the Los Angeles Unified School District reaffirms its strong opposition to A.B. 1381 and any similar legislation that bypasses the District electorate in seeking changes to school district governance; and be it

Resolved further, That the Board, on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of students and parents it serves and the millions of stakeholders it represents, demand that the public and all relevant stakeholder groups be included, through formal and informal processes, both electoral and otherwise, in any current or future decision to fundamentally change school governance within the District.

## **Announcements**

## **Adjournment**

Please note that the Board of Education may consider at this meeting any item referred from a Board Meeting five calendar days prior to this meeting (Education Code 54954.3(b)(3))

The Board of Education may also refer any item on this Order of Business for the consideration of a Standing Committee of the Board of Education which meets on the Tuesday or Thursday immediately after this meeting.

Members of the public who wish to address the Board regarding items on this agenda should contact the Board Secretariat in person or by calling (213) 241-7002 or toll free (877) 772-6273 prior to 10 a.m., the day of the meeting to determine if they may be added to the speakers' list. Requests for disability related modifications or accommodations shall be made 24 hours prior to the meeting to the Board Secretariat.

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Please note that if you are being compensated for speaking before the Board or with a Board Member or other District staff – as a salesperson, vendor, advocate, lobbyist, lawyer, or even concerned citizen, you may be required to register as a lobbyist with the LAUSD Ethics Office (check [www.lausd.net/ethics](http://www.lausd.net/ethics) or call (213) 241-1814).