

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

AUGMENTED SCHOOL SAFETY, STUDENT HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE NOTES
333 South Beaudry Avenue, 1st Floor – Board Room
10:00 a.m., Thursday, October 27, 2005

Board Members Present:

Ms. Julie Korenstein, Chairperson
Ms. Marguerite P. LaMotte, Member
Mr. Jon Lauritzen, Member
Mr. David Tokofsky

External Advisors Present:

None

Staff Present:

Mr. Dan Isaacs, Chief Operating Officer
Mr. Larry Manion, Police Chief (Interim), Los Angeles School Police Department
Mr. Mike Bowman, Deputy Chief (Interim), Los Angeles School Police Department
Ms. Michelle King, Assistant Superintendent, Student Health and Human Services
Mr. Bob Spears, Office of Emergency Preparedness
Ms. Carol Truscott, Magnet Program
Ms. Sharon Curry, Local Superintendent, District 3

The meeting convened at 10:12 a.m.

LAUSD AWARDED THE WASTE WISE SCHOOL DISTRICT PARTNER OF THE YEAR
BY THE U.S. ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) – ITEM 1

Chairperson Julie Korenstein announced that the Los Angeles Unified School District, Office of Environmental Health and Safety, has been selected as a School and School District Partner of the Year by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with the WasteWise School District Partner of the Year for its achievements in asserting the importance of waste reduction in its schools. Our District is one of only ten organizations receiving this award and has won it for four consecutive years. LAUSD recycles a wide variety of materials, including paper, food

scraps, and electronics. In 2004 LAUSD diverted 70,000 tons of waste from landfills amounting to \$3.1 million, which go into the classroom. Chairperson Korenstein publicly thanked Ms. Soe Aung and Mr. Doug Santos for their diligent work within the Office of Environmental Health and Safety.

Chairperson Korenstein acknowledged Assistant Superintendent Michelle King, for receiving the Presidential Citation Award on behalf of the Los Angeles Unified School District, from the American School Health Association. This award is given to school districts, which have made a commitment to improving the health and achievement of students by implementing school health programs. Assistant Superintendent Michelle King made comments regarding receiving this award. Ms. King reported that our District is working very hard in having a collaborative council with the County, Department of Health and the American Cancer Society. Within the District, the Student Health and Human Services is working closely with Physical Education, Health Education and Food Services to come together to discuss coordinating approaches for our students to achieve health academic education. She reported that the District currently has several pilot programs and working to introduce five new pilot programs.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS UPDATE – ITEM 2

Mr. Bob Spears, Office of Emergency Preparedness, gave a presentation on what his office has accomplished in the last two years to better prepare the schools in an emergency. His presentation included the four phases of Comprehensive Emergency Management: Recovery, Mitigation, Response and Preparedness. Mr. Spears reported that the goal of the Emergency Office is to give the schools procedures, training and supplies before an emergency takes place. He noted that it is understood among all management that the work done before an emergency is the most important and cost effective; therefore, the main focus of the District is on mitigation of hazards and the preparation of services.

Mr. Spears reported that the Office of Emergency Services is located within the Office of Environmental Health & Safety. The cooperation between the two groups has advanced the significance of both offices and increased District preparedness and response. Office of Emergency Services has provided training for schools, parent-groups, associations and employee groups, and has partnered with other outside groups. They have worked with Risk Management to produce the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan, used to identify schools on earthquake, flood plains and other hazards and have partnered with L.A County. Mr. Spears presented pictures of emergency supplies that are provided to schools, emergency supply containers, portable water containers to supply each person with water for three days, first aid kits, search and rescue kits, and miscellaneous items such as assorted ropes, etc.

As part of the emergency training, Mr. Spears informed the Committee that schools are asked to administer at least two district-wide drills each year in addition to the mandatory fire drills and drop drills. These drills allow the schools to practice the drills they will need for emergencies. Mr. Spears recognized Mr. George Silva, of the District's Purchasing Department, and reported they now stock an increase of emergency material that schools need for emergencies. Mr. Spears also announced that the Los Angeles County produced family emergency planning material in twelve different languages that are used in schools. Mr. Spears also reported that the National Weather Bureau has supplied schools with Noah Alert radios that can broadcast weather alerts as well as Amber Alerts. Mr. Spears announced that Garrett Metal Detectors Company gave permission to the District to use their training videos for daily searches.

Mr. Spears spoke on the emergency procedures of the Local District Offices as well as the District wide procedures. He reported that a main District Emergency Operations Center is located on the second floor of the School Police Department. It is equipped with a wide-area fiber optic network and two backups, one on the 24th Floor of the Beaudry and another in a dedicated site at Birmingham High School. It will soon be electronically connected to the City's emergency operation so we can share information and the city can assist the District and the District can assist them if needed. Mr. Spears spoke on the emergency communications pager system and radios, LAUSD AND LASPD networks, and KLCS broadcast capabilities.

Mr. Spears responded to questions made by Committee Members on additional supplies on hand and cell phone use overriding frequencies during an emergency and whether or not LAUSD serves independent cities surrounding the City of Los Angeles. Board Member Jon Lauritzen suggested we periodically send out memos alerting the press that we do not release students from school to anyone other than parents or guardians during an emergency. Mr. Spears described the Master Mutual-Aid Plan, which means even though we are physically located inside of Los Angeles City; we are within Los Angeles County and interface with each of these agencies. The District has a seat in the City's Emergency Operation Center and we have strong direct ties with the County.

Committee Members commented on the positive work of the Emergency Services. Mr. Spears responded to the inquiry made by Committee Member Jon Lauritzen with assurance of whether or not the District had equipment for the chemical materials used at schools.

Board Member David Tokofsky recommend that our Emergency Services send a letter to the city and county making them aware of our enactment of the Safe School Plan throughout our district, asking them to also be aware of needs of children during a crises. Chairperson Julie Korenstein also stated that independent charter schools need to know their responsibilities to their children to have a safety school plan with water supplies, emergency supplies, etc., during a crises. During the discussion, Ms. Katrina Campbell, Office of the General Counsel, noted that for associated charters, we would have the responsibility of providing for students during an emergency.

Augmented School Safety, Student
Health and Human Services, and
Human Relations Committee

Acting Chief of Police Larry Manion commended the Emergency Services Staff and recounted his attendance at a conference with 14,000 of his law enforcement peers, where it was announced that Los Angeles Unified School District was second to none in Emergency Services Preparedness. Mr. Isaacs announced that Mr. Spears has spent 30 years as a Fire Chief in the Fire Department.

Mr. Spears responded to questions by Board Member David Tokofsky regarding emergency personnel and school emergency cards.

RECONVENING OF HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION – ITEM 3

Ms. Carol Truscott introduced Ms. Sharon Curry, who will replace her in the Office of Student Integration Services as Assistant Superintendent.

Ms. Truscott presented the Human Relations Commission Instructional Equity Plan of September 8, 2005 and also recognized individuals in the audience who have worked collectively towards the effort of reconvening this commission.

Ms. Truscott read the Vision Statement and Mission Statement. She stated the five goals: 1) To coordinate and promote positive human relations District wide, 2) To develop every student's capacity to maintain a positive self-concept and to develop positive interpersonal relationships toward others, 3) To develop strategic alliances and partnerships with community entities that support the promotion of positive human relations, 4) To identify and provide appropriate resources to enhance the ability of the District and individual schools to address human relations issues proactively and with a coordinated response when incidents occur, and 5) to identify and evaluate social and demographic trends as they impact the District's ability to provide an equitable education for all students. Ms. Truscott's presentation included the staffing and budgetary implications of the commission.

Discussions were held with the Committee, Ms. Truscott and the public speakers. Speaker Robin Toma responded to Committee Member LaMotte regarding implementing curriculum to the commission, and training for teachers, administrators and parents. Mr. Toma mentioned that the U.S. Justice Department will be part of the partnership between LAUSD, Los Angeles County and the City of Los Angeles in determining crises response in are area. Ms. Truscott responded to questions made by Board Member Tokofsky on the teaching of Life Skills to students. Committee Members each commented on where the funding would come from for the first phase of the commission and what the curriculum will be for Life Skills and Health.

This report is anticipated to return for Receipt at the Regular Board of November 15, 2005 with a final vote at the November 22, 2005 Regular Board meeting.

SPEAKERS

Robin Toma, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission, spoke on the importance of the commission's structure and its financial resources.

Rabbi Freiliz, Los Angeles City Human Relations Commission, suggested that our students needed to begin Human Relations training before racial tension erupts.

Alan Kakasy, Human Relation Task Force, spoke on past experiences with staff and the original Human Relations Commission and stated his support of the report.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.
