

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, December 8, 2005

Board Members Present:

Ms. Julie Korenstein, Chairperson
Ms. Marguerite Poindexter LaMotte, Member
Mr. Jon Lauritzen, Member
Ms. Marlene Canter, Board Member

External Advisors Present:

Mr. Neal Kleiner, Associated Administrators of Los Angeles

Staff Present:

Mr. Dan Isaacs, Chief Operating Officer
Mr. Larry Manion, Interim Police Chief, Los Angeles School Police Department
Mr. Angelo Bellomo, Director of Environmental Health & Safety
Ms. Michelle King, Assistant Superintendent, Student Health
and Human Services
Mr. Tony Rodriguez, Director, Transportation Branch
Mr. Eugene Michael, Business Manager
Ms. Marilyn Wells, R.D., Director, Food Services Branch
Ms. Laura Chinnock, R.D., Nutrition Services Manager, Food Services Branch

The meeting convened at 10:07 a.m.

SAFETY AWARDS – ITEM 1

Mr. Tony Rodriguez, Director of Transportation, introduced drivers and supervisors who were being recognized for achieving a high level of safe driving. This means that during the previous year, a driver did not have any preventable accidents.

Chairperson Julie Korenstein presented certificates to the drivers with safety records ranging from 26 years to 32 years of exemplary driving. Committee Members congratulated the drivers being recognized and also acknowledged Chairperson Korenstein for using her committee to recognize District employees.

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Human Relations Committee

SPEAKERS:

Ms. Alicia Loncar, Local 99, congratulated the awardees and also presented tee shirts to the awardees.

CAFETERIA REFORM MOTION – ITEM 2

Board President Marlene Canter made a presentation on the Cafeteria Improvement motion co-sponsored by Board Members Marlene Canter, Julie Korenstein and David Tokofsky. She reminded the Committee that this was the District's third nutrition motion presented and that the first two motions passed were the banning of soda in our schools and the second was an obesity prevention motion, banning junk food and encouraging health food and physical education.

Board President Canter stated that the motions on banning sodas and obesity prevention have become law, with the passages of Senate Bill 965 and Senate Bill 12. She reminded the Committee that the goal of the Cafeteria Improvement motion is to increase student participation, to get more students eating in the cafeteria, and to make sure that the District is serving the students the most healthy food and giving them the information they need to make healthy choices. She commended the Food Services Branch for dramatically increasing the participation in this program. The success of this motion is built on the achievement of the last two motions.

Student surveys received raised issues and reasons why students did not participate in the lunch program: long lines, lack of variety and the healthy items are gone within minutes, leaving only pizza as a choice; students feel the food is either frozen, burnt or moldy; staggered lunch times in order to accommodate the entire population of 3,000 students, not just the 1500 that are served.

Chairperson Julie Korenstein pointed out that the District serves 500,000 student meals each day. Board Member Jon Lauritzen commented that students should learn to analyze the foods they eat, know its value, and be able to determine what they should eat for their own health needs.

Ms. Marilyn Wells and Ms. Laura Chinnock responded to comments by Committee Members. Ms. Korenstein made inquiries about saturated fat. Discussion was held on the hot dogs, corn dogs, chalupa, pizza, their ingredients and where they are produced. Ms. Wells assured the Committee that the District is following the dietary guidelines. Ms. Wells made the committee aware that with the proposed guidelines, the District would not be able to serve oatmeal or raisin bran cereal because of its sugar content. She requested a change to be made to increase the sugar content before the motion goes before the Regular Board for approval.

Mr. Dan Isaacs introduced the new Assistant Director of Violence Prevention, Ms. Cardriner Bowden.

Mr. Michael Eugene noted that the District has a challenge to serve thousands of students in a small period of time and that the physical environment and historical design of the food service area are being looked at for improving. Mr. Dan Isaacs announced that letters were going out to principals with an attached form to allow them to recruit in the community and allow community members to have some priority in our classified employment process. Mr. Eugene announced that the District has created new 6-1/2 hour positions for cafeteria workers.

This item is anticipated to return to the Regular Board on December 13, 2005.

SPEAKER:

Ms. Alicia Loncar, Local 99, spoke on the understaffing in the cafeteria and the safety of the workers.

STUDENT-TO-STUDENT INTERACTION PROGRAM – ITEM 3

Ms. Sharon Curry, Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Inola Henry, Coordinator, and Mr. Darrin Earley, presented the Student-to-Student Interaction Program report. Ms. Curry gave a general overview, saying that this is a component of the Los Angeles Unified School District court-ordered Integration Plan, designed to help students develop and increase their ability to interact positively and effectively in multi-ethnic relationships.

Ms. Inola Henry gave the history of the Student-to-Student Interaction Program. Ms. Henry reported that initially, three programs were introduced in 1981; the Permits with Transportation (PWT) Program, the Magnet Program and Student-to-Student Interaction Program. Participants develop a sense of pride in their own cultural identity and demonstrate a respect and appreciation for other cultures; they acquire knowledge of the cultural histories and heritages of diverse ethnic groups; recognize the harms of racial and ethnic prejudice and make personal commitments to reduce prejudice at the school sites, are empowered to share the goals and concepts of the student-to-student experience and provide leadership by implementing activities that promote positive inter-group relations.

Mr. Darrin Earley, Teacher Facilitator, provided the Committee with some day-to-day activities of the student groups from elementary, middle and high schools.

Ms. Henry responded to questions by Chairperson Julie Korenstein regarding the funding of the program. *Chairperson Korenstein asked what the District pays the City of Los Angeles Parks and Recreation and about the contract the District has with them.* Committee Member LaMotte suggested that this camp be made available to students involved in violent disruptions in school as well as leadership students. Ms. Curry and Committee Member Michelle King made additional comments.

Mr. Isaacs introduced a wristband to be given to all students in the district, which would read, "Live Violence Free." *Chairperson Korenstein asked that we highlight one program that the District is undertaking having to do with safety and human relations interactions at each of our Safety Committee meetings.*

ACCESS FOR ALL RESOLUTION – ITEM 4

Chairperson Julie Korenstein introduced the Access for All Resolution that she and Board Members Jon Lauritzen and Marguerite LaMotte will be sponsoring. The Initial Announcement of the resolution was made at the Board of Education Regular Board of November 22, 2005 and referred to the School Safety, Student Health and Human Services and Human Relations Committee.

Assistant Superintendent Michelle King introduced Ms. Melissa Schoonmaker, Coordinator, Homeless Education Program and Ms. Norma Sturgess, Coordinator, Foster Care Program, who gave an overview of what programs the District currently have in place for homeless and foster youth. Ms. Schoonmaker provided the Committee with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. This law entitles all homeless school-aged children to the same free, appropriate public education that is provided to non-homeless students. The Los Angeles Unified School District currently enrolls an estimated 10,163 homeless students who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. Accordingly, schools are required to remove barriers to the enrollment, attendance, and academic success of homeless students. The McKinney-Vento Act, as federal law, supersedes state and local educational law and policy.

Ms. Schoonmaker's presentation derived from a District Policy Bulletin No. 1570—Enrollment of Homeless Children and Youth in Schools. It included Student Rights to Access to Comparable Services, Supplemental Services, Transportation, Dispute Resolution, Local District and School Site Responsibilities and Statistics. The District participates in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act grant. The District's Homeless Education Program implements the District's homeless education policy, coordinates the identification of homeless children and youth, arranges the transportation assistance for homeless children and youth, resolves school disputes, provides supplemental support services to enhance educational achievement, collaborates with homeless services agencies, and conducts parent education workshops for homeless parents.

Ms. Schoonmaker reported to the Committee that the Homeless Education has a separate database than that of the Student Information System (SIS). They are not integrated into SIS. Homeless Education collects information only relevant to the interests of the grant but may miss other pieces of important demographics and cannot track when the students are no longer homeless.

Ms. Norma Sturgess, Coordinator, Pupil Services and Attendance and Foster Care and Probation Youth Programs made her presentation and gave a history of the Unit. In November 2003, a resolution was passed relating to dependent and probation youth and the Board wanted to increase it to include foster care youth. They work collaboratively with the Department of Children and Family Services because the School District does not have a tracking system for foster care youth or homeless students. A data match has been done using this department's information. She gave percentages of the number of homeless and foster care students by local districts.

Comments were made regarding the SIS and its availability. Only schools have access to SIS. However, when ISIS, Integrated Student Information System, goes into affect, schools as well as administrative offices will have ISIS. *Chairperson Julie Korenstein requested the timeline for the change from SIS to ISIS.* Ms. Schoonmaker advised the Committee of the funding and projected needs.

Ms. Schoonmaker and Ms. Sturgess gave the Districts point of view and recommendations, some of which were to: increase staffing needs; target school sites impacted by high density homeless student populations; provide supplies, transportation, tokens for students; conduct broad based homeless collaborative meetings; and, have SIS connectivity for homeless education and foster care programs.

Mr. Isaacs requested that when this report comes back to the Board the Unit include the partnerships the District has with other governmental agencies that need to share in the responsibility of homeless and foster care students.

Chairperson Julie Korenstein requested that the Cellular Phone issue be brought back to the next Committee meeting.

This report is anticipated to return to the Regular Board Meeting for action on January 24, 2006.

SPEAKER

Leslie Croom, community organizer, reiterated and re-emphasized the comments of the two presenters of the Homeless Education presentations and added that parents should be utilized as a resource for the implementation of the program.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee Member LaMotte appealed to the students to stay away from any violent acts, to increase the performance level of all students and to respect each other.

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The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

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