

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

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE  
333 South Beaudry Avenue, Board Room  
2:00 p.m., Thursday, February 8, 2007

Board Members Present:

Mr. Jon Lauritzen, Chairperson  
Mr. David Tokofsky, Member  
Ms. Monica García  
Ms. Marguerite LaMotte

Staff Present:

Mr. Vernon Billy, Interim Director, Legislative and Governmental Affairs  
Ms. Peggy Barber, Legislative Advocate  
Mr. Julian Gorgoni, Legislative Analyst  
Ms. Lucy Okumu, Special Advisor to the Superintendent  
Dr. Randy Ross, Board of Education Director of Educational Policy

Outside Committee Persons Present:

Ms. Diana Dixon-Davis, Legislation Director, 31<sup>st</sup> District PTSA  
Mr. Jack Moscovitz, Associated Administrators of Los Angeles  
Ms. Inola Henry, United Teachers - Los Angeles

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The meeting convened 3:35 p.m.  
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Committee Chair Lauritzen called the meeting to order and introduced the Committee Members and Outside Committee Persons present at the meeting.

Item 2 – State Legislation

Committee Chair Lauritzen introduced Mr. Vernon Billy who described the membership of the Senate and Assembly Education Committees he would be working with during the legislative session. He also provided a brief overview of the Select Committees on Urban Governance and High School Graduation and announced that the membership of these committees has not been completely determined.

In response to Outside Committee Person Henry, Mr. Billy indicated there had yet to be a replacement named for State Board of Education Member Joe Nuñez. Outside Committee Person Dixon Davis asked if there was legislation to fund the recently enacted requirement for all kindergarteners to have dental exams before beginning school. Mr. Billy stated health issues would be discussed later in the meeting.

Mr. Billy then introduced his office's newest staff member, Mr. Edgar Zazueta, who most recently worked for Senator Chaney in San Diego.

Committee Chair Lauritzen requested a report on District Sponsored Legislation. Mr. Billy gave an update on the following five specific pieces of legislation:

- a bill regarding multitrack year round schools;
- an alternative enrollment projection bill;
- a cost escalation bill;
- a placeholder bill to allow the District to better use school sites already owned; and
- a CalSTRS proposal.

There is also an Adult Education bill that is being sponsored by the District. All bills have been submitted to Legislative Council and have met all submission deadlines.

Outside Committee Person Moscowitz asked Mr. Billy about an alternative STRS bill and advised him to track it. Mr. Billy said he was working closely with CalSTRS on the bills.

### Item 3 – Health Care Proposals

Mr. Julian Gorgoni, Legislative Analyst, discussed “break up” bills SB 69 (Runner) and AB 146 (Smythe). He said they are identical to previously introduced bills. The bills call for a reorganization of the District by 2011. The reorganization would be done by a committee composed of the mayors of the cities of Los Angeles, Carson, Huntington Park, and South Gate. It would also include an education researcher and four others. New compact districts would be created of less than 50,000 students. Mr. Gorgoni responded to questions by Committee Members.

Mr. Gorgoni then proceeded to discuss legislation on health care coverage. He said that the bills break down to three basic areas: universal coverage, coverage for workers and bills that focus exclusively on children. He addressed some of the specific bills and how the District and its employees could be affected. Mr. Gorgoni responded to questions by Outside Committee Member Henry about the overlapping of the proposals as well as other comments by Committee Members.

*Mr. Lauritzen asked Mr. Gorgoni and the Office of Legislative and Governmental Affairs to monitor the legislation and bring to the Committee recommendations on what bills should be supported.*

*Mr. Tokofsky asked for an update on the Mental Health Initiative, Proposition 63, which was passed by the voters. He is concerned that the needs of children are not being taken into account.*

## Public Comment

Alicia Loncar, representing SEIU Local 99, reminded the Committee of the thousands of District employees who do not have health care due to their part time status.

## Item 4 - Federal Legislation

Ms. Barber reported on Federal legislative initiatives. She stated that the Federal fiscal year 2007 budget has not yet been adopted and that the Government has been operating on temporary appropriations.

She indicated that the omnibus appropriations bill that passed the House and has support in the Senate would increase Pell Grants, Special Education funding by \$200 million, Title 1 funding by \$125 million, put \$125 million into Program Improvement schools for technology assistance and increases in the Head Start program. Other items would be kept at the same funding level as fiscal year 2006.

The President's proposals for fiscal year 2008 include \$2 billion in reductions, \$1 billion of that would be for reductions in the Special Education Program. It also decreases the Federal component of Special Education to 17 % of the cost of the program from its current 18%. The other major reduction area would be for the Title 1 program that would be cut by \$600 million. Other cuts are in Career and Technical Education, the Safe and Drug Free Schools program as well as a decrease or elimination of smaller programs such as Parent Education, Gifted and Talented, Even Start, Arts Education, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers, Counseling Programs and Physical Education.

Some of the money savings would be used for Promise scholarships, voucher type programs. Another part of the funds would go towards a new Title 1 program called the American Competitive Initiative, which means greater testing and accountability. As in the past, the schools have the accountability but not the full funding.

Proposals to cut the Medicaid program would impact the District. There would be a phase out of administrative reimbursement and transportation for special education students.

She commented that House and Senate Committee Membership has resulted in several friendly representatives on powerful committees. California representatives familiar with the challenges of educating urban children are on the Appropriations and Education Committees.

Committee Member García asked for the status of the creation of a legislative team in Washington and the attorney contracted to work for the District. Upon hearing from Ms. Barber and Mr. Billy that the hiring of legislative advocates in Washington was still in process, Committee Chair Lauritzen stated that the Board was interested in knowing how to speed up the process.

*Committee Member García asked for information on the compensation of the Washington D.C. attorney and a duty statement. She also asked to see the proposal to increase the Washington presence of the District.*

In response to a question from Committee Member Tokofsky, Ms. Barber listed several organizations with which the District coordinates advocacy in Washington, including National PTA, National School Boards Association, National Education Association and others. Committee Member Tokofsky also asked about the status of the immigration bill and whether District staff was being contacted for input.

Outside Committee Person Moscowitz asked about the chances of a Social Security relief bill for teachers. Ms. Barber stated that she believes this is becoming a major issue for Congressmen and a priority for the District.

Ms. Barber also reviewed proposed changes in the No Child Left Behind Act. She said that Senator Kennedy has announced a series of hearings on such topics as dropout prevention, teacher quality, assessment, accountability, the impact of No Child Left Behind on students with disabilities and parent involvement. She also mentioned the Workforce Investment Act reauthorization.

#### Item 5 - Los Angeles City Charter Amendment L

Ms. Lucy Okumu, Special Advisor to the Superintendent, gave a report on the Los Angeles City Charter Amendment L that will be on the March 6 ballot dealing with school board members. Ms. Okumu said it was based on recommendations of the President's Joint Governance Commission with new recommendations that there be campaign contribution limits. She stated that public campaign funding would not be available for school board members though funding is available for city candidates.

Committee Chair Lauritzen turned the floor over to Committee Member García to address her motion in support of Charter Amendment L. Committee Member García stated that she was interested in Board action at the February 13 Regular Board Meeting.

Committee Member Tokofsky pointed out that there was no rebuttal to the several inaccuracies in the ballot argument that was prepared in support of the amendment and asked Ms. Okumu to comment on several specific issues.

*Ms. Okumu stated that she would follow up on the cost of implementation of the Charter Amendment and create a table showing the current regulations compared to the proposal. Ms. Okumu also said she would supply the Board with copies of the letter sent by the Council President to other City Council Members and whom else the Council President contacted regarding the submission of ballot arguments.*

Outside Committee Person Moscowitz asked why there was no rebuttal as part of the ballot arguments. Ms. Okumu said there is no requirement that the City Council President's Office perform outreach efforts to solicit arguments or rebuttals and no entity or individual submitted a

rebuttal. Committee Chair Lauritzen stated that the Committee has asked Ms. Okumu to track City Measures that impact the School Board and the School District.

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The meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.  
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Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District

Legislation Committee  
333 South Beaudry Avenue, Board Room  
3:00 P.M., Thursday, February 8, 2007

**Committee Members**

Jon Lauritzen, Chairperson  
Julie Korenstein, Member  
David Tokofsky, Member

**Superintendent's Representative**

Vernon Billy, Interim Director,  
Legislative and Governmental Affairs  
Tel: (213) 241-2600

**Outside Committee Persons**

George Cole, Mayor Pro-tem, City of Bell  
Diana Dixon-Davis, Legislation Director, 31<sup>st</sup> District PTSA  
Jack Moscowitz, Associated Administrators of L.A.  
Jimmie Woods-Gray, Pace Chair, UTLA

**Committee Contact Person**

Peggy Barber  
Tel: (213) 241-2600

**Board Secretariat Contact**

Tel: (213) 241-7002

**AGENDA**

<b><u>AGENDA ITEM</u></b>	<b><u>PRESENTER(S)</u></b>	<b><u>TIME</u></b>
1. Introduction	Jon Lauritzen	5 minutes
<b>ACTION ITEMS – Oral presentations with written documents</b>		
2. State Legislation Legislative Committees LAUSD-Sponsored Bills Significant Bills	Vernon Billy Julian Gorgoni Edgar Zazueta	30 minutes
3. Health Care Proposals	Julian Gorgoni	20 minutes
4. Federal Legislation Budget Update Congressional Committees No Child Left Behind Workforce Investment Act	Peggy Barber	20 minutes
5. Los Angeles City Charter Amendment L	Lucy Okumu	15 minutes

## OTHER ITEMS

6. Public Comment -- Persons who wish to address the Committee may Sign up at the Committee meeting.
  
7. Adjournment

***If you or your organization are seeking to influence a purchasing, policy, site selection or any other LAUSD decision, registration may be required under the District's Lobbying Disclosure Code.***

***Please visit [www.lausd.net/ethics](http://www.lausd.net/ethics) to determine if you need to register or call the LAUSD Ethics Office at:(213) 241-3330.***

*Requests for disability related modifications or accommodations should be made 24 hours prior to the meeting to the Board Secretariat at 333 S. Beaudry Ave, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor, Los Angeles, CA, 90017 or by calling (213)-241-7002 or toll free (877)-772-6273.*

*For more information, go to: <http://www.laschoolboard.org>, Legislation Committee website.*