

LOWELL JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT
11019 Valley Home Avenue, Whittier, CA 90603

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
February 7, 2012

CLOSED MEETING	President Barber called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the District Office, 11019 Valley Home Avenue, Whittier. President Barber declared the meeting recessed to closed session at 6:31 p.m.
CALL TO ORDER	<p>President Barber reconvened the meeting to open session at 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>The flag salute was led by Dr. Patricia Howell, Superintendent of Schools.</p> <p>Trustees Present: Darin W. Barber, William A. Hinz, James A. Najera, Fred W. Schambeck, and Anastasia M. Shackelford.</p> <p>Trustees Absent: None.</p> <p>Staff Present: Patricia A. Howell, Superintendent; Tiffany Rudek, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction; and Andrea Reynolds, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services.</p>
REPORTING OUT ACTION (IF ANY) TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION	None.
INTRODUCTION/ WELCOME	President Barber welcomed CSEA President Darleene Pullen, LJEACo-President Teresa Herman, and guests.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CORRESPONDENCE	None.
APPROVAL OF AGENDA	It was moved, seconded, and carried by unanimous vote, (5 – 0) to approve the February 7, 2012, agenda.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	It was moved, seconded, and carried by unanimous vote, (5 – 0) to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2012, Board meeting.
TOPICS NOT ON THE AGENDA	None.

TIMELY INFORMATION
FROM THE BOARD
AND
SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Howell acknowledged Becky Stephenson, second grade teacher, Jeannie Nichols, second/third grade combo teacher, and Valerie Telarico, fourth-grade teacher from El Portal, for preparing the bulletin board in the Board Room.

Dr. Howell congratulated Mrs. Tiffany Rudek, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, for completing her first year in the District.

SCHOOL REPORTS

Mr. Barber shared that Jordan Elementary School's Awards Assembly was held on Friday, February 3. The fifth and sixth grade boys will be facing off during a flag football game at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 8. Jordan's PTA is sponsoring "Don't Be a Bully" week during the week of February 21-24. Included in the activities for the week is an assembly on bully prevention to be presented on Thursday, February 23. Parent Conferences will be held on Thursday and Friday, February 9 and 10. Read Across America Week begins February 27 and will conclude on Dr. Seuss' Birthday on March 2.

Mrs. Shackelford shared that Olita Elementary School on Wednesday, February 8, students and families are invited back to school for Movie Night. There will be popcorn and plenty of refreshments for all to enjoy during our movie. The movie will be shown outside on our upper grade playground, so if you plan to attend, be sure to dress warm. Olita is happy to announce that Wednesday, February 15, breakfast will begin being served. The breakfast will take the place of Grab-n-Go that used to be served at recess. Students can come to the cafeteria between 8:00 and 8:20 to receive breakfast. Olita is anticipating that their students will perform better during the morning hours with this new opportunity to eat before school starts. Fifth grade student, John Henry Sarancik, will be honored by the Daughters of the American Revolution at a lunch on Wednesday, February 15. John Henry won an award for writing an essay sponsored by this group of women. Mrs. Peloquin, his teacher, and Mrs. Van Hoogmoed will attend the lunch in honor of his outstanding achievement.

Mr. Najera stated that El Portal Elementary School's Senior Friends' Day on February 10 will honor all of those who served or are serving in the military. The theme is "Panthers for Freedom." El Portal's students are practicing their songs and the Drama team is practicing their short presentation. Senior Friends' Day begins at 9:45 a.m. with classroom visitations and then the program. In honoring those who serve, El Portal is adopting a Platoon in Afghanistan this semester. Students and staff members will be sending letters and care packages to our service men. The next awards ceremony will be on February 17 at 9:45 a.m. We will celebrate our DAR Essay/Reflection winners, first semester's Safety Patrol, and Student Council members along with our Honor Roll, Perfect Attendance for Quarter 2, and our CARE awards. El Portal finishes this leap year month with Student Council holding their 2nd quarter service project with *Jump Rope for Heart* on February 29. The entire month, El Portal has discussed heart health facts over the bulletin and watched a CD about students with heart disease. The students will jump during lunch recess and will send all of their pledges to the Heart Foundation.

SCHOOL REPORTS

Continued

Mr. Hinz stated at Macy Elementary School had another successful year of high participation in the PTA Reflections Program. There were several finalists in different grades, who entered projects in a variety of categories. All Macy Reflection participants are treated to a culmination field trip every year. The students of Macy are attending the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Grades K through 3 attended today, February 7, and grades 4 – 6 will attend on February 21 to better gain an appreciation of the rich arts and cultures found in our local area. Tonight, February 7, Macy PTA hosts its annual, highly attended, Movie Night in our quad. The Movie title is a surprise and will be announced at a later date. Michael Pritchard brings to Macy on February 24, a 'S.T.A.M.P. Out Bullying' Assembly which is a "high-energy mix of music slapstick comedy, animated story-telling, and spot-on application strategies that captivate both children and adults. This assembly empowers victim and bystander over bullying situations."

Mr. Schambeck presented that Meadow Green Elementary School's monthly PRIDE assembly was held on February 3, to recognize Students of the Month for the character education trait of Setting Goals. The Character Education focus for the month of February is Honesty and Truthfulness. Students will be challenged to work on these traits by honoring commitments, doing the right thing, taking pride in reputation, citizenship, and patriotism. Fifth-grade students will be going on a field trip to Griffith Park Observatory on February 8. Students look forward to field trips and appreciate PTA's support in making them possible. PTA will be sponsoring a school wide assembly on February 17, featuring TNT Dunk Squad. In addition to this, they will host a Family Night Star Party on February 24, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. All families are invited to attend this evening event. ASCIP is sponsoring an Anti-Bully assembly for all Meadow Green students on February 28. Meadow Green has a new garden thanks to a grant and the LA County School Garden Program. We are thankful for all who helped make this wonderful project a reality. All are welcome to come visit our garden.

Lastly, Mr. Barber shared that at Rancho-Starbuck Junior High School on January 20, our students in Junior Achievement attended a wonderful all-day workshop on money management at the Junior Achievement headquarters in Burbank. This event really showed the students how to budget. The next REACH assembly is planned for Friday, February 10. The theme, Ride the Waves to Good grades, celebrates the students for their hard work. Rancho's College Festival begins February 15 and ends February 24. We will have a wide variety of activities for students including college dress up days, fight song name that tune contests, teachers sharing about their colleges, and assemblies sharing with students the importance of preparing for college. During College Festival, Rancho will also have College Parent Night, the second in our Parent Speaker Series. Science Olympiad competition is this month on Saturday, February 25. Twelve of our future scientists will be attending this all day event at Occidental College. A sample of the events they will participate in are: Rockets, Towers, Anatomy, Road Scholar, and Crime Busters.

RECOGNITION OF THE
JOHN GREENLEAF
WHITTIER CHAPTER
DAUGHTERS OF THE
AMERICAN
REVOLUTION ESSAY
CONTEST WINNERS

Mrs. Rudek introduced John Henry Sarancik, fifth-grade student from Olita; David Torres, sixth-grade student from El Portal; and Joshua Danielson, eighth-grade student from Rancho-Starbuck Junior High School. John Henry, David, and Joshua each won the John Greenleaf Whittier Chapter Society Daughters of the American Revolution American History Essay Contest for their respective grade levels. They each read their “America Takes a Stand” essays and were awarded a Certificate of Outstanding Achievement by President Barber.

RECOGNITION OF THE
DISTRICT’S 2012
CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE
OF THE YEAR

Dr. Howell acknowledged and congratulated Lue Janson, Instructional Aide at Olita Elementary School, for being selected as the District’s 2012 Classified Employee of the Year.

BREAK

*****Break from 8:10 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

BOARD POLICY 5141.7,
SUN SAFETY

The District does not currently have a Board Policy regarding Sun Safety (BP 5141.7). The proposed policy addresses the requirements as provided by the California School Boards Association, and has been shared with representatives of the certificated and classified employee groups and administrators.

Board Policy 5141.7, Sun Safety, (as attached) was presented for second reading/approval and was approved on a 5 – 0 vote.

ADDRESSING AND
APPROVING THE
LENGTH OF THE
KINDERGARTEN
SCHOOL DAY

Dr. Howell presented eight options for the Kindergarten length of the day with the advantages and disadvantages for each option.

The Kindergarten teachers and principals have indicated that their two choices of the options are option 1 and option 8.

Option 1 includes a 270 minute day, with a 120 minute early bird/late bird block, and a dismissal time of 3:00 p.m. for late birds.

Option 8 includes a 260 minute day, with a 100 minute early bird/late bird block, and a dismissal of 2:30 p.m. for late birds.

The Superintendent recommended option 1 because it allowed more time for smaller group instruction with each of the groups.

A teacher shared her thoughts and concerns with the length of the Kindergarten school day.

ADDRESSING AND
APPROVING THE
LENGTH OF THE
KINDERGARTEN
SCHOOL DAY
Continued

Mrs. Shackelford shared that it was her initial desire to see all-day Kindergarten at each of our schools; however, economically she understands it isn't feasible. Mrs. Shackelford thanked the Kindergarten teachers and Dr. Howell for all their time and effort gathering information for the length of the Kindergarten day. She stated that Option 1 appeals to her because of the smaller group instruction.

Mr. Shambeck stated that Common Core Standards, regardless if we like it or not, are coming. The District has to be best prepared for the rigor of the Common Core Standards, and he believes Option 1 will better prepare students.

It was moved and seconded to adopt Option 1 as the length of the Kindergarten School Day. That motion failed with a 2 – 3 vote.

Mr. Barber thanked all the Kindergarten teachers and Dr. Howell for all their hard work trying to find the best solution. Mr. Barber stated that he has heard the concerns of the Kindergarten teachers and the community.

It was moved and seconded to adopt Option 8 as the length of the Kindergarten School Day. That motion passed with a 3 – 2 vote, with the contingency that this option will be reviewed at this time next year. The Superintendent or designee was authorized to execute the necessary documents.

2012/13 STATE BUDGET
UPDATE

Andrea Reynolds, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services, explained that the Governor's 2012/13 State Budget proposal represents another desperate effort to get through a bad time. The Governor assumes that voters will approve a \$6.9 billion tax measure. If the tax measure is not approved, there will be severe additional budget reductions for K – 12 education.

Ms. Reynolds shared that recovery for education takes a long time. If California ever reaches full restoration, the state would perhaps rise to 46th in the nation for per pupil spending. Only then, can the state position itself to increase its level of effort to begin to match other states.

CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved, seconded, and carried by unanimous roll call vote, (5 – 0) to approve/ratify the following items, under a consent procedure.

Purchase Order Report
2011/12 #7

Approved Purchase Order Report 2011/12 #7 which lists all purchase orders issued December 14, 2011, through January 13, 2012.

Warrant Listing Report
2011/12 #7

Approved Warrant Listing Report 2011/12 #7, which lists all warrants issued January 4, 2012, through January 26, 2012.

Approval for Sale/
Disposal of Surplus
District Personal Property

Ratified the sale/disposal of surplus District personal property, including one 1986 Toyota Pick up, one 1968 Selma trailer, and one 1994 Pronovost trailer, and authorized the Superintendent or designee to execute the necessary documents.

Approval of Agreement with Orange County Sanitation District for Imposition and Payment of Capital Facilities Capacity Charges

Ratified the agreement with Orange County Sanitation District for imposition and payment of Capital Facilities Capacity Charges, and authorized the Superintendent or designee to execute the necessary documents.

Approval of Agreement with Orbach, Huff & Suarez, LLP, to Provide Construction, Facilities, Real Estate and Related Counsel Services for the Possible Issuance of General Obligation Bonds

Ratified the agreement with Orbach, Huff & Suarez, LLP, to provide construction, facilities, real estate and related counsel services, at a cost not to exceed \$250 per hour and if eligible, part or all of these expenses are reimbursable from the proceeds of the general obligation bond, and authorized the Superintendent or designee to execute the necessary documents.

Employer-Employee Relations/Personnel Report 2011/12 #8

Ratified Employer-Employee Relations/Personnel Report 2011/12 #8, as attached, which includes hiring, resignations, contract adjustments, and retirements for certificated, classified, and confidential employees.

Resolution 2011/12 No. 562 Regarding Layoff of Classified Personnel

Adopted Resolution 2011/12 No. 562 regarding layoff of classified personnel, as attached, and authorized the Superintendent or designee to execute the necessary documents.

Approval of Contract with Inside the Outdoors, Orange County Department of Education, to Provide a Rancho Sonado Field Trip for the Fifth Grade Students of Macy Elementary School

Ratified the contract with Inside the Outdoors, Orange County Department of Education, to provide a Rancho Sonado field trip on March 14, 2012, for the fifth-grade students of Macy Elementary School, funded by a grant from the Inside the Outdoors at a cost of \$32.50 per student, not to exceed \$3,088 (95 students), and authorized the Superintendent or designee to execute the necessary documents.

Approval to Rescind Consultant Agreement with Mrs. Carol Shaw to Provide After-School Intervention Instruction for Grades 1 – 6 at El Portal Elementary School from August 30, 2011, to June 15, 2012

Rescinded consultant agreement with Mrs. Carol Shaw to provide after-school intervention instruction for grades 1 – 6 at El Portal Elementary School from August 30, 2011, to June 15, 2012, due to current CalSTRS laws and penalties, and authorized the Superintendent or designee to execute the necessary documents.

Approval of Memorandum of Participation Between the Downey-Montebello Special Education Local Plan Area (D-M SELPA) and Lowell Joint School District for the 2011/12 School Year

Ratified the Memorandum of Participation between the Downey-Montebello Special Education Local Plan Area (D-M SELPA) and Lowell Joint School District for the 2011/12 school year, and authorized the Superintendent or designee to execute the necessary documents.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
COMMENTS

Dr. Howell shared that the presentations from this evening's Board meeting will be posted on the District's website.

ADJOURNMENT

President Barber declared the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m. in accordance with Government Code Section 54956.9 (a, b, c) and indicated no further public action would be taken.

Clerk/President/Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Date Approved:

_____, 2012