

LA HABRA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
 Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting  
 500 N. Walnut St.  
 La Habra, CA 90631  
 January 27, 2011

<b>Call to Order Regular Meeting</b>	The formal call to order of the Board of Education Meeting of the La Habra City School District was called by Board Vice President, Susan M. Hango, at 4:15 p.m.
Board Members	Board Members Present: Susan M. Hango, Vice President Paul S. Rodriguez, Clerk Sandi Baltes, Member Sharon H. Brown, Member  Board Members Absent: Linda Navarro Edwards, President
Administrators	Administrators Present: Susan Belenardo, Superintendent Karen Kinney, Director of Fiscal Services
Work/Study Session	<p>Following discussion as to the purpose of the work/study and the protocol for such, Board Members each presented topics they would like to see discussed and worked on to formalize and adopt a strategic plan for the District through 2015. Those suggestions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Negotiations process, how things evolved, and how could things be done differently</li> <li>▪ Update the Superintendent's evaluation and schedule it annually</li> <li>▪ Board self-evaluation / how to be an effective School Board Member</li> <li>▪ Committee responsibilities</li> <li>▪ Saturday meetings / monthly workshops</li> <li>▪ Presence at school activities</li> <li>▪ Study declining enrollment</li> <li>▪ Address concerns of teachers</li> <li>▪ Improve community relations</li> <li>▪ Communication and availability to the community</li> <li>▪ Identify key issues and address them</li> <li>▪ District goals, short term / long term</li> <li>▪ Full Board presence at CSBA Annual Conference</li> </ul> <p>Community members in the audience shared their ideas for promoting the District and offered suggestions for attaining some of the goals the Board Members had discussed.</p> <p>Director of Fiscal Services, Karen Kinney, introduced Caroline Larson, Consultant for Vavrinek, Trine, Day &amp; Co. who then reviewed and discussed potential areas for deficit reduction and reviewed the information recently learned at the School Services Budget Workshop. She emphasized the importance of there being many in attendance to hear the information first hand and understand that this is a very serious budget crisis the District is facing with some critical decisions that must be considered. She explained it is a calamity going on in the Country, Internationally and locally. There needs to be a shared commitment throughout the community to assume responsibility for what decisions will best work for our District schools. The goal must be to maintain local control. She commended the District for the high daily attendance rate as well as a low rate of Workers Compensation claims which are good indicators for this District. She reviewed the Governor's proposed budget and the high amount of funding which could be lost as a result of his proposed cuts. In addition, should his proposed tax bill not make the ballot, or not pass in June, the losses will be even steeper. The loss in funding could be between \$20 a child and \$350 a child depending on what the legislature does. If they don't pass the tax, the District will lose \$330 a child. The District must look at all programs and how they might be run differently and consider shifting funding to maintain program offerings for students. The 3% reserve often referred to is equivalent to 1/3 of a payroll in savings to LHCS D. She compared the projection for 2011/12 with the tax extension and without the tax extension. The impact on the District without the tax extension is \$7.2 million below the goal of having a 3% reserve. It would take an 11% reduction in total compensation for all employees in this District to solve the current crisis and a 24% reduction should the tax extension not pass. It is a horrific situation. Decreasing expenses is just one option with revenue enhancement being another. However, revenue enhancement is tough in the current economic environment requiring a serious look at expenditure reduction. A 1% reduction would be 3 certificated employees, 4 ½ classified employees or 2 administrators. This provides a picture of the magnitude of the crisis being faced. It would take a reduction of 1/3 to 1/5 of the employee groups to overcome the deficit. With many positions already having been eliminated in LHCS D, and a very thin administrative staff, the challenge is huge. Personnel reductions have pretty much been tapped out. Caroline stressed the importance of all stakeholders reviewing possibilities and prioritizing reductions and possible revenue enhancements. Field use charges could be considered as well as energy conservation and supply usage. Solutions such as class size increases and possible elimination of coaches will not be desirable, but must be considered. Monies may need to be redirected and she discussed some possibilities to be considered to maintain programs in place.</p>

<p>LHCS Board Minutes January 27, 2011 Page 2 <b>Second Call to Order Regular Meeting</b></p>	<p>Board Vice President, Susan M. Hango, called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:10 p.m.</p>
<p><b>Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag</b></p>	<p>Board Vice President, Susan M. Hango, asked Sharon Brown to lead the pledge of allegiance to the flag.</p>
<p><b>Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of: January 13, 2011</b></p>	<p>The minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 13, 2011 were unanimously approved by Trustees on a motion made by Paul S. Rodriguez, and a second to the motion by Sharon H. Brown.<sup>1</sup></p>
<p><b>Correspondence</b></p>	<p>None</p>
<p><b>Superintendent's and Trustees' Report</b></p>	<p>Superintendent, Susan Belenardo, introduced Teresa Egan, Principal of Las Lomas School who was present with 1<sup>st</sup> graders who shared their reading fluency by presenting a "Reader's Theatre". This very special program was enjoyed by all! She also announced a Pre-School GLAD training being held at the El Cerrito Professional Development site with teachers from Headstart and other pre-school programs in the community as well as some of our own teachers attending. Tomorrow will be the last day and it's exciting to have GLAD starting at the pre-school prior to children coming to us in Kindergarten.</p> <p>Board Member Paul Rodriguez reviewed the work/study session held earlier in the afternoon to provide an update for those who were not in attendance earlier. He explained that collectively as a Board, there are many issues they wish to discuss as both short and long term goals and shared the topics of discussion. Communication is a key component of that and it includes the entire community as well as staff and parents. The second Saturday of every month has been set for a work/study format (9:00-12:00) and he invited all to attend and give input as far as positive and constructive ideas for addressing the serious issues facing the District. These workshops will be calendared on the website and he encouraged participation from the audience.</p> <p>Board Member, Sandi Baltes, added that she too would like to encourage everyone's participation in the workshops. In strengthening our relationship with the community, she encouraged participation as a District in the La Habra 5K Run where the City offers \$2 from each registration fee back to the particular school the student attends. She will be working with the PTA Presidents to get the information out to all families. Also coming up is the Citrus Fair and the City would like to offer to every student in the schools a two-sheet history of La Habra with a quiz on the back. If the student completes reading the history and completing the quiz with their parents, the quiz can be turned in to the Chamber of Commerce office and the parent will be given a free ticket to ride at the Citrus Fair and there will be a drawing and the winner will be awarded a wrist band and they will be able to ride every night at the Fair for free. More information will follow.</p>
<p><b>General Matters Action Item: Consent Calendar</b></p>	<p>Trustees unanimously approved the Consent Calendar as presented on a motion by Sharon H. Brown, and a second to the motion by Paul S. Rodriguez:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Approval of Staff Development for designated employees to attend conferences/workshops as attached to these minutes.<sup>2</sup></li> <li>➤ Approval of Independent Contractor Agreements as attached to these minutes.<sup>3</sup></li> <li>➤ Approval of extra pay requests per employee contract's provisions and Education Code requirements as attached to these minutes.<sup>4</sup></li> <li>➤ Approval of Personnel Change of Status as attached to these minutes.<sup>5</sup></li> <li>➤ Ratification of Certificated and Classified new hires as attached to these minutes.<sup>6</sup></li> <li>➤ Approval of Change Order #3 / A.G. Araja Engineering Inc. for the Las Positas School Food Service Relocatable building Project – LP001-2010 as attached to these minutes.<sup>7</sup></li> <li>➤ Acceptance of Donations as attached to these minutes.<sup>8</sup></li> <li>➤ Approval of an amendment to the agreement with TYR, the Inspector of Record for the Las Positas Food Service Building project as attached to these minutes.<sup>9</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>Action Item: Resolution #2-2011 / AB3632 / Mental Health Services</b></p>	<p>Superintendent, Susan Belenardo, explained that the former Governor vetoed the \$133 million funding for Mental Health services that directly impacts schools. Currently, LHCS does not have any students that participate. A Class Action Suit is being looked at from the County and for us to be included in the suit, it would require this resolution. Therefore, if in the future, we were to have any students that would be eligible for those services, we would be part of the law suit. On a motion made by Paul S. Rodriguez, and a second to the motion by Sandi Baltes, Trustees unanimously adopted Resolution #2-2011, Mental Health Services for Special Education Students, authorizing the Superintendent to work in conjunction with the Orange County Department of Education and the Orange county Special Education Alliance to file a lawsuit against the Orange County Health Care Agency as attached to these minutes.<sup>10</sup></p>

**Instruction and Personnel Action Item**  
 School Site Plans

Director of Special Programs, Pam Herrera, was present and reviewed the individual school site plans submitted by each of the District schools. Through discussion, it was determined that the Board Members would like the opportunity to meet with the Principals and have them each share their plan with the Board Members prior to taking action to approve the plans. On a motion made by Sharon H. Brown, and a second to the motion by Paul S. Rodriguez, Trustees unanimously tabled this agenda item.

**Action Item:**  
 Public Hearing / Class Size Reduction Waiver

Board Vice President, Susan M. Hango, declared open a Public Hearing on a proposed Class Size Reduction Waiver. Teacher, Shannon Belknap, stated that she and another teacher have 39 students in a class. She is concerned that classes would be larger if the District received the waiver. The Public Hearing was closed.

**Action Item:**  
 Class Size Reduction Waiver

Following much discussion, and discussion in the earlier work/study session, it was determined that prior to applying for a Class Size Reduction Waiver, the Board would send a letter to the La Habra Education Association Bargaining Team to gain their input on submitting the application for this waiver and this item will be considered at a subsequent Board Meeting. On a motion made by Paul S. Rodriguez, and a second to the motion by Sharon H. Brown, Trustees unanimously tabled this agenda item.

**Business Matters: Action Item:**  
 Expenditure's Report

Trustee, Sandi Baltes, reported Expenditures dated January 27, 2011, beginning with check #30-058941 and ending with check #30-058977 totaling \$164,834.23 from the General Fund and \$57.03 from Child Development with a Grand Total of \$164,891.26. Trustees unanimously approved the Expenditures' payments as presented with a second by Sharon H. Brown.

**Action Item:**  
 Auditor's Report

Director of Fiscal Services, Karen Kinney, introduced Jeanette Garcia of Jeanette L. Garcia & Associates to review the District Audit Report and address any questions. Through discussion and some concern over ASB accounting, Jeanne recommended either training or meeting with each school to ensure protocols are consistent and being followed throughout the District. She indicated that once again, the District has a very good audit report aside from the issues with ASB accounting. On a motion made by Sharon H. Brown, and a second to the motion by Sandi Baltes, Trustees unanimously approved the annual audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010.

**Items Not on the Agenda**

Board Vice President, Susan M. Hango, acknowledged those in attendance wishing to address the Board:

- Julie Knierim – CSEA President, Computer Technician – Julie explained she had researched information on E-Rate funding which she had learned a little about through negotiations. Funding is available through District technology projects. She has talked with Karen inquiring if the District could receive money back for our phone systems and learned that it can be e-rated and could save as much as \$83,000. She questioned whether everything that can possibly be e-rated by the District has been, or if more research could be done to recover additional funding for the District. She understands that the Orange County Department of Education does advanced training for E-Rate deductions and feels it should be looked into as a group. She also indicated that much can be learned on-line and information on applications is available.
- Mark Smith – Teacher (IMS) – Mr. Smith indicated he wished to address the far reaching effects of the imposition of a contract made on the teachers this past November. He believes the Board's actions imposed a bleak and dismal future on the kids, the parents of kids and homeowners of La Habra. When the Strike began, there was a lot of media attention and many people throughout Southern California and certainly our parents learned what the teachers of La Habra have known for years, that the District is run from a vengeful, vindictive and punitive standpoint and the primary concern is to save money. Contrary to what the District Website says, this administration's objective is not about doing what's best for kids, and certainly not what's good for teachers. How else does one explain the District having a reserve over six times the minimum required by the State? And politics, and this is politics, decisions often have unintended consequences. One of those consequences will be that when the most experienced teachers retire from La Habra, the only teachers willing to apply here will be those that can't get hired anywhere else. High quality teachers will not come to a district that has rendered the collective bargaining process meaningless. "Would a high quality teacher come to the only elementary district in Orange County that refused to restore cuts if and when things get better with the State's economy? Would high quality teachers come to a district that treats their teachers vindictively and punitively? I contend that no such quality person would do so." The kids of La Habra will be subjected to inferior teachers in the future. Test scores will not continue to go up with inferior teachers. "Are you willing to settle for this future?"
- Kathy Jew – former parent of 3 children who attended this District – She stated that the current ongoing activities in the District break her heart and all the rumors she has heard have been very hard. She came tonight because she wanted to hear things first hand rather than hearing them through the rumor mill. She came to the work session and her heart was very touched by the interaction between the

Board and the teachers that were in attendance. Seeing that one on one gave her hope for the future. She first thanked all the teachers who had a hand in educating her children, so many great ones, there are too many to list. She thanked them for allowing her into their classrooms and allowing her to assist in so many ways. She knows that their supportive attitudes and openness have led to her current teaching position. She will always look back fondly on all the memories she had at the schools in the District. Her children were well prepared for High School and beyond, and she feels this was due to the leadership in the District in conjunction with the teachers, principals, superintendent and the School Board. As a parent, accessibility is vital. She was always able to speak with any person in a leadership position starting with Judy Wolfe, she was the one that convinced her to keep her children here and not take them to private school or to an outlying district. The door was always open, and she thanks all for that openness. She has enjoyed relationships with both Dr. Hermann and Dr. Belenardo. They are running a business where the children are customers. While performing many different jobs and putting in unlimited hours, they never forget, the children come first. The School Board, under the leadership of Susan Hango, Linda Navarro Edwards and Sharon Brown have provided long term stability. Paul Rodriguez joined these respected individuals and now Sandi Baltes has joined these individuals also as a member of the team. Through prudent planning and insight, Susie and Linda have led this District through County Bankruptcy, through the re-opening of Arbolita, the passage of Measure K School Bond for modernization and numerous after school programs for children, as well as providing curriculum for all. These efforts have resulted in 3 schools being recognized as California Distinguished Schools and 2 schools recognized as Title I Academic Achievement Award winners. This would not have happened without the supportive leadership for District programs and policies. We cannot forget all the progress and successes the District has had. She holds a vested interest in the District and recommends students attend these schools. She wants a School Board who is there for the children and upholds the motto of "Where Children Count". She assured the Board Members that they do have community support and all their efforts are appreciated. She pledged her support and commended the Board for their outstanding commitment to the children.

- Jane Ivory – her children attended the District many years ago – She remains involved and proud of our school district. She strongly believes the current school board is doing a good job representing the community and providing a quality education for the children of La Habra. Her family has lived here for 30 years, her children attended school here, and she works with teachers here through the Children's Museum. All 3 of her children graduated from college and all 3 have good jobs. They are 3 very good and strong examples of this school district. With declining funding from the State in a financial crisis and declining enrollment, it is time to tighten the belts. All public agencies are suffering from cutbacks. City employees are experiencing many furloughs and layoffs as well as county agencies. This District cannot afford any cost increases or loss of funding from the State. In 2000, this Board put up a Bond Issue for \$16 million and the people approved that. This went to improve the buildings on the school sites. We are one of the smallest cities in Orange County and yet the District has managed to maintain programs such as art and music and other programs for children while districts around us don't. This District works with the local Sports groups for field use. The School Board has always been a great partner with the City and has been fiscally responsible. She is proud that this School Board has been able to keep the District solvent and provide a quality education for the children of La Habra and trusts the current Board to continue to do so.
- Shannon Smith – Teacher (Walnut) – She wished to ask a question regarding something discussed earlier relating to the negotiation process and class size reduction. With all due respect, she doesn't believe there is a lot of faith in meeting and feel they are up against the wall in negotiating with what happened prior to Winter Break. She feels insecure with that. She indicated there are Board Members who want to attend the negotiating sessions and doesn't understand why they aren't able to. She asked to be provided with the Education Code or Brown Act that states the Board cannot be present at the negotiations process. It was explained that it is not Ed Code or the Brown Act but advice of legal counsel, CSBA and School Services. Shannon challenged the Board to talk among themselves and do what they feel is right and what they want to do, they are the ones in charge here.
- Daniel Holguin – Parent – He explained he has started a group in La Habra called La Habra Concerned Parents which is a group consisting of parents and community members. The goal is to give the children and the students of La Habra City School District the best possible public education available. They strive to have the District the envy of the State. He feels with a strong group of parents and a strong Board of Trustees, the goal can be accomplished. He stated "we have the parents; we just need the strong Board. The confidence is gone and to start the healing process, you must first cover the wound while the wound is still out there and is bleeding." He indicated the majority of the City is unhappy with the Board of Trustees. As days go by the scrutiny gets worse. All decisions are under a microscope. He feels the Board and Superintendent have created this and will determine the outcome. He stated that the group is considering working toward a formal recall with the Registrar of Voters and asked the Board to keep that in mind. Resources are coming together and a free attorney has been provided and this is all a result of the Board's decisions, or lack of decisions. If the Board does not hold itself responsible, the parents will do that for them.

Other Business from the Board

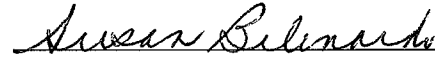
Board Vice President, Susan M. Hango, announced the Joint ACSA/OCSBA Dinner being held on March 9, 2011 and encouraged members wishing to attend to contact the Secretary.

Adjournment

There being no further business meeting items before the board, Board Vice President, Susan M. Hango, adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Board Minutes Approved:

February 10, 2011



Susan Belenardo, Ed.D.  
Secretary to the Board

<sup>1</sup> Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 27, 2011

<sup>2</sup> Staff Development

<sup>3</sup> Independent Contractor Agreements

<sup>4</sup> Extra Pay Approval

<sup>5</sup> Personnel Change of Status

<sup>6</sup> Certificated and Classified New Hires

<sup>7</sup> Change Order #3 / A.G. Araja Engineering Inc. / Las Positas Food Service Building

<sup>8</sup> Acceptance of Donations

<sup>9</sup> Amendment to Agreement / TYR

<sup>10</sup> Resolution #2-2011 / AB3632 / Mental Health Services