

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

SCHOOL SAFETY, STUDENT HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE
333 South Beaudry Avenue, Board Room
10:00 a.m. Thursday February 7, 2008

Committee Members

Julie Korenstein, Chairperson
Marguerite Poindexter LaMotte

External Representatives

Inola F. Henry, United Teachers Los Angeles
Neal Kleiner, Associated Administrators
of Los Angeles
Diana Dixon Davis, 31st District PTSA
Paul Vinetz, Probation Director
County of Los Angeles
JJCPA Cluster Three Program
Van Nuys Juvenile Office

District Staff

Dave Holmquist, Interim Chief Operating Officer
Earl Perkins, Assistant Superintendent
School Operations
Angelo Bellomo, Director
of Environmental Health and Safety
Lawrence Manion, Chief, Los Angeles School Police
Rene Gonzalez, Assistant Superintendent
Student Health and Human Services

Board Secretariat Contact

Noemi Fernandez (213) 241-7002
E-mail: noemi.fernandez@lausd.net

The meeting convened at 10:15 a.m.

OPENING REMARKS

Chairperson Julie Korenstein made brief remarks and introduced Mr. Dave Holmquist, Interim Chief Operating Officer. He introduced the first item to be discussed, a special recognition to Lawrence Manion, Chief of Police, Los Angeles School Police Department (LASPD).

RECOGNITION OF LAWRENCE MANION, CHIEF OF POLICE, LOS ANGELES SCHOOL POLICE

Mr. Holmquist introduced Sal Hernandez, Assistant Director, Los Angeles Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Mr. Hernandez commended Chief Manion and presented him with a letter of recognition from Mr. Robert Muller, III, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), for assisting the agency to capture an individual who had committed a series of bank robberies in Los Angeles within four weeks of his release from federal custody.

After Chief Manion's recognition, Chairperson Korenstein made brief comments and expressed concerns about today's violence towards school children; shootings and robberies at gunpoint to steal iPods and cellular phones. She also mentioned the inadequate number of school police officers at schools, particularly in new schools. In response to Chairperson Korenstein's concerns, Chief Manion noted that the LASPD does not have enough manpower to cover all the schools in the District. He pointed out that he had presented a plan to the Board requesting an additional 581 sworn police officers, 200 school safety officers, and about 66 civilian support staff to provide the assistance and protection needed.

Chairperson Korenstein also expressed concern about the increasing number of people reporting child abuse cases. She noted that the LAPD and LASPD mentioned this issue at a conference she attended early in the month. *Chairperson Korenstein requested this item to be included in a future meeting.*

SAFETY RANKINGS

Officer James Ream, Los Angeles School Police Association, provided a brief update on safety rankings. He pointed out that the LASPD needs more officers to provide safety to the schools; and he asked the Board to consider Chief Manion's request during the budget deliberations. In addition, he commended Chief Manion and his department because LASPD was ranked No. 27 in the *Safety 500 Magazine*, which ranks the 500 best organizations providing safety services to the community around the country, including Federal agencies. He pointed out that New York School Police had a better ranking; but this department has over 5,000 police officers compared to the 300 LASPD police officers.

Officer Ream responded to questions and concerns from Committee Members.

SPEAKERS: Mr. Bill Ring, Parent Collaborative, commended the LASPD. He also noted that approximately 100 schools do not have a Safe Plan in place. He indicated that last year he mentioned this issue to the Committee and has not heard any update on this matter. *Chairperson Korenstein asked Mr. Perkins to follow up and prepare a report.*

External Representative Diana Dixon Davis indicated that the Safe Plan is required by the State; the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS) Web page has information and instructions about the Safe Plan.

Mr. Ring also asked the Committee to carefully consider the continuous complaints under the Williams settlement regarding the conditions of the schools. He noted that according to the information released by the County, some of the District's schools are constantly listed as *in poor and worst conditions*.

HOMELESS RESOURCES

Chairperson Korenstein announced that this item was postponed.

DISTRICT RESPONSE TO BOMB THREATS

Mr. Earl Perkins, Assistant Superintendent, provided a brief presentation on bomb threats emergency notification. He noted that annual notifications about the serious nature of a threat to cause harm at schools are sent to parents in the Parent/Student Handbook, and the discipline policies and student code of conduct for each local school are reviewed annually. In addition, Mr. Perkins stated that during the regular student body assemblies, local school councils, and parent meetings, parents and students are reminded about the consequences for inappropriate behavior or making bomb threats. Mr. Perkins stated that bomb threats result in loss of time, manpower, and disruption to the instructional program. If apprehended, the suspect and his or her parents are responsible for any related costs, and violators may be prosecuted in the legal system. He mentioned that the District received approximately twenty-seven school bomb threats in 2005-2006 school year, and approximately thirteen school bomb threats in 2006-2007 school year.

Mr. Perkins introduced Deputy Chief Police Bowman who commented that the District has received eight school bomb threats since July 2007; three of those were at the same school. He indicated that bomb threats are criminal offenses and prosecuted as a felony. He also stated that if a student is cited by school police for any offense on campus or in the vicinity of a school, the student may not be able to obtain a driver's license.

Mr. Perkins responded to questions and concerns from Committee Members.

Chairperson Korenstein asked Mr. Perkins to revise the Parent/Student Handbook, and to include in bold that if a student is cited by a school police officer, the student may not be able to receive a driver's license. In addition, she asked him to bold the phrase which indicates that a bomb threat is a criminal offense and suspects will be legally prosecuted.

External Representative Dixon questioned Mr. Perkins about the new telephone system, Connect Ed, which is used for emergency notifications. Mr. Perkins noted that this system will soon be in operation. *Chairperson Korenstein asked Mr. Perkins to include this item in a future meeting.*

External Representative Dixon asked Deputy Chief Bowman to update the school police telephone number: 1-800-435-7688. She indicated that when she dials this number, she gets an office not associated with the District.

SPEAKER: Mr. Bill Ring, Parent Collaborative, commented on the emergency notification system, Connect Ed, and stated that it is an excellent system. In addition, he commented about vandalism in schools. He supports Chief Manion's recommendations to hire additional school police officers.

KEEP KIDS SAFE RESOLUTION – MTA EXPOSITION LIGHT RAIL LINE

Mr. Ed Morelan, Site Assessment Manager, Office of Environmental Health and Safety, briefed the Committee about the status towards implementing the "Keeping Kids Safe (MTA Expo Light Rail Line)" Resolution, presented by Chairperson Korenstein and Board Member LaMotte, and adopted by the Board. He stated that the District has challenged the Expo grade-crossing designs through the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). In a community meeting held in January 2008, Expo staff presented three options for the Farmdale intersection crossing at Dorsey High School. They also met with the District to present two Farmdale options intended for further study; but the Expo Board postponed the vote directing further evaluation of Farmdale options. Mr. Morelan noted that the District is preparing to request the Expo Board to include another option as part of the environmental review; that is, the rail would pass under Farmdale. In addition, the District is in the process of providing input to Expo authority regarding Farmdale options; preparing for the CPUC Evidentiary Hearing for a Farmdale crossing; and the CPUC Evidentiary Hearing regarding the rail line in the vicinity of Foshay Learning Center.

Mr. Morelan responded to questions and concerns from Committee Members.

ADDRESSING VANDALISMS AT SCHOOLS

Chief Manion expressed concern about the increasing number of gang activities in the vicinities of the schools and the lack of sufficient police officers to provide coverage to all schools; he has to constantly redeploy staff. He mentioned that last month there was a spree of gang related shootings with retaliation in the vicinities of several schools, such as, Santee Education Center and Jordan High School. In response to this situation, the District asked him to present a plan of action, which consisted of placing thirty additional school police officers for a two-week period, in conjunction with the LAPD, to provide security for the students from 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Chief Manion noted that Chief William Bratton, LAPD, brought in the FBI, and he is deploying 200 police officers to the South end of the city to provide additional protection for the students. In addition, Chief Manion indicated that there was another gang shooting during a school basketball game early in the month; where a student was wounded. The following day, Deputy Chief Bowman had to redeploy a few officers to the two schools affected in fear of retaliation.

In reference to burglary and vandalism, Chief Manion mentioned that most of them occur during the evening hours, with an estimated cost of approximately \$10 million for vandalism, and \$20 to \$30 million for burglaries. His office is unable to provide security coverage for schools in the evenings.

Chief Manion introduced Deputy Chief Bowman who stated that in the last three years, crime rate on school campuses has decreased; property crime has also decreased approximately 4.7%, and burglary 28.8%; but vandalism and graffiti has increased. He stated that the LASPD has made twenty arrests for burglary and seventeen for vandalism from November 2007 to February 2008. Deputy Chief Bowman asked the Board to consider and support Chief Manion's request during the upcoming budget discussions.

Chief Manion asked to offer condolence to the family of Officer Randy Simmons, LAPD SWAT Team, who was shot and killed in the line of duty. Officer Simmons had assisted him on different occasions in major incidents involving students.

Chief Manion responded to questions and concerns from Committee Members.

PROCEDURES FOR SCREENING DISTRICT PERSONNEL

Chairperson Korenstein announced that this item was postponed.

SPEAKERS:

Ms. Karen Kraph, founder of the Positively Thinking Organization, a comprehensive sex education program; she expressed interest in making presentations to students, as a guest speaker, to help them to make the right decisions. She stated that her organization began making presentations at schools, but she was prohibited from continuing based on some specific guidelines by the California Department of Education. She noted that parents and students have sent letters supporting her program.

In response to Chairperson Korenstein's concern regarding the legality of allowing Ms. Kraph to be invited as a guest speaker by a sex education program teacher, *Mr. Rene Gonzalez, Assistant Superintendent, Student Health and Human Services, responded that he will follow up on this issue.*

Mr. Tom Carter talked about tracking students attendance and notifying parents using all means of communication available to school staff. *Chairperson Korenstein asked Mr. Holmquist to follow up.*

Mr. Bill Ring, Parent Collaborative, addressed the issue of the Robertson Strip Club, near Hamilton High School. He is advocating student's safety, and asked the Committee to keep supporting the initiative to prevent the issuance of a permanent permit to run this strip club. He mentioned that parents and community representatives met with the Police Commissioner early in the month to discuss this issue. In addition, Mr. Ring commented on the Parent/Student handbook revision process. He asked the Committee whether parents and other groups, such as, the PTA, could be involved in the process.

Mr. Jose Carmona, former District Youth Lead Coordinator, asked the Committee to reinstate him to this position. He noted that this program was created to help gang members and other high-risk youth to improve their academic achievement. He stated that Board Member Korenstein and former Board Member Huizar presented a resolution to the Board *to Promote Safe Schools and Safe Neighborhoods by Implementing Violence Prevention/Intervention Program*, which was adopted on July 12, 2005. He noted that students and parents have expressed concerns that the new program is not accomplishing the ultimate goal of the Resolution.

Ms. Geraldine Zapata, Citizen for a Better Education, supported Mr. Carmona's comments and urged the Committee to reinstate the former program and Mr. Carmona. Mr. Dick Selby, retired school psychologist, also supported Mr. Carmona's request and program.

Students Jasmine Alvarez, and Andy Oropeza, and Ms. Celina Rodriguez, Andy Oropeza's mother, expressed their support for Mr. Cardona. Chairperson Korenstein indicated that she will follow up this issue.

Ms. Lydia Grant addressed the Committee on several issues related to Mt. Gleason Middle School and Verdugo Hills High School. She asked the Committee to have the Mt. Gleason Middle School name and telephone number updated in the telephone company directory. She also mentioned that the boys' restrooms are not open yet, making the boys use the girls' restrooms after school; and gates are not opened in the physical education area, resulting in students jumping the fences to get out. In reference to Verdugo Hills High School, she mentioned issues related to the girls' softball field. Chairperson Korenstein noted that she will follow up on these issues.

The adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

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AGENDA

1. Opening Remarks Julie Korenstein
2. Recognition of Chief Manion Dave Holmquist 5 min.
Interim Chief Operating Officer
Sal Hernandez
Assistant Director, Los Angeles FBI office
3. Safety Rankings James Ream 5 min.
Los Angeles School Police Association
4. Homeless Resources Hector Madrigal, Pupil Services 20 min.
Melissa Schoonmaker, Homeless Education Program
5. Emergency Notification on Bomb Threats Earl Perkins, Assistant Superintendent 20 min
School Operations
6. Keeps Kids Safe Resolution Ed Morelan 10 min.
re: MTA Expo Light Rail Line Site Assessment Manager, OEHS
7. Addressing Vandalisms at Schools Chief Larry Manion 10 min.
Deputy Chief Mike Bowman, LASPD
8. Procedures for Screening LAUSD Personnel Kathryn Butler 10 min.
Chief Human Resources Specialists
Robyn Warren, Chief Human Resources Specialists
Dawn Watkins, Acting Chief Risk Officer
Debi Ignagni, Certificated Human Resources
Justo Avila, Certificated Human Resources
9. Speakers – Persons who wish to address this Committee may sign-up at the meeting.
10. Adjournment

This Committee may consider and act upon motions, Board Reports, or other business referred to it by the Board of Education or Committee of the Whole, with respect to any properly posted matter at a meeting immediately preceding this committee meeting, where the time between that meeting and this committee meeting is less than 72 hours. Members of the public are encouraged to review the order of business or agenda for the meetings of the Board of Education or Committee of the Whole. For more information visit www.laschoolboard.org -School Safety, Student Health and Human Services.

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

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