

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, March 6, 2008

Committee Members Present

Julie Korenstein, Chairperson  
Marguerite Poindexter LaMotte

External Representatives Present

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

District Staff Present

Dave Holmquist, Chief Operating Officer  
Earl Perkins, Assistant Superintendent  
School Operations  
Yi Hwa Kim, Interim 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

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The meeting convened at 10:20 a.m.  
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OPENING REMARKS

Chairperson Julie Korenstein made brief opening remarks and announced the items to be discussed.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chief Larry Manion, Los Angeles School Police, commended Officer Eric Hyde, Gardena Police Department, for his commitment to protecting the District students, school staff, and community; and for his tactical awareness. Chief Manion noted that Officer Hyde was shot and wounded by a suspected gang member on January 9, 2008, near the intersection frequented by students of Perry Middle School and Amestoy Elementary School. Although seriously wounded, Officer Hyde was able to broadcast pertinent crime information over his radio, and assured that responding police personnel established prompt action and secured all schools and the community in the area. Chief Manion stated that, subsequently, the Los Angeles School Police Department (LASPD) and Gardena Police Department secured neighboring schools and evacuated students and school officials. He introduced Chief Ed Medrano, Gardena Police Department, who presented, for the District, the award to Officer Hyde.

HOMELESS RESOURCES

This item was postponed to a future meeting.

PROCEDURES FOR SCREENING DISTRICT PERSONNEL

Ms. Deborah Ignagni, Administrator, Certificated Employment Operations, Human Resources Division; Ms. Susan Snelgrove, Director, School Volunteer Program, Beyond the Bell; and Ms. Nidavone Niravanh, Acting Director, Insurance and Risk Management Division, provided a brief update on screening and clearance procedures of new classified and certificated personnel, contractors, and volunteers.

Ms. Ignagni, Ms. Snelgrove and Ms. Niravanh responded to questions and concerns from Committee Members.

## SPEAKER

Mr. Allan Kakassy addressed the Committee on this item.

## SCHOOL MENUS AND NUTRITION

Mr. Dennis Barrett, Director, Food Services Branch, outlined the objective of the presentation and introduced Ms. Laura Benavidez and Mr. David Binkle, Deputy Directors. They provided a brief update on the recent advancements of the food services initiatives, and the improvement to the nutritional value of school meals. Ms. Benavidez noted that her branch has developed a youth advisory committee, and communications and marketing teams to evaluate and market new and current food products for students. Mr. Binkle stated that the Food Services Branch has a new chef, who is working on a new vision focusing on quality, service and nutrition. His goal is to form a council of Executive Chefs for Schools to serve as an advisory committee. Food Services Branch is working with students to create a student driven menu, and change the package and presentation to make the food more appealing.

Mr. Barrett announced that the Whole Grain Council named the District as a “Whole Grain District”; he noted that the cafeteria menus contain whole grain products available for all meal service.

## SPEAKERS

Mr. Bill Ring, Parent Collaborative, commended the Food Service Branch and recommended to look at other successful school districts to improve the District’s food services. He was mainly concerned with high school students who do not have enough time to eat or arrive late and have no food available.

## THREAT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT IN THE DISTRICT

Dr. Marleen Wong, Director, Crisis Counseling and Intervention Services (CCIS), Office of Chief Operating Officer, presented an overview of the program. She provided a historical background of terror in schools and the formation of the Threat Assessment Program in 1999. She stated that the goal of this program is to prevent life threatening violence in schools, specifically, when a student makes a threat against a student, teacher, or another school official. The Threat Assessment Program is comprised of administrators, school police, mental health professionals, and the District legal department. Dr. Wong noted that in 1999, the District approved training to all administrators or designees. In December 2007, her office was commended in the draft report of Evergreen Study of Safety and Security for the implementation of the District wide program, which pertains to the assessment, and management of threats. Dr. Wong emphasized that, through these trainings, her office has been able to make some progress in reducing the number of threats in schools.

Dr. Wong introduced Ms. Barbara Cole, Crisis Counseling and Intervention Services, who made a brief presentation of her office’s role in the Threat Assessment Program. Her office provides recommendations and suggestions to school site teams on how to keep schools safe and provides guidelines for action in case of a threat. Her office works in collaboration with Local District Operations Coordinators, school administrators, LASPD, and the Office of the General Counsel.

Ms. Cole introduced Mr. David Holmes, Operations Coordinator, Local District 5; Lt. Randy Glymph, LASPD; and Belinda Stith, Assistant General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, who briefly described the responsibilities and roles of their offices.

Ms. Wong responded to questions and concerns from Committee Members.

Mr. Earl Perkins, Assistant Superintendent, School Operations, commented that the District has trained approximately 140 pilot schools on the new communication system, Connect Ed, which has the capability to reach

District personnel and parents in seconds in case of an emergency, or notify parents if a student is absent or tardy. Mr. Perkins noted that this training is not mandated to school administrators; they have to sign up. In reference to Mr. Perkins comment, Chairperson Korenstein and Committee Member LaMotte recommended that this training be mandated. They will present this issue to the Board in a future meeting.

### SPEAKERS

Ms. Alma Garcia and Ms. Helen Jackson, of 96<sup>th</sup> Elementary School; Mr. David Wright, Teacher, Compton Avenue; and Ms. Michelle Bennet, of Griffith Joyner Elementary School, all part of the Ten School Program, commented on the safety of schools and their community, and urged Committee Members to increase patrol security for the protection of the students.

### CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

This item was postponed to a future meeting.

### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

#### SPEAKERS:

Mr. Clint Simmons talked about toxics near schools.

Ms. Lydia Grant, parent, addressed the Committee regarding enhancing communication between school officials and parents; and she proposed expanding the 1,000 feet Safety Zone Program, a County Ordinance, to include traffic violations; which will bring revenue to the District and make the school safer for pedestrians.

Mr. Bill Ring urged the Committee to insure that the Safe School Plan be implemented in all schools. In addition, he addressed the Committee on the procedures for screening District personnel and for individuals for the Volunteer Program. He also talked about the Connect Ed communication system.

Ms. Linda Guthrie, Vice-President, United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) talked about school safety, and the Safe School Plan. She recommended that the Safe School Plan be incorporated into the Single Plan for Student Achievement.

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The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.  
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Lawrence Jarmon, Community Representative  
Neal Kleiner, Associated Administrators  
of Los Angeles  
Diana Dixon Davis, 31<sup>st</sup> District PTSA  
Zella Knight, Parent Representative  
Paul Vinetz, L.A. County Probation Department

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**AGEND**

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| 1. Opening Remarks   | Julie Korenstein   | 5 min.  |
| 2. Homeless Resources  | Hector Madrigal, Pupil Services<br>Melissa Schoonmaker,<br>Homeless Education Program  | 20 min. |
| 3. Procedures for Screening LAUSD Personnel  | Wendy Macy, Personnel Director<br>Kathryn Butler, Chief HR Specialists<br>Robyn Warren, Chief HR Specialists<br>Dawn Watkins, Acting Chief Risk Officer<br>Debi Ignagni, Certificated Human Resources<br>Justo Avila, Certificated Human Resources | 20 min. |
| 4. School Menus and Nutrition  | Laura Benavidez, Deputy Director<br>Food Services  | 20 min. |
| 5. Threat Assessment   | Marleen Wong, Dir., Crisis Intervention<br>Barbara Colwell   | 20 min. |
| 6. Speakers – Persons who wish to address this Committee may sign-up at the meeting. |  |         |
| 7. 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](http://www.laschoolboard.org) -School Safety, Student Health and Human Services, and Human Relations*

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