

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, 1st Floor, Board Room
10:00 a.m., Thursday, May 14, 2009

Committee Members

Julie Korenstein, Chair
Marguerite Poindexter LaMotte

External Representatives

Inola F. Henry, United Teachers Los Angeles
Lawrence Jarmon, Community Representative
Neal Kleiner, Associated Administrators
of Los Angeles
Diana Dixon Davis, 31st District PTSA
Zella Knight, Parent Representative
Paul Vinetz, L.A. County Probation Department
Hattie McFrazier, United Teachers Los Angeles

District Staff Members

Dave Holmquist, Chief Operating Officer
Earl Perkins, Assistant Superintendent School Operations
Lawrence Manion, Chief, Los Angeles School Police
Yi Hwa Kim, Interim Director
Office of Environmental Health and Safety
Rene Gonzalez, Assistant Superintendent
Student Health and Human Services
Hector Madrigal, Director, Pupil Services

Board Secretariat Contact

Noemi Fernandez (213) 241-7002
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The meeting convened at 10:13 a.m.

OPENING REMARKS

Chair Julie Korenstein made brief opening remarks and invited Chief Larry Manion, Los Angeles School Police Division (LASPD), to present certificates of recognition to some of his officers for their outstanding job performance. Chief Manion commended Detectives Leslie Ramirez, George Rodriguez, Ray Bottenfield, and Sergeant Daniel Frickle for their unparalleled investigative talents, communication skills, and commitment to protecting students. Chief Manion related that on October 8, 2008, six District students left their school campus during school time and went to a nearby residence. Several students repeatedly battered one of the female students for several hours. LASPD upon becoming aware of this incident began an investigation. Detectives Ramirez, Rodriguez, and Bottenfield evaluated investigative leads, interviewed witnesses, recovered physical evidence, and eventually identified the perpetrators. Due to their superb investigative skills, the subjects were arrested and subsequently found guilty in juvenile court for torture, assault with a deadly weapon, kidnapping, and robbery.

Chair Korenstein invited Mr. Earl Perkins, Assistant Superintendent School Operations, to present certificates of recognitions to several District school staff. Mr. Perkins commended Ms. Angel Manor, Campus Aide, Cochran Middle School, for her bravery and commitment to school safety. Mr. Perkins related that on April 30, 2009, gang members chased a rival member into the school campus. Ms. Manor was having lunch in the parking lot by her car when this gang member, a former Cochran's student, jumped into the back of her car for protection. The other gang members pulled a gun and threatened to kill him. Ms. Manor stood up to them and pleaded for his life. She persuaded them and they left the school campus without harming either of them. Chief Manion commended her for her bravery beyond her call of duty. Mr. Perkins commended Mr. Scott Schmerelson, Principal, for his leadership and commitment to school safety.

In addition, Mr. Perkins commended the following staff from 28th Street Elementary School for their commitment to school safety – Rigoberto Rodriguez, Principal; Marta Jevenois, Assistant Principal; Kenneth Stone, Plant Manager; and Jarvis Canton, Building and Grounds Worker.

FOOD DRIVE MOTION UPDATE

Mr. Dan Alba, Chairperson, Human Relations Commission and Director, Facing History and Ourselves; and Mr. Carlos Barron, Administrative Coordinator, Human Relations Commission, provided a brief update and recommendations to support staff, students, and school communities during the severe economic downturns. The Human Relations Commission is an all-volunteer advisory council. The responsibilities include advising and reviewing policies, and making recommendations to the Board of Education on matters related to human relations, diversity, and equity.

Mr. Barron stated that the Commission had its meeting on February 25, 2009. Some of the members raised concerns and questions regarding the economic impacts the nation is experiencing and how they may be affecting students, staff, and community of the District. In order to address these issues, Mr. Alba requested the Commissioners to volunteer and form an Ad Hoc Committee and find answers to their questions for District staff, in particular, student mental health, and food services issues. On March 12, 2009, the Committee met with Ms. Barbara Codwell, Director, School Operations and Crisis Counseling; and Mr. Dennis Barrett, Director, Food Services Branch. The Ad hoc Committee presented their findings and conclusions to the Commission on March 25. The Commission passed a motion to bring the concerns and recommendations to this Committee for consideration and action. The recommendations are as follows:

- Recognize and alert school staff and communities to the new inter-group tensions and conflicts emerging on campuses across the city.
- Support all existing adult counseling mechanisms available through the Employee Assistance Program, for certificated and classified staff, which are adversely affected by this economic downturn.
- Make more available and accessible critical student and family counseling services utilizing resources, such as community based organizations, organizational facilitators, neighborhood partnerships, and resource coordinators.

Mr. Alba and Mr. Barron responded to questions and concerns from Committee Members.

SAFETY COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. David Holmquist, Chief Operating Officer, presented Chair Korenstein with an award from that the School Safety Committee and the Chief Operating Officer for her twenty-two years dedicated service to the District. The inscription of the award reads:

“Your passion, dedication, and commitment to the students of this District have been instrumental in the positive progress made by students over the years.

Your mentoring to fellow Board Members and staff has increased the capacity of a seamless effort to support students, staff, and the community of the Los Angeles Unified School District.”

Mr. Holmquist highlighted that during her twenty-two years of service, Chair Korenstein sponsored and co-sponsored 248 Resolutions; such as, Cesar Chavez Statewide Holiday; Proposition 1B, Safe Schools Act of 1994; Increase School Nursing Services for the 1999-2000 School Year; Early Childhood Education; Declaring Salary and Benefits for Contract Employees Indefinite Pending Measure Improvements in Student Performance; National Recycle Day and California Recycle Week; and Stand Up for Children and Fight Devastating State Budget Cuts.

Each Committee Member expressed their gratitude and appreciation for her hard work and support.

Chief Manion presented Chair Korenstein with an award from his Division for her contribution to the Los Angeles School Police Division (LASPD) and safety of staff and students.

Ms. Wendy Macy, Director, Classified Personnel, and Mr. Julian Gorgoni, representing Government Relations, extended their appreciation to Chair Korenstein for her contributions and support.

Chair Korenstein thanked all involved in the recognition and for all the work they have done for the District.

The meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

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AGENDA

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| 1. Opening Remarks | Julie Korenstein | 5 min. |
| 2. Staff Recognitions
<u>28th Street ES</u>
Rigoberto Rodriguez, Principal
Marta Jevenois, A.P.
Kenneth Stone, Plant Manager
Jarvis Canton, Building & Grounds Worker

<u>Cochran MS</u>
Scott Schmerelson, Principal
Angel Manor, Campus Aide | Earl Perkins, Assistant Superintendent
School Operations | 15 min. |
| 3. Human Relations Commission Update
and Recommendations | Dan Alba, Chair
Human Relations Commission | 20 min. |
| 4. Food Drive Motion Update | Earl Perkins, Assistant Superintendent
School Operations | 20 min. |
| 5. Safety Committee Accomplishments | Dave Holmquist,
Chief Operating Officer
Office of the Chief Operating Officer | 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 -School Safety, Student Health and Human Services.

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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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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 to determine if you need to register or call the LAUSD Ethics Office at (213) 241-3330