The Board of Education of the City of Los Angeles, acting as the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District, met in regular session on Tuesday, January 13, 2009, at the Los Angeles City Board of Education Administrative Offices, Board Room, 333 South Beaudry Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

President Mónica García called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

The following Members were present: Ms. Marlene Canter, Ms. Yolie Flores Aguilar, Ms. Tamar Galatzan, Ms. Julie Korenstein, Dr. Richard Vladovic, and President Mónica García. Ms. Marguerite P. LaMotte was absent the entire meeting.

Superintendent Ramon C. Cortines was present.

Dr. Vladovic led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President García modified the Order of Business.

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENTS’ PRESENTATION

Mr. Earl Perkins, Assistant Superintendent, School Operations, gave a brief overview of the November 24, 2008, meeting of the student body presidents. Three attendees shared some of the areas of concern that were discussed with Board Members. Mr. Julian Maker, Franklin High School Student Body President, summarized the discussion that took place regarding the sale of food and beverages on school campuses. Ms. Juliet Jun, Los Angeles High School Student Body President, reviewed student access to various health and human services and campus health centers. Mr. Warren Jones, Crenshaw High School Student Body President, discussed a presentation from the Food Services Branch and the importance of physical activity.

The Student Body Presidents and Mr. Perkins responded to questions from Board Members regarding healthy food choices, Associated Student Body funds, and college plans.

President García resumed the Order of Business.
SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT ON TRANSFORMATION METRICS

REVIEW OF 100-DAY PLAN

Superintendent Cortines provided the Board with an overview of the 100-Day Plan. This plan outlines the goals the District seeks to achieve in the first 100 days under his leadership. Mr. Cortines noted that the plan is not a strategic plan, but rather a tool to help focus the District’s efforts in educating students. The plan involves collaboration with key stakeholders, including parents, students, employees, civic and business leaders, bargaining units, and others. He reviewed the five key strategies to achieve the goals of the 100-Day Plan.

Superintendent Cortines responded to questions from Board Members regarding boldness of the plan, Board feedback, budget impact, responsibility, proficiency, and the expectation for success.

BUDGET UPDATE

Ms. Megan Reilly, Chief Financial Officer, made a presentation to the Board entitled “Addressing the Budget Crisis: Flexibility is Essential.” Ms. Reilly began the presentation with a review of the budget activities over the past year, including cuts, textbook adoption delay, personnel reductions, etc. The District is currently unsure of the impact of the latest State budget deficit.

Flexibility is key in addressing the revenue loss from the State. Flexibility will allow the District the ability to set priorities for spending and implement a budget strategy that best benefits students. Ms. Reilly reviewed examples of no cost flexibility options the District is requesting, including extension of the Williams Act, class size increases, and changes to the voting requirements for a parcel tax. Remarks were heard from Superintendent Cortines regarding parcel taxes. Ms. Reilly detailed the benefits of class size flexibility.

Ms. Reilly concluded the presentation with a review of timelines associated with planning for the 2009-2010 school year and the new deficit crisis.

Ms. Reilly, Superintendent Cortines, and Dr. Santiago Jackson, Director, Legislative and Governmental Affairs, responded to questions from Board Members regarding midyear cuts, the budget sent to the Los Angeles County Office of Education, class size, State revenue, flexibilities, groups in opposition to flexibilities, budget projections, support from other school districts, advocacy, mobilization, parental involvement, timelines, parcel tax, days of instruction, and personnel reductions.

INSTRUCTIONAL ITEMS

MATHEMATIC SUCCESSES

SHOWCASE OF BEST PRACTICES: VIRGIL AND BERENDO MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Dr. Judy Elliott, Chief Academic Officer, gave a brief overview of the successes Berendo and Virgil Middle Schools have attained in Algebra proficiency. Dr. Elliott welcomed Mr. Nigel Nisbet, Math Professional Development Facilitator. Mr. Nisbet began his presentation by sharing data on proficiency levels for both schools, including subgroup data on English Learners, Special Education, and gender.
Principal Robert Bilovsky discussed the math program at Berendo Middle School. The framework of the program is based on uniformity, accountability, and support and intervention. He also discussed the implementation of the program.

Mr. Bilovsky and Superintendent Cortines responded to questions from Board Members regarding the school’s demographics, weekly assessments, funding, program success, and replication.

Principal Ada Snethen introduced the Math Success Program (MSP) at Virgil Middle School. Coaches Ms. Laurie Friedman and Ms. Heidi Mamoud reviewed the MSP and explained the role coaches and teachers played in the program. They also discussed hallmarks of the program and how the data is used.

Ms. Snethen responded to questions from Board Members regarding student placement.

REPORT ON SCHOOL REPORT CARD

Mr. Michael Lovelady, Project Director, updated the Board on the School Report Card. Mr. Lovelady presented the Board with a sample of the Report Card that was sent home to parents. He discussed the variety of resources that are available to stakeholders, including a link on the District website. The Report Card is available in nine languages. Lastly, Mr. Lovelady discussed the efforts underway to improve and expand the Report Card.

Mr. Lovelady and Mr. Jeff White, Unit Coordinator, Policy Analysis Unit, responded to questions from Board Members regarding access to Report Card and preferred language.

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President García modified the Order of Business.

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NEW BUSINESS FOR ACTION

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 189 – 08/09

Adoption of a Resolution and Authorization to Submit an Amended Program and Plan of Use to the United States Department of Education Related to the Proposed Bell Education and Career Center

Ms. Flores Aguilar moved that the report be adopted with the amendment to delete Attachment A. Ms. Canter seconded the motion.

Councilman Sergio Calderon, City of Maywood, addressed the Board.

After discussion and by general consent, the report was adopted as amended. Ms. LaMotte was absent.
The following speakers addressed the Board on the report:

Ms. Ruth Wheelwright, Case No. 043 – 08/09

Dr. Julio Fonseca, Coordinator, Student Discipline Proceedings Unit, responded to questions from Board Members regarding timelines, student placement, and the impact of holding the item.

Ms. Margaret Carroll, Esq. – Case No. 043 – 08/09

Superintendent Cortines requested that the item be postponed in order for him to review the case and make a recommendation.

Ms. Nanette Young, Case No. 045 – 08/09

Superintendent Cortines requested an opportunity to review the cases and come back to the Board at the Committee of the Whole meeting of January 22, 2009.

Dr. Fonseca and Superintendent Cortines responded to questions from Board Members regarding deadlines, timelines, responsibility, and due process rights.

After discussion, the item was held open to allow Dr. Fonseca an opportunity to meet with the speakers.

Later in the meeting, Dr. Fonseca informed the Board that he had met with the parents who indicated they did not want to extend the time limits and, therefore, a decision by the Board was in order.

Ms. Deborah Sullivan, Case No. 051 – 08/09, was also given an opportunity to address the Board.

Dr. Fonseca responded to questions from Board Members regarding student placement, mandates, and rehabilitation plans.

The item was held open again for further information.

Later in the meeting, Ms. Galatzan moved that the report be adopted. Dr. Vladovic seconded the motion.

Dr. Fonseca and Superintendent Cortines responded to questions from Board Members regarding changes to the report, staff recommendations, and alternative programs.

After discussion and by general consent, the report was adopted. Ms. Flores Aguilar and Ms. LaMotte were absent.
The following speakers addressed the Board:

Mr. Greg Solkovits, United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA)
Ms. Julie Washington, UTLA
Mr. A. J. Duffy, UTLA
Mr. Darin Greenblatt, Westwood Charter School

Superintendent Cortines addressed the Board on the report.

Ms. Flores Aguilar moved that the report be adopted. Ms. Canter seconded the motion.

On roll call, the report was adopted, 4 ayes, 2 noes, Ms. Korenstein, Dr. Vladovic. Ms. LaMotte was absent.

President García resumed the Order of Business.

OLD BUSINESS FOR ACTION

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 127 – 08/09
Assignment of Community Redevelopment Agency Funds for Qualified Zone Academy Bond Board Approved Projects

This item was withdrawn.

NEW BUSINESS FOR ACTION (continued)

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 191 – 08/09
Routine Personnel Actions

Ms. Flores Aguilar moved that the report be adopted. Ms. Canter seconded the motion, which by general consent was adopted. Ms. LaMotte was absent.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 192 – 08/09
Nonroutine Personnel Actions

Ms. Canter moved that the report be adopted. Ms. Galatzan seconded the motion, which by general consent was adopted. Ms. LaMotte was absent.
Ms. Canter moved that the report be adopted. Ms. Flores Aguilar seconded the motion, which by general consent was adopted. Ms. LaMotte was absent.

Ms. Canter moved that the report be adopted. Ms. Galatzan seconded the motion, which by general consent was adopted. Ms. LaMotte was absent.

Ms. Canter moved that the report be adopted. Ms. Flores Aguilar seconded the motion.

Superintendent Cortines responded to questions from Board Members regarding competitive bidding, staffing needs, and purchasing of buses.

This item was held open to allow staff to provide further information.

Later in the meeting, Mr. Duane Johnson, Chief Procurement Officer, Superintendent Cortines, Mr. Tony Tortorice, Chief Information Officer, and Dr. James Alther, Chief Technology Director responded to questions from Board Members regarding purchasing of buses, funding sources, E-Rate program, and digital television conversion.

The report was amended to withdraw Exhibit A regarding school bus sales.

After discussion and by general consent, the report was adopted as amended. Ms. LaMotte was absent.

Ms. Galatzan moved that the report be adopted. Ms. Flores Aguilar seconded the motion.

Superintendent Cortines and Ms. Gail Hughes, Assistant Superintendent, Office of Staff Relations, responded to questions from Board Members regarding calendar flexibility, implications of the Governor’s proposal to shorten the school year, furlough days, and transportation.

After discussion and by general consent, the report was adopted. Ms. LaMotte was absent.
Material Decrease in Attendance and Emergency Closures of Schools Affected by Sunland/Tujunga Area Fires in October 2008; Attendance Allowance Due to Emergency Conditions; Payment of Employees

Ms. Galatzan moved that the report be adopted. Ms. Flores Aguilar seconded the motion, which by general consent was adopted. Ms. LaMotte was absent.

President García modified the Order of Business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following speakers addressed the Board on the subjects indicated:

- Mr. Walter Waddles Richardson: Parent Involvement
- Mr. Daniel Armstrong, Find a Tree: Life Skills Course
- Mr. Jorge Sanchez: Find a Tree Program
- Mr. Felipe Escalante: Motivating Students
- Ms. Berta Orostiteta: Academic Program
- Ms. Lorena Jaramillo: Accountability
- Mr. Leonard Rose: Cartoon Education Program
- Ms. Zella Knight: African American Children
- Ms. Hasmig Aslanian: Sherman Oaks CES & Birmingham HS
- Ms. Maggie Godoy: BCC
- Ms. Cleo Ray: African American Students
- Ms. Cleo Anderson: Transcripts

President García resumed the Order of Business.

NEW BUSINESS FOR ACTION (continued)

Denial of the Charter Petition for the Los Angeles Destiny Center

President García made the following statement:

An opportunity is now given to those individuals who have requested to address the Board on the Denial of the Charter Petition for the Los Angeles Destiny Center.

This constitutes a public hearing on the denial of the charter petition, and a maximum of 12 individuals who wish to address the Board on this item will be heard. Those who wish to speak to this report should go to the recording booth at the back of the Board Room and fill out a speaker’s card. Those individuals will be heard after any speakers already on the list.
The following speakers addressed the Board:

Ms. Wanda Clemmons  
Ms. Tonya McIntyre  
Ms. Yolonda Collins  
Ms. Betty Knight  
Mr. Jerry Simmons, Esq.  
Rev. Ignacio Garcia

Ms. Canter moved that the report be adopted. Dr. Vladovic seconded the motion.

Mr. Jose Cole-Gutierrez, Executive Director, Charter Schools Division, addressed the Board on the Division’s recommendation.

Mr. Cole-Gutierrez and Ms. Clemmons responded to questions from Board Members regarding correspondence, approval, and collaboration.

After discussion and by general consent, the report was adopted. Ms. LaMotte was absent.

BOARD MEMBER RESOLUTION FOR ACTION

Ms. Galatzan moved the following revised resolution regarding Full Accountability to Taxpayers:

Whereas, The District has a fiduciary and moral responsibility to keep taxpayers fully informed regarding how their money is spent, and to ensure the wise and fiscally prudent expenditure of public funds;

Whereas, The District hires numerous consultants to provide expertise, support, or services in a number of key areas;

Whereas, To fulfill their fiduciary and moral responsibilities, such information must include, when applicable, a description of job expectations and well-defined performance measures, as well as an evaluation of previous work performed for the District;

Whereas, There are recent examples in which the District has failed to provide sufficient information concerning job expectations, and performance measures, and/or the outcomes achieved when issuing or renewing the contracts of particular consultants;

Whereas, The lack of such information represents a failure on the part of the District to provide a full accounting to taxpayers;

Whereas, Because of the current budget situation, there is currently a District-imposed moratorium on personal service consultant contracts; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That for all future personal service contracts, the Superintendent will provide detailed and complete information on the hiring of consultants (at any dollar amount), which will include a job description and performance measures.
Resolved. That within 60 days, the Superintendent shall establish procedures to require the full and complete review by division heads of statements of duties and expected outcomes for all consulting services contracts, prior to their submittal to the Board of Education for ratification or approval.

Ms. Flores Aguilar seconded the motion, which by general consent was adopted. Ms. LaMotte was absent.

The final version of the resolution reads as follows:

Whereas, The District has a fiduciary and moral responsibility to keep taxpayers fully informed regarding how their money is spent, and to ensure the wise and fiscally prudent expenditure of public funds;

Whereas, The District hires consultants to provide expertise, support, or services in a number of key areas;

Whereas, To fulfill their fiduciary and moral responsibilities, such information must include, when applicable, a description of job expectations and well-defined performance measures, as well as an evaluation of previous work performed for the District;
Whereas, There are recent examples in which the District has failed to provide sufficient information concerning job expectations, performance measures, and/or the outcomes achieved when issuing or renewing the contracts of particular consultants;

Whereas, The lack of such information represents a failure on the part of the District to provide a full accounting to taxpayers;

Whereas, Because of the current budget situation, there is currently a District-imposed moratorium on consultant contracts; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That within 60 days, the Superintendent shall establish procedures to require the full and complete review by division heads of statements of duties and expected outcomes for all consulting services contracts, prior to their submittal to the Board of Education for ratification or approval.

MOTION REQUESTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Ms. Canter moved the following:

Resolved, That Board of Education of the City of Los Angeles ratifies the reappointment of Virginia Tanzmann, representing the AIA Los Angeles, as Member to the School Construction Bond Oversight Committee commencing February 1, 2009.

Ms. Korenstein seconded the motion, which by general consent was adopted. Ms. Flores Aguilar and Ms. LaMotte were absent.
Ms. García, Ms. Flores Aguilar, Ms. Korenstein - Resolution to Stand Up for Children and Fight Devastating State Budget Cuts

Whereas, The students of the Los Angeles Unified School District deserve the highest-quality education we can provide, with well-trained educators, small class sizes, quality instructional materials, up-to-date textbooks, and dynamic parental support;

Whereas, This past year alone, our schools suffered severe state budget cuts of $476 million, resulting in a reduction of services to our students;

Whereas, Additional cuts proposed by Governor Schwarzenegger would take $200-$400 million from our schools and our students mid-year ($400-$800 million if annualized), totaling more than $1 billion in cuts to the District in 2008-09 alone;

Whereas, If implemented, these cuts would likely result in massive layoffs and class size increases for students grades K-3 and in high school;

Whereas, Further budget reductions impede the District’s work of improving student achievement at a time when our students are making progress toward meeting rigorous state and federal education standards;

Whereas, The cuts already made to schools will have long-term, lasting effects well beyond 2008-09, taking years to recover from such setbacks, and further cuts to education will have catastrophic consequences for our schools and students;

Whereas, Additional education cuts will result in more layoffs, reduction of employee hours, and reduced district purchases of goods and services, all of which are bad for businesses and the economy;

Whereas, The global budget crisis demands shared responsibility by all Californians. Cuts alone will not close the massive deficit the state is facing, and increasing revenues must be a priority for the legislature and the Governor;

Whereas, These challenging economic times highlight the need to invest in our future workforce; and

Whereas, The State’s budget problem was not created by our students and fixing the problem should not come at the expense of their educational progress and success; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District urges immediate action by the legislature and Governor that recognizes the cuts schools have already made and solves the budget crisis with a balanced approach that includes revenue increases and protects a quality education for District students.
CORRESPONDENCE AND PETITIONS

Ms. Korenstein moved that the recommended disposition of the items of correspondence as indicated in the Report of Correspondence be approved. Ms. Galatzan seconded the motion, which by general consent was adopted. Ms. Flores Aguilar and Ms. LaMotte were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Korenstein moved the approval of the following minutes of the governing board of the Los Angeles Unified School District:

10:00 a.m., Special Board Meeting, January 22, 2008
1:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, October 28, 2008
10:00 a.m., Special Closed Session, November 18, 2008
11:00 a.m., Special Closed Session, November 25, 2008
10:00 a.m., Special Closed Session, December 2, 2008
10:00 a.m., Special Closed Session, December 9, 2008
4:00 p.m., Special Closed Session, December 11, 2008

Ms. Galatzan seconded the motion, which by general consent was adopted. Ms. Flores Aguilar and Ms. LaMotte were absent.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Vladovic moved that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Mr. Luis Leon II, San Pedro High School teacher, Mr. Rick Deeb, lawyer for the District, and Ms. Estella Myra Burnett, former District teacher. Ms. Canter seconded the motion, which by general consent was adopted. Ms. Flores Aguilar and Ms. LaMotte were absent.

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

APPROVED BY BOARD:  February 24, 2009

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MONICA GARCIA                                 JEFFERSON CRAIN
PRESIDENT                                    EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE BOARD