

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

333 South Beaudry Avenue, Board Room

1:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 12, 2024

The Los Angeles Board of Education acting as the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District met in regular session on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at the Administrative Offices, Board Room, 333 South Beaudry Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

Mr. Michael McLean, Executive Officer of the Board, called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

The following Board Members were present: Dr. Rocio Rivas, Mr. Scott Schmerelson, Mr. Nick Melvoin, Ms. Kelly Gonez, Ms. Tanya Ortiz Franklin, and Board President Jackie Goldberg.

Dr. George J. McKenna III was present via teleconference.

Student Board Member Karen Ramirez was present.

Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho was also present.

The pledge of Allegiance was led by first-grade students Sa'sharrie and Jayli from Hooper Avenue Elementary School, Board District 5.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

Board President Goldberg highlighted the numerous observances and holidays that take place in the month of March.

LABOR PARTNERS

Mr. Nery Paiz, President of the Associated Administrators of Los Angeles (AALA) spoke on behalf of AALA members expressing concerns regarding funding and support.

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Mr. Schmerelson briefly addressed the significance of the month of March acknowledging it as Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month and also recognizing St. Patrick's Day.

Mr. Schmerelson reported on the February 20, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting.

Dr. Rivas reported on the February 21, 2024, Greening Schools and Climate Resilience Committee meeting.

Mr. Schmerelson reported on the March 6, 2024, Special Education Committee meeting.

CONSENT ITEMS

Items for action below to be adopted by a single vote:

NEW BUSINESS FOR ACTION

- Tab 1: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 193-23/24
Approval of Procurement Actions
- Tab 2: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 157-23/24
Approval of Facilities Contracts Actions
- Tab 3: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 197-23/24
Define and Approve 15 Board District Priority and Region Priority Projects and Amend the Facilities Services Division Strategic Execution Plan to Incorporate Therein
- Tab 4: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 208-23/24
Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the County of Los Angeles for Its Use, Operation and Maintenance of Certain Recreational Areas (commonly referred to as Walnut Nature Park) and Some Outdoor Hardcourts at Walnut Park Elementary School
- Tab 5: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 211-23/24
Approve the Definition of Three Classroom Replacement Projects and Amend the Facilities Services Division Strategic Execution Plan to Incorporate Therein
- Tab 6: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 212-23/24
Define and Approve the Bridge Street Elementary School Critical Barrier Removal Project and Amend the Facilities Services Division Strategic Execution Plan to Incorporate Therein
- Tab 7: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 214-23/24
Define and Approve Three Athletic Facilities Upgrade Projects and Amend the Facilities Services Division Strategic Execution Plan to Incorporate Therein
- Tab 8: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 215-23/24
Define and Approve Eight Playground and Campus Exterior Upgrade Projects and Amend the Facilities Services Division Strategic Execution Plan to Incorporate Therein
- Tab 9: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 207-23/24
Report of Cash Disbursements
- Tab 10: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 210-23/24
Donations of Money to the District and Associated Student Body
- Tab 12: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 198-23/24
Approval of Routine Personnel Actions

Statement read later in the meeting.

- Tab 14: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 192-23/24
Approval of the Permanent Physical Education Block Waiver
- Tab 15: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 112-23/24
Approval of the Closure of Hilda Solis Learning Academy and the Relocation and Expansion of Boyle Heights STEM Magnet High School
- Tab 16: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 217-23/24
Home-to-School Transportation Reimbursement - Transportation Services Plan

BOARD MEMBER RESOLUTION FOR ACTION

- Tab 17: Mr. Schmerelson, Dr. McKenna, Dr. Rivas - LAUSD Art Appreciation and Celebration Week (Res 020-23/24) (Noticed February 13, 2024) (Version 2)

Whereas, The Los Angeles Unified School District has expanded opportunities for students to showcase their artistic talents through dance, music, theater, media, and the visual arts through the Arts Education Branch;

Whereas, In September 2013, The District passed, “Arts at the Core: Implementing the Arts Education and Creative Network Plan,” which called for increased funding, high-quality professional development, policy guidelines, and others in the educational arts field;

Whereas, The District acknowledges the importance of creativity and individuality in the students, realizing art is part of their lives, cultures, identities, etc;

Whereas, The District identifies 33 magnet schools that have a dedication to the performing or visual arts;

Whereas, The District recognizes 40 Arts Community Partnerships throughout the Los Angeles Region, connecting students from marginalized communities to dance, theater, music, and paint instruction, among others;

Whereas, The District has designated Art Weeks for students to showcase their artistic talents during the months of April and May;

Whereas, Since 1976, The State of California has had a dedicated arts council that has distributed millions of dollars, to local arts organizations, including schools, to ensure students harness the power of their creativity;

Whereas, The California Arts Council recently allocated more than \$32 million, with Los Angeles receiving \$8,576,779 for organizations, some of whom are partners with the District, such as 24th Street Theatre, Enrichment Works, and Versa-Style Dance Co.;

Whereas, In 2022, voters of The State of California overwhelmingly passed Proposition 28, resulting in ongoing 1% of K-12 funding from Prop 98 to be allocated to arts education programs, most recently allocating over \$900 million for arts education in the state;

Whereas, The Los Angeles Region is home to many different media companies, world-famous actors, artists, and writers, and is seen as a major media hub around the world;

Whereas, The Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation has identified that a combination of the film, television, music, the visual and performing arts, generates over \$173,100,000,000 in economic impact while generating hundreds of thousands of jobs;

Whereas, Research shows that children exposed to the arts are more likely to contribute to civic engagement and social tolerance when they reach adulthood;

Whereas, Arts Education has been shown to have a positive impact on students with increased attendance, better communication skills, an increase in self-confidence, and a better interest in their overall education; and

Whereas, The District's Strategic Plan sets a standard to provide students with high-quality instruction, Pilar 1A, enriching experiences, 1B, and eliminating opportunity gaps, 1C; now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Los Angeles Unified School District will designate March 18 through March 22 as District Art Appreciation and Celebration Week;

Resolved further, That the District Art Week will expand from the visual and performing arts to also include photography, short stories, poetry, and verbal storytelling;

Resolved further, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District will recommend the superintendent or a designee to seek appropriate spaces around the district or at District-approved activities ~~through external partners~~ to showcase our students' artistic talents;

Resolved further, That the District shall extend invitations for all District schools, at all grade levels, to participate in these District-approved ~~this showcases~~, either as performers or spectators, it being at the discretion of school leadership; and, be it finally

Resolved, That ~~the~~ Board of The Los Angeles Unified School District will recommend ~~that the District~~ to seek ways of incorporating the arts into social-emotional learning strategies as a means to provide students with diverse outlets of support in addition to current strategies.

Tab 18: Mr. Schmerelson - Observing March 21 as Down Syndrome Awareness Day (Res 023-23/24) (Noticed February 13, 2024) (Version 2)

Whereas, The Los Angeles Unified School District is committed to academic excellence, joy, and wellness for all students regardless of disability through strategic pillars 1 and 2;

Whereas, The District advocates heavily for the destigmatization of students with disabilities; ~~who have faced either physical or mental challenges~~

Whereas, Down Syndrome is an extra full or partial copy of the 21st chromosome, it often results in an intellectual disability, low muscle tone and small stature, among other physical traits; ~~is a genetic occurrence caused by extra material in chromosome 21 that~~

~~results in intellectual disability. It is not yet known why this occurs~~

Whereas, The estimated incidence of Down Syndrome is between 1 in ~~1,000 to 1 in 1,100~~ 800 live births worldwide;

Whereas, Each year approximately 3,000 to 5,000 children are born with this chromosome disorder and it is believed there are about 250,000 families in the United States of America who are affected by Down Syndrome;

Whereas, The quality of life of people with Down Syndrome can be improved by meeting their health care needs, including regular check-ups with health professionals to monitor mental and physical condition and providing timely intervention, be it physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, counseling or educational needs; ~~special education~~

Whereas, Individuals with Down Syndrome can achieve optimal quality of life through guardian care and support, medical guidance, and community-based support systems like inclusive education at all levels. This facilitates their participation in society and the fulfillment of their personal potential;

Whereas, The reality today is that society, at times, can demonstrate negative attitudes, low expectations, discrimination, and exclusion, which can ~~cause ensure that~~ cause people with Down syndrome are left behind. This can also occur within the disability and the Down Syndrome communities;

Whereas, There is a need to build the capacity of people with Down Syndrome to meet the challenges faced across their lifetimes and to support them with the opportunities and tools needed to live fulfilling lives;

Whereas, World Down Syndrome Day was first observed in 2006 in many countries around the world;

Whereas, In December 2011, the United Nations General Assembly declared March 21st as World Down Syndrome Day. This resolution was co-sponsored by 78 United Nations Member States;

Whereas, Down Syndrome International (DSi) encourages people all over the world to choose their own activities and events on March 21st to help raise awareness of what Down Syndrome is, what it means to have Down Syndrome, and how people with Down Syndrome play a vital role in our lives and communities; and

Whereas, The 2024 DSi World Down Syndrome Day is encouraging participation in a video campaign using #WorldDownSyndromeDay; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District hereby proclaims March 21st as World Down Syndrome Awareness Day;

Resolved further, That the District will enhance resources regarding Down Syndrome to all LAUSD parents through school Parent Centers and school coordinators; and be it finally;

Resolved, That the ~~Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District~~ encourages all qualified staff to observe March 21st, World Down Syndrome Awareness Day, by having conversations with students to reinforce the inclusive expectations of the LAUSD and to ensure that students with Down Syndrome are full and valued members of their school communities. ~~by holding productive conversations with students to continue with the destigmatization of Down Syndrome.~~

RESOLUTIONS REQUESTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Tab 20: Reappointment of Member to School Construction Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee (Sup-Res-005-23/24)

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District ratifies the reappointment of Mr. Scott Pansky, representing the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, as a Member to the School Construction Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee for a two-year term commencing on April 5, 2024. Mr. Pansky is not an employee, official, vendor, contractor, or consultant of the District.

CORRESPONDENCE AND PETITIONS

Tab 21: Report of Correspondence (ROC-009-23/24)

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

The Superintendent provided remarks regarding the Second Interim Report and multi-year projections. He noted an anticipated increase in projected ending balances for the 2023-2024 fiscal year attributed to a one-time revenue from FEMA reimbursement. However, he mentioned these funds are not recurring and highlighted some challenges. The Superintendent concluded by expressing the District's commitment to preserving jobs and sustaining essential programs.

David Hart, Chief Business Officer gave a presentation on the Second Interim Financial Report. He provided an update to the current fiscal year 2023-24 General Fund budget and a forecast for the next two fiscal years. He emphasized that the District is on track to fulfill its financial obligations for the current year and the next years and to maintain reserves at the required statutory level.

- - -

Board President Goldberg modified the Order of Business.

- - -

NEW BUSINESS FOR ACTION

Tab 11: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 219-23/24
2023-24 Second Interim Report and Multi-Year Projections

The following speakers addressed the Board:

- Maria Daisy Ortiz, Parent

- David Norman Tokofsky, Community Representative
- Marcela Garcia, Parent

Remarks were heard from Board Members. Mr. Hart, the Superintendent, and Pedro Salcido, Deputy Superintendent of Business Services and Operations responded to questions and comments from Board Members.

Ms. Ortiz Franklin requested the following from District Staff:

- Provide information on the range of impact of the percent of budget reduced by school? Are some schools being impacted more than others?
- Provide some examples of what it looked like before the 37 million decreases from procurement centralization and what the 37 million concretely looks like now?

Mr. Melvoin requested the following from District Staff:

- Provide more information about the Central cuts that are being made, the positions and divisions and whether those are closures of positions.

- - -

President Goldberg modified the Order of Business to bring item 13 into voting along with item 11.

- - -

Tab 13: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 199-23/24
Provisional Internship Permits

Mr. Schmerelson moved that board reports 219 and 199 be adopted. Mr. Melvoin seconded the motion.

On roll call vote, the reports were adopted, 7 ayes.

Ms. Ramirez recorded an advisory vote of aye.

- - -

Board President Goldberg resumed the Order of Business.

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CONSENT ITEMS (continued)

Ms. Gonez moved that the Consent Calendar be adopted. Dr. Rivas seconded the motion.

Board members offered remarks on the consent calendar.

Ms. Goldberg paused the discussion on the Consent Items to allow for the Public Comment time certain.

- - -
President Goldberg modified the Order of Business.
- - -

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following speakers addressed the Board on the subjects indicated:

Rosemary Benavidez, Student	Support for School Police
Emily Vazquez, Student	Support for SENI and Equitable Funding
Mirna Silva, Parent	Budget Cut Concerns
Cejai Munnings, Student	Defund School Police
Ezekiel Mitchell, Student	Support for SENI and Equitable Funding
Day Son, Equity Alliance for LA's Kids	Support for SENI and Equitable Funding
Catherine Cruz, Student	Support for Safe Passage Programs
Nico Wienberg, Student	Support for Safe Passage Programs
Jamya Fields, Student	Defund School Police
Matisse Anderson, Student	Support for Safe Passage Programs
Lucia Salcedo, Student	Support for Safe Passage Programs
Giselle Valenzuela, Student	Support for SENI and Equitable Funding
Jaymon Frazier, Student	Support for SENI and Equitable Funding
Joseph Williams, Students Deserve	Defund School Police and Implement Community Based Safety Programs
Ivanah Ruby Maldonado, Student	Support for SENI and Equitable Funding
Dennis Serras, Parent	Budget Cut Concerns
Leena Upshaw, Student	Defund School Police
Nathan Cabrera, Student	Budget Cut Concerns
Maria Luisa Palma, Parent	LCAP Transparency
Kiana Cotton, Teacher	Support for Equitable Funding and SENI

Later in the meeting, Sarah Valdez, teacher at Southeast High School, spoke about the approval of a pending field trip request.

- - -
Board President Goldberg resumed the Order of Business.
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CONSENT ITEMS (continued)

Tab 12: Board of Education Report No. 198-23/24
Approval of Routine Personnel Actions

Mr. McLean read the following Statement:

Presented to the board for approval as part of the routine agenda item are the employment agreements for three certificated employees, previously appointed.

Government Code Section 54953 requires the Board, prior to taking final action, to provide an oral summary of the recommendations for a final action on the salary, salary schedule, or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits of a local agency executive, including certificated employees, during an open meeting in which the final action is to be taken.

The following certificated employees the Board is considering will receive:

1. Regular health and welfare benefits according to 12-month certificated employees of the District.
2. Standard senior management vacation and illness days which are 24 vacation days, 13 full paid illness days and 87 half-paid illness days.
3. Use of District automobile or monthly car allowance of \$250 for a term commencing on June 30th, 2023, and ending June 30th, 2024.
4. In an annual salary of \$201,449 for the following individuals:
 - a. Marisela Sanchez Robles as Executive Director of Elementary Education
 - b. Peter Hasting as Executive Director of Human Resources and Staff Relations, and
 - c. John Vladovic as Executive Director of Secondary Education.

Before the Board of Education takes any action on this item are there speakers on this item?

The following speaker addressed the Board:

- Anna Elizabeth Granillo

The following speakers addressed the Board on the following items on the consent calendar:

Tab 14: Board of Education Report No. 192-23/24
Approval of the Permanent Physical Education Block Waiver

- Maria Daisy Ortiz
- David Tokofsky

Tab 15: Board of Education Report No. 112-23/24
Approval of the Closure of Hilda Solis Learning Academy and the Relocation and Expansion of Boyle Heights STEM Magnet High School

- Eric White
- Laquelle White
- Kamen Arias
- Caitlin Banks

Dr. Rivas expressed remarks about the Hilda Solis Learning Academy School of Technology, Business, and Education as well as the Boyle Heights STEM Magnet High School. She emphasized their longstanding support for the East Side students and the local community. However, she mentioned both schools have experienced declining enrollment and in order to ensure sustainability and support of both the student population and community the student body will be combined onto the Hilda Solis campus and be sustained by the Boyle Heights STEM Program.

Ms. Veronica Arreguin, Chief Strategy Officer addressed how the community was informed and involved in the decision-making process and the steps that are being taken to engage labor partners throughout this process.

Tab 17: Mr. Schmerelson, Dr. McKenna, Dr. Rivas - LAUSD Art Appreciation and Celebration Week (Res 020-23/24) (Noticed February 13, 2024)

Mr. Schmerelson introduced the following amendments to the resolution (Version 3). He provided remarks and also highlighted the LAUSD documentary “The Last Repair Shop” which won an Oscar for best documentary short.

Mr. Schmerelson, Dr. McKenna, Dr. Rivas, Goldberg, Ms. Ramirez - LAUSD Arts, Culture, And Creativity Month, and Arts Appreciation and Celebration Week (Res 020-23/24) (Noticed February 13, 2024)

Whereas, The Los Angeles Unified School District has expanded opportunities for students to showcase their artistic talents through dance, music, theater, media, and the visual arts through the Arts Education Branch;

Whereas, In September 2013, The District passed, “Arts at the Core: Implementing the Arts Education and Creative Network Plan,” which called for increased funding, high-quality professional development, policy guidelines, and others in the educational arts field;

Whereas, The District acknowledges the importance of creativity and individuality in the students, realizing art is part of their lives, cultures, identities, etc;

Whereas, The District identifies 33 magnet schools that have a dedication to the performing or visual arts;

Whereas, The District recognizes 40 Arts Community Partnerships throughout the Los Angeles Region, connecting students from marginalized communities to dance, theater, music, and paint instruction, among others;

Whereas, The District has designated Art Weeks for students to showcase their artistic talents during the months of April and May;

Whereas, Since 1976, The State of California has had a dedicated arts council that has distributed millions of dollars, to local arts organizations, including schools, to ensure students harness the power of their creativity;

Whereas, The California Arts Council recently allocated more than \$32 million, with Los Angeles receiving \$8,576,779 for organizations, some of whom are partners with the District, such as 24th Street Theatre, Enrichment Works, and Versa-Style Dance Co.;

Whereas, In 2022, voters of The State of California overwhelmingly passed Proposition 28, resulting in ongoing 1% of K-12 funding from Prop 98 to be allocated to arts education programs, most recently allocating over \$900 million for arts education in the state;

Whereas, Arts education fosters well-rounded development by encouraging creative expression, critical thinking, and cultural awareness, making it a vital component of a holistic academic experience and a requirement within the A-G university admission standard;

Whereas, The Los Angeles Region is home to many different media companies, world-famous actors, artists, and writers, and is seen as a major media hub around the world;

Whereas, The Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation has identified that a combination of the film, television, music, the visual and performing arts, generates over \$173,100,000,000 in economic impact while generating hundreds of thousands of jobs;

Whereas, Research shows that children exposed to the arts are more likely to contribute to civic engagement and social tolerance when they reach adulthood;

Whereas, Arts Education has been shown to have a positive impact on students with increased attendance, better communication skills, an increase in self-confidence, and a better interest in their overall education; and

Whereas, The District's Strategic Plan sets a standard to provide students with high-quality instruction, Pilar 1A, enriching experiences, 1B, and eliminating opportunity gaps, 1C; now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Los Angeles Unified School District will designate ~~March 18 through March 22~~ April as Arts, Culture, and Creativity Month, as the week of April 22 through April 27, 2024, as District Arts Appreciation and Celebration Week;

Resolved further, That the District Arts Week will expand from the visual and performing arts to also include ~~photography~~, short stories, poetry, and media arts; ~~and verbal storytelling~~;

Resolved further, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District will recommend the superintendent or a designee to seek appropriate spaces around the district or at District-approved activities ~~through external partners~~ to showcase our students' artistic talents;

Resolved further, That the District shall extend invitations for all District schools, at all grade levels, to participate in the District-wide Arts Festival at the Los Angeles City College on Saturday, April 27, in the Very Special Arts Festival at the Music Center Plaza on Friday, April 26, and in other these District-approved ~~this~~ showcases, either as performers or spectators, it being at the discretion of school leadership; and, be it finally

Resolved, That ~~the~~ Board of ~~The Los Angeles Unified School District~~ will recommend ~~that the District~~ to seek ways of incorporating the arts into social-emotional learning strategies as a means to provide students with diverse outlets of support in addition to current strategies.

Remarks were heard from Dr. Rivas, Dr. McKenna, and Ms. Ramirez

The following speakers addressed the Board:

- Ginger Rose Fox
- Whitney Weston
- Xavier Ramirez
- Maria Osorio
- Ana Marcial

Tab 18: Mr. Schmerelson - Observing March 21 as Down Syndrome Awareness Day (Res 023-23/24) (Noticed February 13, 2024) (Version 2)

Mr. Schmerelson presented the resolution and expressed remarks.

Remarks were also heard from Board Members.

After discussion and on roll call vote, the Consent Items were adopted, 5 ayes, with Resolution 020-23/24, LAUSD Arts, Culture, and Creativity Month, and Arts Appreciation and Celebration Week, being adopted as amended (Version 3); and, Resolution 023-23/24, Observing March 21 as Down Syndrome Awareness Day, being adopted as amended (Version 2); and, with the following exception:

- Ms. Goldberg abstained from Tab 15, Board of Education Report No. 112-23/24, Approval of the Closure of Hilda Solis Learning Academy and the Relocation and Expansion of Boyle Heights STEM Magnet High School.

Ms. Ortiz Franklin, Ms. Gonez and Ms. Ramirez were absent.

The final version of resolution 020-23/24 reads as follows:

Mr. Schmerelson, Dr. McKenna, Dr. Rivas, Goldberg, Ms. Ramirez - LAUSD Arts, Culture, and Creativity Month, and Arts Appreciation and Celebration Week (Res 020-23/24) (Noticed February 13, 2024)

Whereas, The Los Angeles Unified School District has expanded opportunities for students to showcase their artistic talents through dance, music, theater, media, and the visual arts through the Arts Education Branch;

Whereas, In September 2013, The District passed, “Arts at the Core: Implementing the Arts Education and Creative Network Plan,” which called for increased funding, high-quality professional development, policy guidelines, and others in the educational arts field;

Whereas, The District acknowledges the importance of creativity and individuality in the students, realizing art is part of their lives, cultures, identities, etc;

Whereas, The District identifies 33 magnet schools that have a dedication to the performing or visual arts;

Whereas, The District recognizes 40 Arts Community Partnerships throughout the Los Angeles Region, connecting students from marginalized communities to dance, theater,

music, and paint instruction, among others;

Whereas, The District has designated Art Weeks for students to showcase their artistic talents during the months of April and May;

Whereas, Since 1976, The State of California has had a dedicated arts council that has distributed millions of dollars, to local arts organizations, including schools, to ensure students harness the power of their creativity;

Whereas, The California Arts Council recently allocated more than \$32 million, with Los Angeles receiving \$8,576,779 for organizations, some of whom are partners with the District, such as 24th Street Theatre, Enrichment Works, and Versa-Style Dance Co.;

Whereas, In 2022, voters of The State of California overwhelmingly passed Proposition 28, resulting in ongoing 1% of K-12 funding from Prop 98 to be allocated to arts education programs, most recently allocating over \$900 million for arts education in the state;

Whereas, Arts education fosters well-rounded development by encouraging creative expression, critical thinking, and cultural awareness, making it a vital component of a holistic academic experience and a requirement within the A-G university admission standard;

Whereas, The Los Angeles Region is home to many different media companies, world-famous actors, artists, and writers, and is seen as a major media hub around the world;

Whereas, The Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation has identified that a combination of the film, television, music, the visual and performing arts, generates over \$173,100,000,000 in economic impact while generating hundreds of thousands of jobs;

Whereas, Research shows that children exposed to the arts are more likely to contribute to civic engagement and social tolerance when they reach adulthood;

Whereas, Arts Education has been shown to have a positive impact on students with increased attendance, better communication skills, an increase in self-confidence, and a better interest in their overall education; and

Whereas, The District's Strategic Plan sets a standard to provide students with high-quality instruction, Pilar 1A, enriching experiences, 1B, and eliminating opportunity gaps, 1C; now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Los Angeles Unified School District will designate April as Arts, Culture, and Creativity Month, as the week of April 22 through April 27, 2024, as Arts Appreciation and Celebration Week;

Resolved further, That the District Arts Week will expand from the visual and performing arts to also include; short stories, poetry, and media arts;

Resolved further, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District

will recommend the superintendent or a designee to seek appropriate spaces around the district or at District-approved activities to showcase our students' artistic talents;

Resolved further, That the District shall extend invitations for all District schools, at all grade levels, to participate in the District-wide Arts Festival at the Los Angeles City College on Saturday, April 27, in the Very Special Arts Festival at the Music Center Plaza on Friday, April 26, and in other District-approved showcases, either as performers or spectators, it being at the discretion of school leadership; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the Board will recommend the District to seek ways of incorporating the arts into social-emotional learning strategies as a means to provide students with diverse outlets of support in addition to current strategies.

The final version of resolution 023-23/24 reads as follows:

Mr. Schmerelson, Dr. Rivas, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Melvoin, Ms. Goldberg - Observing
March 21 as Down Syndrome Awareness Day (Res 023-23/24) (Noticed February 13, 2024) (Version 2)

Whereas, The Los Angeles Unified School District is committed to academic excellence, joy, and wellness for all students regardless of disability through strategic pillars 1 and 2;

Whereas, The District advocates heavily for the destigmatization of students with disabilities;

Whereas, Down Syndrome is an extra full or partial copy of the 21st chromosome, it often results in an intellectual disability, low muscle tone and small stature, among other physical traits;

Whereas, The estimated incidence of Down Syndrome is between 1 in 800 live births worldwide;

Whereas, Each year approximately 3,000 to 5,000 children are born with this chromosome disorder and it is believed there are about 250,000 families in the United States of America who are affected by Down Syndrome;

Whereas, The quality of life of people with Down Syndrome can be improved by meeting their health care needs, including regular check-ups with health professionals to monitor mental and physical condition and providing timely intervention, be it physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, counseling or educational needs;

Whereas, Individuals with Down Syndrome can achieve optimal quality of life through guardian care and support, medical guidance, and community-based support systems like inclusive education at all levels. This facilitates their participation in society and the fulfillment of their personal potential;

Whereas, The reality today is that society, at times, can demonstrate negative attitudes, low expectations, discrimination, and exclusion, which can cause people with Down syndrome are left behind. This can also occur within the disability and the Down Syndrome communities;

Whereas, There is a need to build the capacity of people with Down Syndrome to meet the challenges faced across their lifetimes and to support them with the opportunities and tools needed to live fulfilling lives;

Whereas, World Down Syndrome Day was first observed in 2006 in many countries around the world;

Whereas, In December 2011, the United Nations General Assembly declared March 21st as World Down Syndrome Day. This resolution was co-sponsored by 78 United Nations Member States;

Whereas, Down Syndrome International (DSi) encourages people all over the world to choose their own activities and events on March 21st to help raise awareness of what Down Syndrome is, what it means to have Down Syndrome, and how people with Down Syndrome play a vital role in our lives and communities; and

Whereas, The 2024 DSi World Down Syndrome Day is encouraging participation in a video campaign using #WorldDownSyndromeDay; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District hereby proclaims March 21st as World Down Syndrome Awareness Day;

Resolved further, That the District will enhance resources regarding Down Syndrome to all LAUSD parents through school Parent Centers and school coordinators; and be it finally;

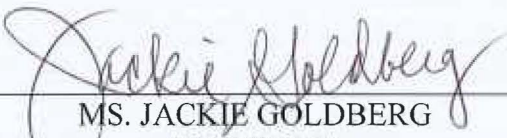
Resolved, That the Board-encourages all qualified staff to observe March 21st, World Down Syndrome Awareness Day, by having conversations with students to reinforce the inclusive expectations of the LAUSD and to ensure that students with Down Syndrome are full and valued members of their school communities.

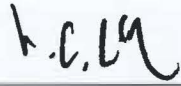
ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Goldberg moved that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Nex Benedict, a young adult from Owasso, Oklahoma and Selena Havlicek, a community member.

The meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD:


MS. JACKIE GOLDBERG
PRESIDENT


MR. MICHAEL MCLEAN
EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE BOARD

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