

Lanai Road School
School Site Council Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2009

Meeting called to order at 3:10 p.m. by Jennifer Goosenberg

A. OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Turf Replacement:** Not addressed.
2. **Gate Guards:** Not addressed.

B. NEW BUSINESS:

1. State Budget Update – Staff Changes:

Mrs. Melvin reported the following staff changes:

- LAUSD Food Services is changing our meal service program to a satellite kitchen arrangement for the next school year, with meals prepared at an off-site facility. This means that meals will be prepared at the Newman Nutrition Center, delivered nightly to Lanai, and warmed and served by our cafeteria staff the following day. Our weekly salad bar service is expected to continue. Reduced cafeteria staffing is expected. Work hours for cafeteria staff currently employed 8 hours per day will be reduced to 6 hours per day. 6-hour employees will be reduced to 4-hour employees. Mrs. Melvin reported that Esther and Virginia have expressed a willingness to accept a reduced hour schedule in order to remain at Lanai.
- Three teachers (lowest seniority among Lanai staff), the principal, and vice-principal received pink slips. Mrs. Melvin said this was an extraordinary move since never in the past 12 years have credentialed teachers received pink slips. The number of students enrolled at Lanai for the next school year may be augmented by the new 130 unit apartment building on Ventura Blvd., impacting the number of teachers needed. So some of those three teaching jobs may be preserved.

2. UTLA Update:

Mrs. Kent, the UTLA (teachers' union) representative at Lanai, reported that the boycott against District mandated periodic (every 5-6 weeks) assessments, which began approximately 2 ½ months ago, is continuing while the union and the District negotiate a compromise of their differences. However, the teachers are now attending regular staff meetings which were previously boycotted.

Mrs. Kent quashed a rumor that teachers were preparing to strike for 6 weeks, beginning in May. She explained that someone must have overheard and misunderstood her telling someone that in 6 weeks, the teachers might strike. In fact, as reported by Mrs. Kent, a

strike authorization vote (on a strike to begin in early May) is due to be held shortly, but it may be averted as the District and Union are close to reaching a compromise agreement. A ratification vote of the compromise agreement is expected soon. In the meantime, Lanai teachers continue to hold back periodic assessment scores from the District, per instruction from UTLA.

3. Council of Councils Report on Budget Cuts:

Susie Kane, our parent representative to the District's Council of Councils submitted a report about additional budget cut-related items:

- The District is trying to resolve the issue of AP EIS so that the schools may keep their vice-principals. It may be done on a percentage basis of schools' special needs population. Superintendent Cortines is recommending class size increase of 4 students for lower grades and 2 students for upper grades.
- Superintendent Cortines is proposing that Federal Stimulus money (schools will be receiving over the next 2 years) allocated for Title I schools be \$400 per student, and \$30 per student for Non-Title I schools, like Lanai. The allocated funds are to spend on items that will be cut, like Teachers, Library Aides, Coaching Services, Clerical Support. The proposal was voted upon by the School Board on March 31.
- Board Member Tamar Galatzan is conducting a Task Force Meeting for Valley Schools on April 18 at 9 a.m. in the auditorium of West Valley Special Ed. At 6631 Balboa Blvd.

4. Traffic Video for Front of School:

Mrs. Melvin has been informed by our local police officer that the Department of Transportation will be dispatching traffic video surveillance in front of Lanai to deter traffic and safety violators from double parking and parking in the red zones. No driver will be approached by an officer. Rather, photos of the car illegally parked will be taken and a copy mailed to the offender, with the ticket (similar to moving violations caught by traffic light cameras). The traffic videos will be taken according to an intermittent schedule that will not be pre-disclosed to our parents. Notices must be sent to our parent body, warning them of the implementation of this program.

5. Revisiting Lanai's Outfit Policy.

SSC discussed whether to revisit the issue of enforcing Lanai's outfit policy, and even to make it a mandatory uniform policy. Mrs. Melvin suggested that stricter compliance by students with Lanai's outfit policy would help reduce some of the current bullying problems at our school.

Mrs. Melvin said that Superintendent Cortines supports stronger enforcement of uniform policies. However, she said that Mr. Cortines has not gone as far as supporting mandated uniform policies at LAUSD schools.

Without District support for a mandatory uniform policy, SSC members were discouraged from revamping the outfit policy at this time. Mrs. Melvin said she will continue to strongly encourage student compliance with our current outfit policy, especially to the incoming Kindergarten class.

6. Picture Company Options:

Jennifer Rice and Margi Brown of LifeTouch Photography, a school portraits provider, made a presentation to SSC in the hopes of securing an agreement by Lanai to use their services for our Fall and Spring Picture Days next school year, as well as to help us create our school yearbook. They have provided school portrait services to Lanai in the past. SSC is informed by Neda Motamedi, our school yearbook coordinator, that problems with LifeTouch in the past include parent complaints about unflattering portraits, and difficulty with the retake process.

The sales reps emphasized improvements to past performance including the following:

- new technologies that provide higher quality portraits,
- more choice in poses and backgrounds,
- online resources for registration, payment and improved communication,
- faster delivery with packages pre-sorted and bundled by classroom,
- free certificates for awards programs
- online yearbook resources to avoid cutting and pasting photos

7. Candy Bar Sales After School:

In response to parent complaints about middle schools conducting their candy bar fundraiser sales on the campus of Lanai after school, Mrs. Melvin said that any such persons who are caught selling candy at Lanai will lose their privilege to be on campus after school.

8. Optional Parent/Teacher Conferences:

SSC considered the benefit of shortening three instructional days for “Optional” conferences for 2nd – 5th graders, in light of a parent’s complaint that notices sent home regarding these conferences discouraged parents from scheduling a conference if their students were not underperforming. Mrs. Kent and Mrs. Collier spoke in favor of keeping the second conference period “optional” and said they felt these conferences were preferable to the student-led conferences they replaced. One parent expressed relief at not having to attend a conference when she was pleased with her child’s report card. It was decided that the “optional” conferences continue, but suggested that the wording of future conference notices be less discouraging of scheduling a conference.

9. Woodland Hills Academy Field Trip:

A parent's complaint about the recent 5th grade field trip to Woodland Hills Academy raised the following concerns:

- Three hours of instructional time was lost;
- Lanai is not a feeder school for Woodland Hills Academy;
- It is duplicative of the 5th grade field trip to Portola Middle School, for which Lanai is a feeder school;
- Middle schools should be marketed to parents, not students, and parents are free to bring their children on any regularly scheduled middle school tour if they choose;
- 5th graders did not visit any classrooms at WH Academy, but only toured the P.E. yard, when no classes were being held, and the library, and saw a chorus and music performance.

In response to these concerns, Mrs. Melvin said the field trip was planned in response to a request by the District, who made a big push for local elementary schools to support Woodland Hills Academy. Mrs. Melvin also reassured SSC that the field trip bus was paid for by the District, and not by our school funds.

For the future, it was suggested that local middle schools make a short power point presentation to Lanai students at our school, to save the time and cost of transporting our students off-site.

Meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jennifer Goosenberg