



SSC for Lanai Road Elementary  
School Site Council  
February 19, 2009  
AGENDA

New Business

- School Report Card
- School Plan Evaluation
- Parent Volunteering
- Current budget update

Old Business

- Turf Replacement
- Gate "Guards"

**BUDGET UPDATE AS OF 2/18/09 – Subject to change based on updates from the State**

**OVERVIEW**

1. Based on current projections from the State, our projected district shortfall is between \$600 and \$700 million and the prospects do not look any brighter for future years. We also do not know if we will have class size or categorical flexibility, so we must prepare for the worst case scenario.
2. My philosophy for moving forward will be the same as the 2000 Plan adopted by the Board
  - a) Central offices are to be **right-sized** and to focus on core operations, monitoring and oversight
  - b) The local districts are to provide **support and service** to schools
  - c) The schools are the heart of our District and are where **teaching and learning** takes place
3. Federal Stimulus money will provide some temporary relief, since the money is for one time expenses (spread over two years). Flexibility and use of this money still has not been determined.
  - a) Although the stimulus money has yet to be finalized, I will recommend that the majority of any unrestricted resources to be set aside to protect the schools.

**CENTRAL – RIGHT-SIZED**

We will be streamlining the central office to ensure the majority of our resources are at the school site.

1. I have recommended a 30% reduction in most central offices. We are in the process of reviewing the budgets and discussing how to implement our decentralized governance model.
2. Further, I am considering a recommendation to reduce the work year for most non-school based employees. Besides providing substantial savings, it will emphasize that our highest priority is support of the local school.
3. We are also reviewing outside contractors with the goal of substantially reducing costs and administered accounts.

**LOCAL DISTRICT OFFICES SUPPORT AND SERVICE TO SCHOOLS**

Via the decentralization of the central office, the local district offices will be responsible for working with their schools to ensure each school receives the service and support they need.

1. However, I am recommending that local district offices be cut up to 50%. I will expect my leaders in the local districts to work smarter to target services to the schools that need the most support.
2. While we have benefited from many ancillary programs that support our student population, we must now cut some of these programs to focus our limited resources on our core instructional program.

**LOCAL SCHOOLS – WHERE TEACHING AND LEARNING TAKES PLACE**

My approach is to build a school district from the classroom out, so that we can minimize the impact on teachers. The percentage of cuts will be the lowest at the school level, but given the cumulative size of our school budgets, the dollar amount will be large.

1. Since we don't have all of the necessary budget information from the State, we must be conservative by noticing a potentially larger number of certificated employees on March 15<sup>th</sup>
  - a. All certificated administrators will be notified
  - b. Since central and local district certificated employees have rights to the classroom, we will need to notify some permanent teachers.
  - c. To ease the impact on our novice teachers, we have implemented an aggressive early retirement incentive program (ERIP)

SSC Meeting Minutes  
February 19, 2009

Meeting called to order at 3:07 p.m.

**A. OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. Turf Replacement:**

Due to low attendance at today's meeting, this matter was tabled until next month's meeting so that the discussion will be more representative of the parent body's opinions on this matter.

**2. Gate Guards:**

Mrs. Melvin reported that two gate guards for the front entrance to the school have been hired and have started working. They are Mr. Brian and Mr. Sayed. They will tag team so that we have coverage from 8:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. They will also alternate as an additional supervision t.a. during the lunch period. Mr. Brian also works as an aide in Ms. Collier's 4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom. Mr. Sayed has worked at Lanai through the E3 after school enrichment program.

**B. NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. State Budget Update:**

Mrs. Melvin included on today's meeting agenda a Budget Update as of 2/18/09 prepared by LAUSD Superintendent Ray Cortines. A copy of the agenda is attached to these minutes and incorporated by this reference.

Mrs. Melvin summarized the highlights of the budget update as follows:

- Mr. Cortines is seeking to decentralize the Beaudry office downtown so that more decision-making power is given to the local districts, including special education. He has proposed a 30% reduction in personnel at the Beaudry office.
- Mr. Cortines has proposed a 50% reduction in personnel in the local district offices, since personnel accounts for a large part of the budget.
- Mr. Cortines said that letters will be issued on March 15 to all certificated administrators, notifying them if the budget cuts will impact their continued employment. Mrs. Melvin explained that administrators are not tenured, but there is no reason to believe that either her or Mr. Lowry's position is actually in jeopardy.

**2. School Plan:**

SSC is required to evaluate and revise its Single Plan for Student Achievement ("School Plan") every three years. This task is due to be performed at the end of this year. This activity involves the participation of the principal, a UTLA representative, teachers and a parent representative. The process follows a format provided by the district. As no format has yet been issued, the process is currently on hold.

### **3. School Report Card:**

Mrs. Melvin answered parents' questions about the School Report Card that was issued at the beginning of the year. She said that Lanai received an outstanding report in the categories that were measured, and explained that forthcoming surveys will yield additional information about categories relating to school leadership and student and parent satisfaction, as reflected on the School Report Card with the designation ("Coming December 2009").

### **4. Volunteerism:**

The Council noted that the poor attendance at today's meeting was indicative of the waning volunteerism at Lanai that generated this agenda item. It was mentioned that declining volunteerism is being felt not only in PTA and FOLB-sponsored programs, but even at the classroom level, including Kindergarten. Suggested reasons for this trend included the increase in two-income households amongst our parent population, and a feeling amongst some parents of not knowing how to break into the parent organizations, which they perceive to be an "exclusive club." This issue was tabled until next month's meeting in the hope that there will be more people to help brainstorm solutions for increasing parents' involvement in, and connection to, the school.

The council specifically addressed how to help working parents feel more connected to the school community. Mrs. Melvin mentioned that the "Coffee with the Principal" meetings are purposely scheduled right after drop-off for the convenience of working parents. These once a month programs operate like an informal office hour, so that parents can drop in to ask a quick question or express a concern, without an obligation to stay for an entire meeting.

### **5. UTLA Update:**

Mrs. Kent, the UTLA (teachers' union) representative at Lanai, explained that a planned action (i.e. boycott) against District mandated periodic assessments has been implemented. The teachers are currently required to give periodic assessments approximately every 5 to 6 weeks, in addition to the State mandated assessments. In implementing the planned action, the periodic assessments are being given, so that the teachers can monitor the students' progress, but the results are not being sent to the District, as required by the District. This is a district-wide planned action. Also, the teachers are currently boycotting staff meetings, which usually take place at 2:50 p.m. on Tuesdays. However, they are continuing to participate in grade level meetings at 1:50 p.m. on Tuesdays. The planned action has been going on for approximately 6 weeks, and is ongoing. More information about the planned action is available at UTLA.net.

Mrs. Kent also reported that a strike authorization vote will be held on March 16, 2009.

### **6. In-service on Bullying.**

Mrs. Kent mentioned that a past teacher in-service on Bullying was a very worthwhile training program. She mentioned that the student in-service that is scheduled soon should be attended by parents as well, if possible. A discussion on the matter yielded recommendations that a separate session for parents be organized. Mrs. Melvin will speak to the presenter about scheduling an additional session for Lanai parents.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Jennifer Goosenberg and seconded by Agodi Alagbe.  
Meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.