



San Diego Unified School District

Staff Bulletin

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Getting to Know

Rueben Littlejohn
School Police Lieutenant

With his warm smile and affable manner, you might never suspect that School Police Lieutenant Rueben Littlejohn has black belts in four different styles of martial arts. His 25+ years of martial arts experience and expertise have earned him a place in the United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame. He will be inducted into the hall on August 4 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Lt. Littlejohn joined the San Diego Unified School District Police Department in 2001 after serving nearly seven years with the La Mesa Police Department. During his time with the district, he has quickly moved up the ranks, from patrol officer to campus police officer to sergeant to his current position as

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Board Approves Balanced Spending Plan

Careful budget planning by schools and central offices has paid off. A balanced 2007-08 spending plan was approved by the Board of Education on June 27. In addition, no deficit spending is projected for the next two years.

The Board met a state-imposed June 30 deadline for submitting an approved budget. But, since the district receives more than two-thirds of its funding from the state and federal governments – neither of which has approved a budget – amendments are expected. In addition, negotiations with the district's labor unions have just begun.

In approving the budget, the trustees said they wanted further discussion on several provisions, including a plan to add 40 landscape worker positions. The Board will discuss the issues at a July 23 workshop.

The spending plan includes several initia-

tives previously approved by the Board, including Attendance Intervention Center staffing, a "paperless" Board agenda, expansion of seven schools to K-8, and the addition of 28 new full-time equivalent school custodians.

In a report to the Board, Chief Financial Officer Bill Kowba said the district is expecting revenues to keep pace with inflation but allows no further growth. He also noted that enrollment is projected to drop for the seventh straight year.

Other budget highlights include coverage of the 7.6 percent increase in employee benefits costs, handling a projected 22 percent hike in utilities cost, \$16.1 million more for growth in Special Education, contributions to fully fund the Worker's Compensation liability, and \$1 million toward replacement of school buses.

Becoming America's Best Prestigious IB Programs Prep Students for Global Economy

Ten district schools have joined more than 2,000 schools worldwide in developing the prestigious International Baccalaureate (IB) Programmes. The rigorous process begins with applying for consideration, then candidacy, completing multiple phases of authorization before being named an IB World School.

The Primary Years Programme (PYP) focuses on the total growth of the child, including social, physical, emotional and cultural needs, as well as academic development. PYP candidate schools include Birney, Crown Point, Florence, Jefferson, McKinley and Sessions Elementary Schools.

The Middle Years Programme (MYP) is designed to help students develop the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and skills necessary to participate actively and responsibly in a changing world. Roosevelt Middle School was named an IB World School in 2006. Pacific Beach Middle is an MYP candidate.

The IB Diploma Programme is a challenging two-year curriculum that prepares high school students for college. It encourages them to learn how to learn, develop a strong sense of their own identity and culture, and develop the ability to communicate with and un-

derstand people from other countries and cultures. Mission Bay High School and SD High School of International Studies are official IB World Schools.

Offering IB schools at all levels within the same cluster gives students an excellent framework for their K-12 education. "Our goal is to become an official PYP school by June 2010," says Birney Principal Amanda Hammond-Williams. "We are excited to provide our students with the academic foundation to succeed not only in the Roosevelt and San Diego High IB programs but anywhere in the world."



News You Can Use

Food Services Ups School Meal Prices

The Board of Education has approved an increase in meal prices for the 2007-08 school year, effective September 4, 2007. The new school meal prices are:

Elementary Breakfast:
\$.75

Elementary Lunch:
\$1.50

Secondary Breakfast:
\$.75

Secondary Lunch:
\$2.00

Parents can prepay for school meals by sending cash or a personal check to the school cafeteria. Visa, MasterCard, or Discover card payments can be made over the phone at (888) 994-5100 and via the internet at www.paypams.com. Students who qualify for free and reduced-price meals will still receive free meals after completing the appropriate paperwork.

Dates to Remember

July 20

Year Round Schools Close

July 23-25

July 30-Aug 1

Aug 6-8, 13-17, 20-24

Central Enrollment Center Open at Roosevelt Middle School

September 4

First Day of School

Students Rewarded for Making Every Day Count

At Edison Elementary's last student assembly, fourth grader Josue Galvan beamed with pride as he accepted a new bicycle, helmet and lock, his reward for having perfect attendance the month before. Josue knew that learning every day was the real prize, but he still couldn't wait to show off his new wheels.



Edison's "On the Move to Improve" bike giveaway is just one example of how district schools are rewarding students, classrooms and teachers for their commitment to attendance. Sometimes prizes come from generous school supporters. Other times, classrooms are rewarded for having perfect or most improved attendance with

school-sponsored parties or outings. There is no one-size-fits-all incentive. Inspiration can be found at all grade and budget levels.

At Baker Elementary, classrooms spell out "Baker Bobcat Pride", one letter at a time, with each day of perfect attendance. Winning classrooms choose a party theme and teachers are recognized for their leadership.

At the San Diego High School complex, attendance achievers are rewarded with participation in events that help shape their futures. The School of Business organizes field trips to local colleges as an attendance incentive.

At LEADS, administrators stress that "participation in events is often based on citi-

zenship and attendance, not just academics."

Edison's Principal Sheari Taylor emphasizes public celebration as an incentive. During the recent CST period, the school tested 100% of the student body with a dramatic improvement in attendance and verified absences. She attributes their success to holding assemblies prior to testing, offering class parties for perfect attendance and a pie-throwing contest with the principal and vice principal as prize targets. "Parents and students really responded to it," says Taylor. "We need to hold more events like this throughout the year."

For more ideas on attendance incentives, contact jbreister@sandi.net.

New Plan for Curriculum and Instruction Teachers, Principals, District Leaders Provide Input

The mission of the Curriculum and Instruction Division is simple, according to Executive Director Jennifer Cheatham. "We want to provide our principals and teachers with the help they need to meet the educational needs of every student in every classroom across the district," says Jennifer. The department is putting the finishing touches on a new strategic approach to curriculum and instruction for the district. The plan will be presented to the Board of Education in July.

Before developing the plan, it was essential to identify and better understand the critical issues facing our schools. Curriculum and Instruction collected information from various stakeholders (teachers, principals, central office staff, and school board members) through a variety of avenues (individual interviews, group discussions, school visits and an online survey).

Student achievement data was analyzed. Current district practices were compared with those of other urban districts making significant gains in student achievement. All-day retreats were held with teachers, principals and central office leaders who worked collaboratively to analyze data and develop a new, strategic approach to accelerating student performance district-wide.

Five high priority focus areas were identified as a result of this inclusive process:

- High expectations for all
- Standards-based curriculum and instruction
- Purposeful use of data
- Ongoing professional learning
- Strategic support

"My hope is that, beginning this fall, teachers will experience support that is much more strategic and aligned with their needs," says Jennifer. "The new plan will be regularly monitored by a team of teachers, principals and central office leaders."

Look for more information in upcoming issues of *Staff Bulletin*.



Superintendent Carl Cohn collaborates with other district employees on ideas and strategies to help accelerate student performance.

Our Schools as Jewels:

3 Elementary Schools Debut this Fall

Two brand new elementary schools and one rebuilt elementary school will open for the first time this fall. The new Florence Griffith Joyner Elementary School is opening in the Edison-Hamilton-Parks attendance area.

Laura G. Rodriguez Elementary School is opening in the King-Logan-Perkins attendance area. Luther Burbank Elementary School was ex-

Jordan, Rodriguez; and Diana Grijalva-Torres, Burbank.

New schools have been built throughout the city, from Scripps Ranch to Lincoln Park, from City Heights to Barrio Logan. All new schools feature state-of-the-art technology, community rooms and stages, libraries, lunch court shade shelters, joint-use grass playfields wherever possible, and other amenities that support



(Clockwise from top left) The rebuilt Burbank Elementary School, and brand new Rodriguez and Florence Griffith Joyner Elementary Schools.

panded and rebuilt on the existing site. The principals that will welcome students to their new schools are Gilbert Gutierrez Jr., Joyner; Claudia

the learning environment. Each school has energy-efficient design features and modern architectural styles with materials and colors that

reflect the surrounding community environment.

The construction of the new schools was funded by Proposition MM, the bond measure

passed in 1998. It funded modernization projects at 161 existing schools and the construction of 12 new and three rebuilt schools.

Hall of Fame

Nursing and Wellness Program Manager **Jennifer Gorman** has been named the 2007 California School Nurses Organization (CSNO) School Nurse Administrator of the Year.



The **Creative, Performing and Media Arts (CPMA)** Intermediate Choir came home with two trophies from Disneyland's Music in the Parks Festival. The talented students won first place Treble Choir and were named Best Overall Middle School Choir. (picutred above)

Dana Middle School sixth grade math/social studies teacher **Gisella Giggiberber** has been selected to serve as a Distinguished Teacher in Residence (DTiR) in the College of Education at California State University San Marcos for the 2007-2009 academic years.

District Counselor **Sally Tom**, (right) from Hamilton Elementary, received the Academy Award at the Support Personnel Accountability Report Card (SPARC) awards ceremony.



Modeled after the School Accountability Report Card (SARC), the SPARC is a continuous improvement tool that gives schools the opportunity to demonstrate effective communication and a commitment to getting results. **La Jolla High School** received the SPARC Academy Award in the high school category.

Seven teachers representing four SDUSD schools have been named award recipients in the British Petroleum (BP) "A+ for Energy Education" program. Paradise Hills Elementary's **Margarita Idos**, **Glen Sawyers** and **Charlotte Truesdell**; Kearny High SCT's **Jerry Niehaus** and **Malana Tabak**; La Jolla High's **Martin Teachworth**; and Carver Elementary's **Leo Bechtold** each received \$10,000 for their alternative energy ideas and innovations.

The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for Special Education recently honored its "Above and Beyond" award winners. IMC stock clerk **Chavia Blankenship**, grandparent **Frank Booth**, Kearny CTA student **Terrell Collins**, Hickman Elementary resource specialist **Luanne DeAtley**, Sessions Elementary teacher **Joan Hill**, community member **Jackie Husson**, Pt. Loma High paraeducator **Kim Tyler** and Nye Elementary school psychologist **Kristen VonKessler** were selected for their exemplary commitment to improving the quality of educational opportunities for students with special needs. (below)



Farb Middle School math teacher **Carole Kuck** is one of only two California teachers to be selected as a finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST), the nation's highest honor for teachers of mathematics and science.



Elizabeth Ann Duffield
Teacher at Bell Junior High, June 25, 2007.

David Dunlap
Former Teacher at Gage Elementary School. June 22, 2007.

Joan Malley
Former Teacher at Mission Bay High School. June 26, 2007.

Classifieds

For Sale

Newer house in Santee on the San Diego River. 3 bd + loft /2½ ba. Super clean, light and bright. Call Melanie at (619) 596-1590.

1992 Ford Aerostar extended van. Good condition. \$4,000. (619) 475-0419 eves.

1999 Jeep Cherokee 4x4 Sport. Forest green, \$5000. (619) 922-2723.

For Rent

New condo City Heights. 2bd/2ba. Gated community with underground parking. \$1250/mo. Contact (619) 917 1644 or kambphd@yahoo.com.

Free

Apple Toner Cartridge for LaserWriter 13/600 PS, LaserWriter Pro 630, or LaserWriter Pro 600. Call (619) 725-7107 or (619) 725-7113, M-F, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Email ads to communications@sandi.net or send to Communications Office, Room 2145, Education Center. Limit to 15 words (not including phone). Include work location and phone (for ID purposes only).

Getting to Know cont.

Operations Lieutenant. He currently oversees 45 sworn police officers and 25 community service officers. He also coordinates the district's disaster management program; provides on-going safety training to police, principals and administrators; and acts as a community liaison between school police and other community agencies, including San Diego Police and Fire departments.

Why did you decide to switch from city police work to school police?

I was the elementary school DARE officer with the La Mesa Police Department. I got accustomed to working with schools and enjoyed the educational environment. The role of a school police officer is part educator. It's our job to educate kids, schools and the community about the law and how to uphold it. We have the unique opportunity to engage in daily contact with students, teachers, staff and members of the community to help promote a positive learning environment with the schools, and to build ever-growing cooperative partnerships among the schools and the surrounding communities.

What do you see as one of the biggest issues for school police today?

We work very hard to get schools to take safety seriously. To think about it daily, not just when there's a national tragedy like Virginia Tech. Schools need to be vigilant about making sure they're prepared for a disaster. They should have regular disaster drills and provide trainings for their staff. Keep their site disaster plan up-to-date. Make sure every visitor on the campus signs in and out in the office and wears a name tag. Police Services is here to help schools stay safe. We can assist school sites and departments with trainings. We can perform security checks and make recommendations to improve safety and security at little or no cost. Our job is to serve and protect our students, schools and staff.

What are you most looking forward to this school year?

Without a doubt, the re-opening of Lincoln High School and the other new schools in the district. When a new school opens, it's an exciting time for the community. We look forward to doing our part to make sure that everything gets off to a good start and stays that way. The new Lincoln High School is a state-of-the-art facility steeped in tradition. We're excited to be a part of protecting this community treasure.

Out and About Out and About Out and About



More than 250 dedicated certificated and classified employees retiring from the district were recognized by the Board of Education on Tuesday, June 24. Together, the group had amassed more than 50 centuries of service – 5,779 years to be exact – and touched hundreds of thousands of lives. Whether in the classroom, at a school site, or supporting teaching and learning in the classroom, the district appreciates their service and the countless hours they dedicated to making a difference in the lives our students. Best wishes for good health, happiness and all the rewards they so richly deserve.



The Harold J. Ballard Parent Center held its year-end Certificate Ceremony, "Celebrating Our Parents' Commitment to Their Children's Academic Success," in June. The Hawaiian-themed celebration included a graduation ceremony for parents who completed the Parent University program, as well as for Ballard pre-schoolers who are ready for kindergarten. Guests enjoyed breakfast, Hawaiian entertainment, student performances, and raffle prizes. (pictured above left)

Students from the Mann Middle School of Expedition, along with Teacher of the Year Courtney Browne, joined the massive beach clean-up efforts after the 4th of July holiday. (above right)



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