

----- Forwarded by Larry Herrera/CC/CLB on 03/04/2010 01:37 PM -----

From: "Robert Tagorda" <RTagorda@lbschools.net>
To: <larry.herrera@longbeach.gov>
Cc: "Chris Eftychiou" <CEftychiou@lbschools.net>, "Chris Steinhauser"
<CSteinhauser@lbschools.net>, "Kim Stallings" <KStallings@lbschools.net>
Date: 03/04/2010 01:07 PM
Subject: LBUSD Letter on Drug Free School Zones

Dear Mr. Herrera:

Please find attached a letter and an exhibit from the Long Beach Unified School District regarding Drug Free School Zones. Kindly distribute them to the Mayor and the City Council in advance of the Tuesday meeting.

Thank You,
Robert Tagorda

Robert Garcia Tagorda
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LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SERVING LONG BEACH, LAKEWOOD, SIGNAL HILL AND
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March 4, 2010

Via e-mail with one attachment

City of Long Beach
W. Ocean Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90802

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council,

I write regarding the Long Beach City Council's consideration of a draft ordinance related to medical marijuana establishments within the City of Long Beach. I understand that this draft ordinance seeks to prohibit such establishments from operating within 1,000 feet of schools.

In light of this draft ordinance, our Board of Education at its regular meeting on March 2 unanimously adopted a revised list of 2009-10 Legislative Priorities that now includes our school district's explicit support for legislation that would restrict the purchase, sale, and/or use of controlled substances near schools.

Accompanying this letter is a copy of the 2009-10 Legislative Priorities agenda item from our March 2 meeting, including the full text of the revised priorities that our Board of Education approved. You will find the addition of a Drug Free School Zones item at the end of our revised priority list.

On behalf of the Long Beach Unified School District, I urge you to consider this new information as you decide upon this important issue.

Sincerely,



Christopher J. Steinhauser
Superintendent of Schools

cc: LBUSD Board of Education
LBUSD Chief Business and Financial Officer Kim Stallings

BOARD OF EDUCATION
LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUBJECT: 2009-10 Legislative Priorities Enclosures: One

CATEGORY: Unfinished Business Reason for Board
Consideration: Action

Date: March 2, 2010

BACKGROUND:

The Long Beach City Council is considering a draft ordinance related to medical marijuana establishments within the City of Long Beach that would seek to prohibit medical marijuana establishments from operating within 1,000 feet of schools in the City of Long Beach.

The attached revision of the Long Beach Unified School District 2009-10 Legislative Priorities incorporates a provision to support legislation that would restrict the purchase, sale, and/or use of controlled substances near schools with respect to substances that have been designated as controlled substances under federal, state or local law.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Education adopt the revised Long Beach Unified School District 2009-10 Legislative Priorities.

Approved and recommended:

Christopher J. Steinhauser
Superintendent of Schools

lr

LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

2009-10 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The mission of the Long Beach Unified School District is to support the personal and intellectual success of every student, every day. To help achieve that mission, the District takes a proactive approach to the legislative process and has established the following legislative priorities for the 2009-10 legislative session.

PROTECT THE PROPOSITION 98 MINIMUM FUNDING GUARANTEE

LBUSD's top priority in the 2009-10 State Budget is the preservation of Proposition 98 funding, including full funding for enrollment growth and cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for all programs.

The District supports full funding obligated under Proposition 98 and state statute, including reimbursement for prior-year state mandated cost claims; increased funding to equalize revenue limits; and adequate funding for categorical programs, including special education and supplemental instruction.

The District opposes proposals to shift to school districts costs that have historically been paid for from state general funds, such as the state's STRS contribution and mental health funding for special education.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

Local Control

The District recognizes the State's role in providing an adequate education for its citizens but believes that the best manner in which this can be achieved is for the State Legislature to allow more decisions on the use of education funds to be made by locally elected school boards rather than by elected officials in Sacramento. The burdensome restrictions placed on funding by State and federal sources result in inefficiencies that undermine the ability of local school districts to provide the best education possible for their students. The District also believes that solutions arrived at in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. often don't address, or even reflect, an understanding of the problems that are unique to each school district. The District supports legislative efforts designed to return more control to local school districts regarding the funding for education and the decisions relative to how that funding is used.

Funding Flexibility

The District supports legislation as well as State and federal budget proposals that would provide for greater flexibility in using the restricted funds received from the State and federal government. The District recognizes that significant improvements have been achieved in funding flexibility since the District adopted this principle and advocated for less restriction on use of funds. Still, the District would be in a position to exercise better efficiencies of expenditures and thus direct more resources toward identified student needs if the State's migration toward allowing greater flexibility in funding restrictions were to continue and be emulated at the federal level where almost all funding that is disbursed to schools is burdened with heavy restrictions and reporting requirements. The

District also should explore the option of becoming a charter school district and whether that action would ultimately provide the greatest local control and funding flexibility.

Declining Enrollment

The District supports legislation that aids districts in maintaining fiscal solvency in the event that student enrollment declines, either through fiscal relief or through additional time to make the necessary adjustments to account for the decrease in state revenue it receives.

Adequacy of Education Funding

The District supports legislation and other efforts to identify and address issues related to both the adequacy and equity of funding for public education.

Special Education Funding

The District supports legislation and state/federal budget proposals that provide adequate funding for special education programs. Historically, special education has been grossly under funded at the state and national levels, resulting in a negative impact to the quality of education for all students.

Instructional Materials

The District supports legislation that would provide additional instructional materials funding and flexibility on how the funding can be utilized.

Compulsory Kindergarten

The District supports legislation that would mandate, or allow the district to mandate, participation of all eligible children in the District's Kindergarten program for the purpose of providing necessary educational instruction that lays a foundation for future learning.

Race to the Top

The District supports efforts to gain as much of the Race to the Top funding, and other federal stimulus funding, as possible, including efforts at the state level to remove any barriers to such funding.

No Child Left Behind

The District supports revisions of the federal No Child Left Behind Act that would result in a growth-based accountability model similar that used by the State of California and the State of Colorado. Such revisions should include a complete overhaul of NCLB's current AYP system so that it does not unfairly label more and more of the nation's public schools as failures (including some of its top-ranked schools) while directing public funds to private service providers that face little or no accountability as to how they use such resources.

Drug Free School Zones

The District supports legislation at the federal, state and local levels that seeks to prohibit the purchase, sale and/or use of controlled substances near schools with respect to substances that have been designated as controlled substances under federal, state or local law.

Rev. 3-2-10