

Council of Council Mtg May 04, 2011
Tundi Goldstein, WES parent rep

Linda del Cueto, LD1 Superintendent-

“Middle school is where we need to grab out kids”

“Students who have a good MS experience won’t drop out at HS”

M.U.N. [Model United Nations] groups in a number of schools, even in MS level, are great career path opportunities, esp if the student is speaking more than one language.

Linda pointed out the coordinated efforts of Lawrence MS is being recognized for its high marks in recent accolades of scholastics and MUN programs.

May 13th will mark the end of the “State of the Emergency for Education” week by having a shortened day in all schools so that all staff and admin can attend a district wide ‘walk-out’ in protest of the severe budget cuts. There will be a rally @ Pershing Square Downtown that afternoon. All are welcome to show their support.

There will be no loss of instruction time for students as this time will be off-set by 1 of 10 minimum days or 1 of 10 shortened days already approved in the LAUSD calendars. Dr Deasy has made this an unprecedented exception to be applied toward otherwise professional development time among teachers and staff.

Proposed tax incentive will not reach school budgets in time to salvage school cuts in time for Fall ‘2011 so there is talk of alternative options like a 1 month reduction in school calendar, or 12 furlough days, of which 5 will be instructional days, borrowing against the health benefits surplus accounts to off-set add’l \$100M. All this could potentially cover the \$408M shortfall, but it is only a 1-year band-aid. It does not fix anything.

Status of new language arts books & materials? Materials will be made available for training. Training is scheduled for summer and after schools open in the fall. Open Court will be retained as *supplemental* materials. Right now it is not sure if new materials will be delivered in time for teachers to have them much before school begins.

Tom Waldman, LD1 Dept of Communications

Tom has accepted a new post to be a part of new 9-positions admin staff for Dr Deasy. Those goals include doubling the percentage of students who can read at grade level in third grade and raising high school graduation rates from 54 to 70 percent over the next three years. The staff will be performance based as will the objectives they oversee.

Tom said the 1st priority is to restore the classroom! Also to work on restoring magnet program which is currently looking at a 90% cut and cut of most if not all GATE coordinators, and restoring the SAS programs.

Budget approvals will be in end of June. Tom raised the query of a budget townhall meeting. If you agree, please contact him directly to let him know that you are interested in being a part of this.

Guest speaker: Obie Slamon “Human Relations, Diversity & Equity

Guest speaker: Shelly Loftus, Educational opportunities for high school students