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WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

JOINT BOARD AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND YOUTH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE ONLINE AND TELEPHONIC MEETING AGENDA Monday July 26, 2021 at 6:30 PM

This meeting of the West Hills Neighborhood Council Government Relations and Youth & Education Committee will be conducted online via Zoom Webinar and telephonically. All are invited to attend and participate.

To attend online via Zoom Webinar, click or paste the following link into your browser: <https://zoom.us/j/97175160378>

To call in by phone, dial (669) 900-6833, then punch in this Webinar code when prompted: **971 7516 0378**, then #

This meeting is open to the public. Comments on matters not on the agenda will be heard during the Public Comment period. Those who wish to speak on an agenda item will be heard when the item is considered.

1. Call to Order
2. Review minutes from May 2021.
3. Comments from the Co-Chairs
4. Public Comment

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of Govt. Relations Committee 2021-22 Budget.
 - a. Congress- \$750.
 - b. VANC - \$500.
 - c. Budget Advocates - \$100
 - d. Empower LA - \$100.
2. Discussion and possible action of The West Hills Neighborhood Council supporting Los Angeles school board resolution addressing anti-Semitism in the district schools .LAUSD Resolution Res-001-21/22, Version: 1.
3. Discussion and possible action of the West Hills Neighborhood Council supporting the community's request for services provided by the district's school police.
4. Discussion and possible action of possible teaching of Critical Race Theory in the LAUSD.
5. Adjournment

Public Input: The public is requested to fill out a Speaker Card to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, an issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future committee meeting. Public comment is limited to two minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the committee.

Public Posting Of Agendas: WHNC agendas are posted for public review at Shadow Ranch Park, 22633 Vanowen St., West Hills, CA 91307 or at our website, www.westhillsnc.org. You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to the City of Los Angeles Early Notification System at www.lacity.org/government/Subscriptions/NeighborhoodCouncils/index.

The Americans With Disabilities Act: As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices and other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least three business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting via email NCsupport@lacity.org or calling (213) 978-1551. If you are hearing impaired please call 711.

Public Access of Records: In compliance with Government Code Section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at the meeting where such writing was considered or by contacting the WHNC's executive director via email at Michelle.Ritchie@westhillsnc.org Requests can be made for a copy of a record related to an item on the agenda.

Reconsideration and Grievance Process: For information on the WHNC's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the WHNC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our website, www.WestHillsNC.org.

Servicios De Traduccion: Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Por favor contacte Michelle.Ritchie@westhillsnc.org

IT'S OUR NEIGHBORHOOD. LET'S BUILD A COMMUNITY.



West Hills Neighborhood Council

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JOINT GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Telephonic and Online

Monday May 20, 2021

Revised June 13, 2021

Attendance: Saif Mogri, Joanne Yvanek-Garb, Aida Abkarians, Faye Barta, Steve Randall, Myrl Schreiberman, Joan Trent, and Brad Vanderhoof

Public Attendance: Glenn Jennings, Christine Rowe

Committee Co-chair Joanne Yvanek-Garb called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM. A quorum was established.

The April 2021 meeting minutes were approved.

Comments from the Chair: Joanne said she heard from the CD12 office that proposed standardization of neighborhood council elections does not have the votes to pass. Myrl commented the WHNC should not project what actions the city council will take in the future. Joanne said according to BONC Commissioner Len Schaffer the proposal violates section 9.04 of the City Charter.

Public Comment: Christine Rowe said she wrote a CityWatch article asking that neighborhood council (NC) board membership be limited to residents of the NC. She said the Woodland Hills / Warner Center NC designates only seven of twenty-two seats as for residents.

NEW BUSINESS

1. CIS regarding City Council File 21-0407, City Clerk be directed to report on the costs associated with administering the existing non-standardized Neighborhood Council election systems, and provide recommendations for streamlining a Neighborhood Council elections, and potential cost savings that could result from standardizing Neighborhood Council election rules:

Myrl moved to recommend a CIS in opposition. Faye seconded. Christine said she believes the claim of voter suppression in the Sunland Tujunga NC is wrong and scandalous.

Yes – 8. No – 0, Abstain – 0

The CIS in opposition to CF 21-00407 is approved and will be sent to the WHNC Board

2. Letter to Councilmember John Lee with copies to Sen. Henry Stern and State Legislator Jesse Gabriel regarding the hidden intricacies of SB50:

Steve moved to draft a letter to Lee with copy to Stern and Gabriel opposing SB50. Aida seconded.

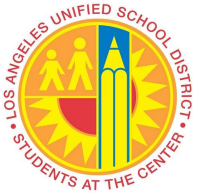
Yes – 7. No – 0, Abstain – 1

The writing of a draft letter is approved.

3. Other Discussion: None

Committee Co-chair Saif Mogri adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM.

The next meeting of this committee is May 17, 2021, online and telephonic.



Board of Education Report

File #: Res-001-21/22, **Version:** 1

ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE

Mr. Schmerelson, Dr. McKenna, Mr. Melvoin, Ms. Gonez - Affirming the Value of Jewish Students, Staff, and Families in the Los Angeles Unified School District and Addressing Anti-Semitism (Res 001-21/22) (Waiver of Board Rule 72)

Whereas, There has been a significant rise in hate crimes here in Los Angeles and across the country over the last four years against many racial, ethnic, religious, and other minority groups, and LAUSD has a long history of centering the positive contributions of the Black, Latinx, Asian American and Pacific Islander, women, LGBTQ+, and other communities;

Whereas, This discrimination, racism, xenophobia, sexism, homophobia, and anti-Semitism has not only generated heated rhetoric but has resulted in harassment, vandalism, physical assaults, and worse, and no individual or group within our District should fear becoming targets of retaliation, derision, bullying, isolation, or violence;

Whereas, Students who identify as Jewish come from all racial and ethnic backgrounds, including those with overlapping racial and ethnic identities, and attend schools in all six Local Districts, and Los Angeles is home to the third largest Jewish population in the world behind Israel and New York, and approximately 15 percent of the K-12 child population within LAUSD's boundaries are themselves or have family members who are Jewish;

Whereas, What we teach our youth about their ancestral legacies and cultures is essential in the fight for racial and ethnic justice and equity, and the promise of full inclusion and desegregation in LAUSD or public schools has not yet been realized;

Whereas, LAUSD publishes policy bulletins and memoranda on an annual basis affirming the value and dignity of all racial, ethnic, and religious groups, including MEM-5466: Calendar of Commemorative Dates and Observances, and offers the opportunity for Jewish students and staff to observe the Jewish holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur with unassigned days in the school calendar;

Whereas, Property and vandalism crimes against Jewish temples and places of worship and physical assaults against people who "look Jewish" or dine at restaurants frequented by Jewish people has increased significantly over the past four years and most recently due to the escalation of the conflict and military action in Israel, Gaza, and in the Middle East, and was denounced by President Biden and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, the City Council, and faith leaders from across the Los Angeles region;

Whereas, Reports of white supremacist, anti-Semitic, anti-Jewish, and anti-Israeli graffiti, bullying, harassment, and violence on LAUSD campuses has been on the rise for the past four years, and administrators, teachers, and student leaders need updated and readily available training and resources to prevent and address anti-Semitism in all its forms;

Whereas, The social content of instructional materials used in California public schools must comply with California Education Code section 60040-60045 and 60048 as well as the State Board of Education guidelines

in the Standards for Evaluating Instructional Materials for Social Content in that they must portray accurately and equitably the cultural and racial diversity of American society, and Section 51500 states that “teachers shall not give instruction and a school district shall not sponsor any activity that promotes a discriminatory bias on the basis of race or ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, nationality, or sexual orientation”, or another protected characteristic;

Whereas, Prolonged exposure to curricula that normalizes and perpetuates white supremacy, and the erasure of racial, ethnic, and religious minority groups can be alienating and traumatic for students and staff and contribute to the opportunity and achievement gaps we see today; now, therefore, be it,

Resolved, That the Board of Education denounces the rise in anti-Semitic, anti-Jewish, and anti-Israeli rhetoric and hate-motivated crimes and incidents that denigrate Jewish students and staff in the communities served by LAUSD in order for every LAUSD campus and office to be a safe and welcoming environment for all students, staff, and families;

Resolved further, The Board declares the need for updated bulletins, curricular and instructional resources, and training for teachers, staff, administrators, students, and parents to address and prevent anti-Semitism and respond when anti-Semitic vandalism, bullying, harassment, or violence occurs either on campus or in the community, including specific reference to anti-Semitism in the mandated bulletins training at the start of each school year;

Resolved further, That LAUSD will proceed with full implementation of the California-adopted History Social Science Framework for California Public Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve (2017) and its Appendix F on Religion and History-Social Science Education educate LAUSD students and all elementary, middle, and high school history-social science teachers about the positive contributions of Jewish peoples and to reduce anti-Jewish hate speech and hate-motivated behavior and incidents, and, be it finally;

Resolved, That to accomplish these objectives, the Board directs the Superintendent to (1) direct all schools and offices to affirm the rights of Jewish students, staff, and families and to report acts of anti-Semitism in schools and the workplace using District procedures; (2) ensure that the Division of Instruction and Office of Human Relations, Diversity, and Equity establish a curriculum and professional development working group to recruit and compensate LAUSD teachers and administrators with expertise in the areas of Jewish history and culture and the Holocaust, and invite other expert groups such as the Anti-Defamation League, Simon Wiesenthal Center and J Street to update and revise any existing LAUSD curriculum, recommended grade level reading lists, or instructional resources to ensure they are inclusive and reflective of best practices and the full diversity of Jewish people including those in California and Los Angeles, and (3) report back to the Board within 90 days with an update on these efforts.

Dr. McKenna, Mr. Schmerelson - Ensuring Local School Site and Community Control, Authority, Autonomy and Choice Regarding Safe Campuses and the Protection of Our Students and Staff (Res-027-20/21)

Whereas, In May 2018, the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District entered into a three-year employment contract with Mr. Austin Beutner to serve as Superintendent of Schools for the Los Angeles Unified School District;

Whereas, The hallmark characteristic of Superintendent Beutner's leadership and reorganization plan and policies, enthusiastically supported by a majority of the Board of Education and numerous local non-profit organizations, has been the decentralization of resources and decision making in order for each school site and school community to be able to assess the unique needs and priorities of their students, families, local neighborhoods, and community partners;

Whereas, In an April 21, 2021 letter to the Board declining an extension of his contract, Mr. Beutner stated that with the support of the Board and that of many partners in labor, government, industry, the community and the homes of each family and every student, we have "(t)ransformed Los Angeles Unified from a top-down, one-size-fits-all bureaucracy into 44 nimble local teams, each dedicated to the community it serves" and unequivocally asserted that community schools unite families, educators, and community partners to provide all students with quality instruction, enrichment activities, physical and mental health services and social-emotional supports which create the opportunity for children to succeed in school and in life;

Whereas, As the largest authorizer of charter schools in the nation, the District has long been considered a major proponent of allowing parents and families to choose or be assigned to publicly funded schools that are independent, autonomous and not bound by centrally generated policies and practices that their local school community may not support, thus allowing families who live in the attendance areas for independent charter high schools such Granada Hills, Pacific Palisades, Birmingham, and El Camino Real to assess the needs of their schools and local communities, freely discuss options, and make decisions concerning critical issues such as school climate, health, safety and protecting students and staff - discussions and decisions not currently available to neighboring affiliated charter high schools such as Sylmar, Taft, Cleveland, and Reseda;

Whereas, Public opinion research on school safety involving over 44,000 students, parents and school staff was conducted in October, 2020. Survey results showed a broad range of opinions about what public safety measures respondents preferred or made them feel most comfortable including key findings that, across the demographic subgroups surveyed, perceptions of the Los Angeles School Police Department were largely positive, and among parents and staff there was significant opposition to reducing the presence of school police;

Whereas, Attitudes toward school policing are likely viewed through the lens of perceived levels of campus safety and perceptions of school police, including the following:

- The broadly held view that campuses are generally safe before, during, and afterschool;
- High degrees of consensus that school police are engaged in emergency response activities and protecting campus perimeters, but less certainty around other areas of engagement; and
- Less familiarity with segments of the community that may be negatively impacted by school policing;

Whereas, In the 2019-2020 school year, out of 115,000 services calls, there were only 10 total complaints against school police from staff, parents or students;

Whereas, Each school site is responsible for developing a comprehensive safety plan based on the needs of the campus climate, which is reflective in the cornerstone value of the Community Schools model of local autonomy and decision making, yet school-based administrators have expressed profound unreadiness and a lack of empowerment as it relates to accessing all available resources to aid in optimizing school safety for their campuses in a way that aligns with the true spirit of local control;

Whereas, The Board and District staff - understanding that the District covers an area totaling 710 square miles, including most of the city of Los Angeles and all or portions of 26 cities and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County - are currently engaged in profound discussions about the need for equitable resource allocation based on the recognition that school communities have different needs based on unequal and different opportunities, resources and experiences; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the students, parents and staff who constitute the different and diverse school communities throughout the Los Angeles Unified School District be granted the authority and flexibility to discuss, determine and decide on the measures they believe will improve and maintain positive school climate and safety on their school campuses.

NEW BUSINESS AGENDA ITEM 4

Good afternoon,

Thanks for the question. Critical race theory is a decades-old legal framework that explores the systemic nature of racism. In recent months, the term has entered the national political discourse, and is being used by some as a catchall phrase to refer to any discussion of race or racism.

If you're wondering what opportunities LAUSD students have to learn about the history of different racial/ethnic groups, ethnic studies courses have been around for several years now at the high school level. By the 2022-23 school year, all LAUSD high schools will offer at least one ethnic studies course, and by the 2023-24 school year, taking an ethnic studies course will be a graduation requirement. Efforts are also being made to allow students in lower graders to learn more about their cultural/ethnic backgrounds and history. For example, under the optional summer enrichment program, the following electives were available to middle school students: Armenian History, Black/African American History, Chinese History, Filipino History, Japanese History, Korean History, Mexican History, and Salvadorean History.

I hope this answers your question.

Best,
Tara