

Wiseburn School Board Approves New Peter Burnett Principal

By Duane Plank

As the calendar turned to June in the Wiseburn Unified School District (WUSD), administrators and School Board members were tasked with filling two open elementary school principal positions for the upcoming 2017-18 school year. Now their task is cut in half, when at last Thursday evening's School Board meeting, the members unanimously approved the selection of Kim Jones to take over the reins as the new principal at Peter Burnett Elementary.

With current principal Laura Sullivan submitting her resignation earlier this year, Burnett became one of the two District elementary schools searching for a new principal. Juan Cabrillo Elementary principal Margaret Lynch had also submitted her retirement paperwork.

One of the principal slots was filled last Thursday evening when Jones was selected to the top post at Burnett. Jones, who is currently serving as the assistant principal at Center Street Elementary in El Segundo, will start her new position in Wiseburn on July 1.

Jones had worked as a reading specialist in the El Segundo Unified School District from 2000-2003 and then went to Tokyo to teach internationally for four years, returning to the states to work as the reading specialist at Center Street in 2007. She ascended to the assistant principal position four years ago.

Jones, who attended the Thursday evening meeting, was asked to stand up and introduce herself. She said, "I don't have a polished presentation, but I would like to thank you for the confidence that you have in me."

In an email sent prior to the meeting, Jones wrote, "I am thrilled to join the WUSD! Being both a member of this community and a parent of a child in the Wiseburn schools, I see firsthand the commitment to student success and achievement that teachers, parents and District administrators provide our children each day. I am looking forward to continuing the tradition of excellence at Burnett Elementary and am excited to join the WUSD family. I want to thank Dr. Johnstone and the Board of Education for this amazing opportunity."

Superintendent Tom Johnstone, who is looking forward to working with Jones, noted, "We believe our next choice for principal at Burnett is an outstanding match. Wiseburn and El Segundo have been working together on a few critical initiatives, so Kim is well-versed in our programs and she will hit the ground running."

El Segundo Center Street principal Martha Monahan emailed that while the staff would miss the contributions of Jones, they "are excited to see that she has been given this opportunity to lead. Her knowledge of instruction and curriculum, coupled with her commitment to the success of all students, will make Burnett an even stronger community of learners."

Three special presentations dotted the Thursday evening 65-minute meeting, crisply run by Board President Israel Mora. Two representatives of Balfour Beatty presented \$1,000 scholarship checks to graduating District students Celine Casillas (Da Vinci Design) and Malek Jesri (Da Vinci Communications) to help continue their education. Casillas will be attending Pepperdine, hoping to study pre-med, and Jesri will be matriculating to UC Irvine. Balfour Beatty is the construction company managing the new Wiseburn High School

project that will house the first day of classes on August 22.

Next up was a presentation about the prowess of District students within the STEM program. Superintendent Johnstone took a moment to laud the work done by Dana Middle School's Andy de Seriere, the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) teacher.

Said Johnstone, alluding to the extra time and effort put in by the Dana students to excel in their schoolwork: "These kids spend a lot more time at Dana Middle School than they do at home."

De Seriere reported the results of the recent 40th annual Robert H. Herndon Science competition, sponsored by The Aerospace Corporation, in which Wiseburn students Benny Banuelos, Emma Martin, Austin Kehl, Xzavier Padilla, Maya Waller and Gabriella Uribe captured second place in the event where they showcased their experiment "Warming Up to Solar Energy." The PLTW students used their garnered expertise to "increase photovoltaic efficiency", which is a possible pathway to lowering temperatures as the climate change and global warming debate "heats up" worldwide. The Dana students then made a quick demonstration to the Board of their presentation at the Herndon competition.

Board members and administrators then shared their thoughts, with comments ranging from the effective collaboration that is continuing with the Da Vinci School Board, which is a separate entity from the WUSD, and the synergy that has been achieved with El Segundo Unified as both entities look forward to the spring opening of the new pool facility on Douglas Street.

Board member Roger Banuelos gave kudos to the outgoing principals. "I want them to know how grateful I am for teaching our kids, and all of our students," he said. Vice President JoAnne Kaneda noted how appreciative all of the Board members were about how the massive high school construction project was evolving on Douglas Street, and how they were all proud of the "opportunities to learn" that are available to WUSD students.

The Action items quickly addressed involved new school construction projects, with change orders for both Phase I and Phase II being tackled, including plumbing items dealing with Phase II at the high school. Phase II of the project, which includes the pool, gym and soccer field, is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2018.

Fiscal items that dotted the Action item agenda included the renewal of a contract with Frontline Technologies; an agreement with Lenovo Financial Services for the leasing of 160 laptops for teachers and other staff; a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Lawndale Elementary School District for the upcoming school year; and the approval of an agreement with the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District for 2017-18 that provides support for beginning teachers in the WUSD.

Consent items revolved around District personnel matters, including the acceptance of certificated and teaching resignations; approval of voluntary transfer and temporary teacher issues; and resolutions honoring retiring WUSD employees Patricia Duncan, Jamie Ehring, Margaret Lawson and Dana O'Dell.

Today is the grade promotion for Dana students, who next will be attending high school at the new facility on Douglas Street. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will take place on Thursday, June 22. •

Community Briefs

LA City Council Approves EIR for LAX Modernization

Last week, the Los Angeles City Council unanimously approved the Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR) for the proposed \$5.5 billion Landside Access Modernization Program (LAMP) at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). The project, which includes an Automated People Mover and a link to Metro rail, aims to dramatically improve the flow of passengers and vehicles in and near the airport's Central Terminal Area and help to alleviate congestion on local roadways.

With its action, the LA City Council approved the General Plan Amendments, Specific Plan Amendments, and zone changes, and concurred with the California Environmental Quality Act certification of the EIR.

LAMP consists of several primary components tied together by the Automated People Mover (APM), an elevated train with six stations that would transport passengers between the Central Terminal Area (CTA) and the other main project components located to the east. These components include a Consolidated Rent-A-Car center and two new Intermodal Transportation Facilities, which feature public parking and passenger drop-off and pick-up areas. So that passengers can access the Metro regional rail

system, the APM system would include a station at the Intermodal Transit Facility East adjacent to Metro's proposed Airport Metro Connector station at 96th Street/Aviation Boulevard. In addition to the major components listed, LAMP also includes planned roadway improvements throughout the LAX area.

LAWA prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for LAMP in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), which was released on September 15, 2016. The official comment period for the Draft EIR ran from September 15 through November 15, 2016. Two public meetings were held in October 2016 that allowed the public to learn about LAMP and its components, with attendees able to submit comments following presentations from LAWA staff and consultants. The Final EIR was released in February 2017.

With the CEQA process drawing to a conclusion, attention turns to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) approval, which continues with the upcoming release of the Draft Environmental Assessment. - *Content Condensed from Los Angeles World Airports Press Release*

US Census Bureau Offers Free Workshop at Inglewood Library

The Inglewood Public Library and the US Census Bureau's Los Angeles regional office will present a free workshop on Census Data for Community Analysis on Wednesday, June 28 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Gladys Waddingham Lecture Hall at the Main Library, 101 West Manchester Boulevard.

The Census Data for Community Analysis Workshop will help attendees capture the key demographic, social, economic and housing indicators that define their community.

Learn how to access data for small-area geographies, such as zip codes and census tracts.

Workshop participants will:

- Access neighborhood-level data to create community profiles.
- Obtain the most recent data on age, income, poverty, race/ethnicity, and other measures using American Community Survey (ACS) yearly released data.

This free program is open to all. Metered and paid parking are available on-site. For more information about this program, call (310) 412-5380 or visit <http://library.cityofinglewood.org>. - *Content Provided by the Inglewood Public Library*

AMETLL Consortium School Maker Faire Attracts More Than 900 Participants

Hawthorne High was again the host for the third annual Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering Technology Linked Learning (AMETLL) Consortium School Maker Faire last month where more than 900 high school students, educators and family members from five South Bay regional school districts joined with representatives from 47 high tech companies and technical schools to showcase advanced manufacturing techniques, robotics competitions and STEM Related Exhibits.

The Consortium teamed with the Centinela Valley Union School District (CVUHSD), El Camino College and the Hawthorne High School of Engineering to present the event which was part science fair but with a county fair atmosphere celebrating creativity and invention, as well as providing a venue for tech enthusiasts, crafters, artists, hobbyists, engineers and entrepreneurs

to showcase what they make. Attendees also were able to participate in interactive science and engineering activities. Complimentary food and refreshments were provided by the Hawthorne High School of Culinary Arts and other on campus organizations.

The 2017 Faire was sponsored by the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB), Kinecta Federal Credit Union, CVUHSD, and El Camino College.

The Consortium was established in 2013 and is comprised of educational and industry partners including the SBWIB, committed to the principles of Linked Learning, an approach that energizes students through interdisciplinary curriculum, project-based learning and the integration of Career Technical Education with traditional academic disciplines. • - *Source: SBWIB*



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