



Mónica García

President, Los Angeles Board of Education

Highlights of 2007 Accomplishments

LAUSD Board District 2 Newsletter, January 2008

Mónica's Message



Happy new year, students, parents, educators, and allies! We begin 2008 with important work ahead of us, driven by the critical mission to graduate every child college-prepared and career-ready. While we have much to do, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on a productive 2007 as President of the Los Angeles Unified School District Board and as the elected representative of LAUSD Board District 2. The advancements made last year happened because we came together as partners and allies.

Together, we can realize our collective vision of a world-class education system for all of our children. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you as your Board President and look forward to another year of leadership, action and change.

In the Spirit of Hope,

Mónica García
President, Los Angeles Board of Education

Highlights of 2007 Accomplishments

Towards Graduating Every Child College-Prepared and Career-Ready

BOLD LEADERSHIP FOR CHANGE

- As School Board President, introduced and passed a bold package of **eight reform resolutions**. The resolutions focus on:
 - a commitment to **100% graduation by 2015**, with annual benchmarks for increasing graduation rates;
 - measurable targets, or **metrics, for accountability** that track academic and financial progress, as well as faculty development;
 - support for principals** through professional development programs that build leadership capacity;
 - attracting more teachers** to LAUSD via a coordinated marketing campaign;
 - a strategic action plan for addressing the needs of **English Learners and Standard English Learners**, who make up almost half of the district's student population;
 - repairing LAUSD's **payroll system**;
 - increasing **parent involvement and empowerment** at local school sites and around the district;
 - and a dedication to the construction of **small schools** that create more personalized learning environments.
- As School Board President, implemented critical changes in Board rules for a more effective and efficient process

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INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS FOR QUALITY EDUCATION

- Supported parents, teachers and students at **Roosevelt** and **Santee** high schools, and **Hollenbeck** and **Stevenson** middle schools in joining the **Partnership for LA Schools**, an historic opportunity for educational reform
- Advanced the creation and implementation of the **Belmont Zone of Choice**, a landmark initiative to establish a network of ten autonomous small secondary schools
- Advanced the **East LA Skills Center**, a full-time Employment Preparation and Training Center that partners with nearby high schools
- Opened **West Adams Preparatory High School**, an innovative collaboration between LAUSD and Mentor LA
- Advanced the completion of the **Vista Hermosa School**, which will be combined with a 10-12 acre park developed by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS, PARENTS, PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS

- Co-authored motion to add \$2 million to the LAUSD **translation budget** to meet the translation needs of students and families
- Organized **English Learners and Standard English Learners Summit**
- Introduced and passed motion to stop mid-year renorming, avoiding disruption to schools and loss of needed teachers

NEW SCHOOLS TO REDUCE OVERCROWDING

- Opened **two new schools** in District 2: John Liechty Middle School and West Adams Preparatory High School
- Awarded contracts for construction of the **Ambassador schools, Central LA Middle School #3, and East LA High School #1**

SAFER SCHOOLS & NEIGHBORHOODS

- Spearheaded **School Safety Initiative** partnership to enhance safety on LAUSD campuses and around schools, and improve security on students' paths to and from class
- Facilitated demolition of a blighted, vacant building near **White House Place Primary Center**

SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL EMPLOYEES & GOOD JOBS

- Championed landmark resolution that granted **health benefits to 2,900 school cafeteria workers**
- Hosted "**School Construction Open House**" to attract contractors and skilled workers to help complete District's \$19.3 billion New School Construction Program and promote local hiring and job training for community members.

LEADERSHIP IN SACRAMENTO AND WASHINGTON, DC

- Advocated in Sacramento to **protect school construction funds** through AB 1014
- Advocated for LAUSD students in meetings with leaders in Washington, DC to discuss reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act and funding after-school and workforce education programs

RESPONSIVE, ENGAGED OFFICE

- Organized two **Community Town Halls** bringing together over 200 students, parents, educators and community members to recognize student achievement
- Held **Principal Roundtable** with over 100 school principals
- Held **Breakfast Roundtables** in Local Districts 4 and 5
- Organized community **Toy Give-Away**