

PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Correspondence Received

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS HOLLY J. MITCHELL LINDSEY P. HORVATH JANICE HAHN KATHRYN BARGER

			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:		
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments	
42.		Oppose	Monisha Parker	 When explaining the revenue and expenditures for the La Cañada Unified School District (LCUSD) for the budget years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027, it's important to break down the information into clear, understandable segments You might want to consider the following points to structure your explanation: 1. Overview of the Budget Process Purpose of the Budget: Explain that the budget is a financial plan that allocates resources to support educational goals and initiatives within the district. Annual Cycle: Highlight that budgets are typically reviewed and approved annually, taking into account both short- and long-term financial forecasts. 2. Revenue Sources State Funding: Detail the contributions from the state of California, which is usually the largest source of revenue for school districts, including local control funding formula (LCFF) allocations. Local Property Taxes: Discuss the revenue generated from local property taxes, which significantly impacts the district's finances. Federal Funding: Mention any federal grants or funding sources that the district may expect during these budget years. Other Revenue: Include any other income the district generates, such as donations, grants, or fees for services. 3. Expenditure Breakdown Instructional Expenses: Describe the budget allocation for classroom instruction, which includes salaries for teachers, instructional materials, and ongoing education programs. Administrative Costs: Outline the budget dedicated to administrative support, including salaries for district administration, operational expenses, etc. Facilities Maintenance: Explain how much is set aside for maintaining and improving school facilities. Support Services: Highlight any funds allocated for student services such as counseling, special education, and extracurricular activities. Technology Investments: Discuss any expenditure plans for technology improvements, such as hardware or sof	



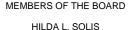


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Impact of Enrollment Trends: Analyze how shifts in student enrollment might affect funding and expenditures. Sustainability Initiatives: If applicable, mention any initiatives geared towards sustainability and their budget implications. 5. Future Plans and Considerations Budget Priorities: Highlight key priorities for the upcoming budget years - for example, emphasis on STEM programs, mental health resources, or improving student performance. Long-term Financial Health: Discuss the importance of maintaining fiscal stability and preparing for potential economic fluctuations. Community Involvement: Encourage community engagement regarding budget discussions, emphasizing the importance of stakeholder input. 6. Conclusion Sum up the overall financial health indicated by the budgets for 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 and reaffirm the district's commitment to providing quality education through effective financial management. Additional Tips Use Visual Aids: If possible, present this information using graphs or charts that illustrate revenue sources and expenditure categories for clarity. Be Clear and Concise: Avoid jargon and ensure explanations are easy to understand for audiences with varying levels of familiarity with school finance. Engage Your Audience: Encourage guestions and discussions to address any concerns or interests that the community may have regarding the budget. This structured approach should help communicate the complexities of the budget in a straightforward and engaging manner. Strengthening a school district while reducing expenditures requires a strategic and multifaceted approach. Here are some ways La Cañada Unified School District (LCUSD) can work toward these goals across various expense categories: Instructional Expenses Collaborative Learning: Implement team teaching and collaborative learning strategies that can reduce the number of teachers needed for certain subjects. Curriculum Review: Periodically review and optimize the curriculum to eliminate redundancies and focus on essential standards, potentially reducing materials costs. Grants and Partnerships: Seek grants or partnerships with local businesses and organizations to subsidize educational programs and materials. Utilize Open Educational Resources: Switch to free or low-cost open educational resources (OER) for textbooks and instructional materials. Administrative Costs

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Cross-Training Staff: Encourage cross-training among administrative staff to build versatility, allowing for reduced hiring in the administrative sector. Centralized Service Hub: Create a central office for administrative functions that can serve multiple schools to reduce redundancies. Lean Processes: Implement lean management practices to streamline operations and cut costs without sacrificing service quality.

Facilities Maintenance

Preventive Maintenance: Establish a preventive maintenance plan to extend the life of facilities and reduce long-term repair costs. Energy Audits: Conduct energy audits to identify areas for efficiency improvements, leading to reduced utility expenses. Community Use of Facilities: Offer community rental of school facilities for events, which can generate revenue to offset maintenance costs. Outsourcing Non-Core Services: Consider outsourcing custodial or maintenance services to companies that can operate at a lower cost.

Support Services

Needs Assessment: Conduct assessments to align support services more closely with actual student and staff needs, cutting unnecessary expenditures. Community Partnerships: Leverage community organizations and volunteers for additional support services, such as counseling and mentorship programs. Grant Funding: Pursue grant opportunities focused on mental health and social services to subsidize in-house programs.

Technology Investments

Evaluate Current Investments: Regularly assess the effectiveness of current technology investments to determine if they are meeting objectives or need adjustment.

Leverage Cloud Solutions: Transition to cloud-based solutions for data management and communication to reduce costs associated with hardware and software.

Student-Driven Initiatives: Encourage tech clubs or student projects that innovate on lower-cost tech solutions.

Transportation

Route Optimization: Utilize technology to optimize bus routes, minimizing fuel costs and improving efficiency.

Incentivize Carpooling: Develop programs that encourage carpooling among families to reduce the need for transportation services.

Negotiate Contracts: Regularly negotiate contracts with transportation service providers to ensure competitive pricing.

Debt Service

Refinancing Debt: Investigate opportunities to refinance existing debt at lower interest rates to save on future payments.

Long-Term Financial Planning: Create a long-term financial plan that prioritizes paying down high-interest debt.

Increased Revenue Generation: Explore additional funding sources, such as

			grants or partnerships, to help pay off debt faster without affecting operational budgets. Additional Considerations Community and Stakeholder Engagement: Encourage input and collaboration from staff, parents, and community members for innovative cost-saving ideas. Continuous Improvement Culture: Foster a culture of continuous improvement where staff is encouraged to contribute ideas and programs that can streamline costs. Regular Review and Assessment: Establish a regular review process for all areas of expenditure, allowing for adaptability and ongoing refinement of strategies to meet changing needs. Conclusion By employing a combination of these strategies, La Cañada Unified School District can strength
	Item Total	1	
Grand Total		1	