



Scott Mark Schmerelson

Board Member - Representing Board District 3

## The Board District 3 School and Community Update

Representing the following communities

Canoga Park, Chatsworth, Encino, Granada Hills, Lake Balboa, Reseda, North Hills, North Hollywood, Northridge, Mission Hills, Porter Ranch, Studio City, Tarzana, Van Nuys, Valley Glen, Woodland Hills, West Hills, Winnetka

Holiday Edition 2015

### Holiday Message from Board Member Scott M. Schmerelson

*Best Wishes for the Holiday Season to our entire LAUSD Board District 3 Family. May the good feelings and joy that we feel during the holiday season extend throughout the entire year!*

*Mis mejores deseos en esta temporada navideña para nuestra familia entera LAUSD Junta Distrito 3. Que los buenos sentimientos y alegría que sentimos durante la temporada navideña se extiendan durante todo el año!*

*Maligayang Pasko at Manigong Bagong Taon sa inyong lahat, lalong-lalo na sa mga pamilyang nasa Board District 3!*

### Holiday Message from Local District Northwest Superintendent Vivian Ekchian

*Dear Friends,*

*As 2015 draws to a close, I want to express to all of you my deepest appreciation for your dedication and support.*

*From the moment that I came to Local District Northwest, I have believed that the real strength of the District was in its exceptionally capable and talented students, staff, parents and community members. That belief is now a conviction.*

*The new year brings new adventures and new possibilities and many ways in which we can continue to create extraordinary learning opportunities for our youth.*

*Warmest wishes for a wonderful holiday season.*



## Board Member Schmerelson Hosts Holiday Celebration at the BD3 Field Office



Board Member Schmerelson with Carson Schreiber and Zavan Pogosyan of Kiwanis Entertainment Industry Group and Dr. Brandon Martin, Athletic Director of California State University Northridge.



Board Member Schmerelson with Jeannie Kamm, School and Community Coordinator for Board President Zimmer; Vivian Ekchian, Superintendent Local District Northwest; Arlene Irlando, Chief of Staff to Board Member Schmerelson; Marian Jocz, Director of SFV United Chambers of Commerce; Silvia Martinez, Director of Policy for Board Member Schmerelson and Patrice McKenzie, Director of Policy for Board Member McKenna.



Board Member Schmerelson with Colleen Ross, President of the 31st District PTSA; Ari McIntyre, President of the Valley Gateway Council PTSA; Anna Measles, Executive Vice President of the 31st District PTSA and Sandy Lee, Vice President of Community Concerns and Health of the 31st District PTSA.



Board Member Schmerelson with Principal Nancy Williams-Mourao of Vintage Elementary School.

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## Curriculum, Instruction and Educational Equity Committee

The last committee meeting was held on November 3, 2015. The agenda included presentations on the Next Generation Science Standards Implementation Plan, the Computer Science Strategic Plan and other updates from the Division of Instruction.

The elementary and secondary science coordinators explained that they are already preparing for the California Comprehensive Science Test that will be given to our 5th, 8th and 11th graders in the 2019 school year. As part of the curriculum, 23 of our District schools are already using the Full Option Science Systems (FOSS) program which offers hands-on science kits to our students to resolve problems in collaboration with classmates.

Science Coordinator, Ms. Lillian Valadez-Rodela, provided several kits for committee members to form teams to attempt to complete the 4th grade "light bulb challenge." This approach has improved the District's science curriculum as students now have the opportunity to apply the concepts, that they have learned as part of their science curriculum, to solve real problems.

At the end of this meeting, Board Member Schmerelson thanked the presenters and committee members and once again encouraged the audience to email him any questions, concerns or ideas for future meetings.

You may visit the meeting webpage at <http://www.laschoolboard.org> to view the materials presented at the committee.

**The next committee meeting will be at 10:00 am on January 14, 2016.**



Board Member Schmerelson and Jefferson Crain, Executive Officer of the Board of Education working on a FOSS kit.

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## Student Member of the Board Elections

After a rigorous student application process, a committee was formed to review the applications and to select one student per Board District to participate in the final competition. The committee was comprised of Dr. Brenda Manuel, Administrator of the Student Unit, Student Unit Specialist, Lorena Franco, and Board Office representatives. The student finalists were Gabriel Gonzalez, Board District 1; Crystal Maceda, Board District 2; Mikala Nellum, Board District 3; Leon Popa, Board District 4; Michelle Ontiveros, Board District 5; Taylor Hanes, Board District 6 and Nina Collier, Board District 7.

The Special Elections Meeting was held on December 7, 2015 at Dr. Maya Angelou Community High School where each candidate was asked to deliver a speech to their fellow Student Body Presidents. The candidates were then asked to step outside while fifty-three Student Body Presidents electronically submitted their vote.

Per the voting results, the new Student Member of the Board of Education is Leon Popa from Board District 4. He will serve on the Board starting in the Spring of 2016. Students selected as alternates are Michelle Ontiveros from Board District 5 and Nina Collier from Board District 7.



From left to right: Nina, Francisco, Taylor, Michelle, Mikala and Leon.

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Retiree Spotlight: Barbara Schmidt, Thomas Schmidt, Marilee Sokolowski, Jim Anderson

**Barbara Schmidt** culminated her public service at the Los Angeles Unified School District after fourteen years. She worked at Patrick Henry Middle School as a Resource Specialist Teacher and Special Education Bridge Coordinator. She was also a member of the School Site Council and School Based Management.

**Thomas Schmidt** culminated his public service at the Los Angeles Unified School District after eleven years. He has worked at Columbus Middle School and Canoga Park High School as a Math teacher. He was a Math, Technology, and Robotics teacher at Patrick Henry Middle School where he inspired countless students to excel in everything they did; and served as President of LACTMA and was a member of the School Site Council and School Based Management.

**Marilee Sokolowski** culminated her public service at the Los Angeles Unified School District after thirty seven years. She started her career as an Education Aide at Saticoy Elementary School and then transferred to Millikan Middle School as a Special Education Aide. She was a Special Education Assistant at Nobel Charter Middle School for the last eighteen years.

**Jim Anderson** was a former Guidance Counselor at Cleveland High School. He was also known as “Mr. Cleveland High”, was recently feted by a group of his former students, members of the Knights and Ladies Honor Society, with a surprise celebration to acknowledge their appreciation for his support and encouragement. He inspired recipients of members of this Society to set up a scholarship to deserving students who were in similar financial situations like them; and made it possible for many of his students at Cleveland High School to attend and graduate from college, and now in turn are paying it forward by doing the same with their financial commitments for this scholarship.

*These four teachers will be greatly missed by their students and colleagues at the schools where they served for many years because of their dedication, professionalism and passion. We thank these wonderful teachers for their many years of dedicated service to the children of our LAUSD community. We wish them the best on their retirement and future endeavors.*

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## 2016 Edison Scholars

Edison International, parent company of Southern California Edison (SCE), is accepting applications from eligible high school seniors planning to study Science, Technology, Engineering or Math.

Award: \$40,000 college scholarships provided over four years at \$10,000 per year.

Eligibility: Must be a high school senior, 3.0 GPA or higher, plan to be a fulltime undergraduate student majoring in electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, civil engineering, computer engineering, industrial engineering, computer sciences/info system, environmental engineering, or environmental sciences at a four-year college or university.

Deadline: February 1, 2016

To learn more about the Edison Scholars program visit:

<https://www.scholarshipamerica.org/edisonscholars/>

**Hope to see many of our schools apply for these great opportunities.  
Good Luck!!**

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## Special Exhibit at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

From March 10, 2016 through May 8, 2016, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's special exhibit State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda will be on view at the Los Angeles Central Library as part of its national tour.

The Museum has made significant efforts to harness the power of digital media, media literacy, civic education, and critical thinking. A new teaching unit seeks to redefine how propaganda is taught at the secondary level to meet Common Core standards. The museum is breaking new ground, creating a text message tour that encourages students to engage critically with the propaganda they find in the galleries. They have partnered with the Media Education Lab to create the Mind over Media forum for ongoing dialogue about propaganda in the world today.

Please feel free to share this information widely with your networks to encourage participation.

You can visit the museum website at: [www.ushmm.org/events/propaganda-workshop](http://www.ushmm.org/events/propaganda-workshop)

Thank you for your support of the Museum's work.



## Upcoming Meetings

We'd like to hear from you...

We want to recognize you and have others learn about the great things that are happening at your school sites.

If you would like us to feature any students, teachers, administrators, recent events and or accomplishments, please send any updates to:  
[Silvia.K.Martinez@lausd.net](mailto:Silvia.K.Martinez@lausd.net).

The following meetings will be held at LAUSD Headquarters

333 S. Beaudry Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90017

- 1-12-16 Regular Board Meeting
- 1-12-16 Closed Session
- 1-14-16 Curriculum, Instruction and Educational Equity Committee
- 1-19-16 Budget, Facilities and Audit Committee
- 1-19-16 Early Childhood Education Committee
- 1-19-16 Successful School Climate Committee

## Contact Us

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We are on the Web!

<http://achieve.lausd.net/schmerelson>

