

# Scott Mark Schmerelson

Board Member - Representing Board District 3



## The Board District 3 School and Community Update

September 2015

### Welcome-Back-to-School Open House

On September 10, Board Member Schmerelson kicked off the new year by hosting an Open House in the Board District 3 Field Office in Lake Balboa.

It was an honor to have colleague, Board President Steve Zimmer, welcome guests and introduce Board Member Schmerelson.

During the evening, the Board Member mingled with guests and was available to answer questions. Attendees were invited to post notes with their ideas for selecting a new District Superintendent.

Refreshments were provided by the students at the Joaquin Miller Career and Transition Center and LAUSD's Food Services Division.

The list of guests included Superintendents and staff from Local District Northwest and Northeast, Senior LAUSD staff, parents, teachers, students, District employees and community members.



Board Member Schmerelson with Board President Zimmer and Carson Schriever from the Kiwanis Entertainment Industry LA



Matthew Vallencilla presenting a certificate of recognition to Board Member Schmerelson on behalf of Congressman Brad Sherman

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## Successful Start of the New Academic Year

On August 18, Board Member Scott Schmerelson enthusiastically joined students, parents and local district staff at Lankershim ES, Colfax ES, Van Nuys MS, Lawrence MS, Canoga Park HS and Cleveland HS.

After working in the District as a teacher, counselor, and principal for more than 30 years, this was Board Member Schmerelson's first opportunity to greet Board District 3 families and support the efforts of school site staff since he was sworn-in and assumed office on July 1, 2015.

For more information and photos of the school visits please visit our website at <http://achieve.lausd.net/schmerelson>.



with LAUSD Board President Zimmer and Fulbright ES staff



Board Member at Lawrence Middle School

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## 7th Annual Student Recovery Day

Student Recovery Day (SRD) began six years ago as an effort to re-engage students in school and to provide them with a pathway towards graduation. Participants gathered at seven senior high schools throughout the District to scour the streets and neighborhoods of Los Angeles in an effort to recover students who are no longer enrolled in LAUSD.

This year, Student Recovery Day was the kick-off event for "Student Attendance Month" a resolution adopted by LAUSD, LA County and the City of Los Angeles to support efforts to keep students in school. Since the first SRD in 2009, 4,598 students have been recovered and over 9,500 home visits have been made by District and school staff.

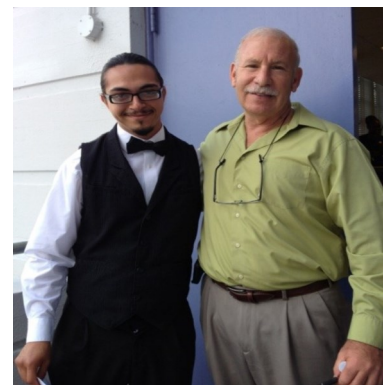
Chief Deputy Superintendent Michelle King, Board President Steve Zimmer, Vice President Dr. George McKenna and Board Member Scott Schmerelson kicked off the event with a press conference at Manual Arts High School before going back to their assigned school sites.

Board Member Schmerelson joined staff at Grant High School for the volunteer orientation, debrief and home visits.

To learn more about Student Recovery Day please visit <http://achieve.lausd.net/Page/1490>



Board President Zimmer, Board Member McKenna, Mayor Garcetti, and Board Member Schmerelson with Orisel Gonzalez and Rogelio Sanchez, two recovered students from the 2014 Student Recovery Day



Board Member with Rogelio Sanchez



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## Rio Vista Hidden Garden Ribbon Cutting

On September 2, Rio Vista Elementary School held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of their new Hidden Garden.

Rio Vista has been working with the nonprofit EnrichLA, along with parents and volunteers, to revitalize the campus space.

On this day everyone enjoyed a walk through the garden and had an opportunity to sample fresh fruits and vegetables.

Guests included Board Member Schmerelson, LA City Councilmember Krekorian, LAUSD Local District Northeast Superintendent Maltez and staff.

To learn more about Rio Vista Elementary School and their garden please visit: [http://riovistaes-laUSD-ca.schoolloop.com/cms/page\\_view?d=x&piid=&vpid=1435126673402](http://riovistaes-laUSD-ca.schoolloop.com/cms/page_view?d=x&piid=&vpid=1435126673402)



with community representatives and Local District staff cutting the Ribbon

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## An Award Winning Robotics Program

Mrs. Lewis, a credentialed science teacher at Bassett Elementary School, focuses on hands-on science experiments to engage her students in the Common Core science curriculum. Within the last two years the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students have received 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place science awards.

During a recent school visit Board Member Schmerelson observed how 27, fifth graders were busy building and programming small robots capable of navigating an obstacle course. He was impressed by the student's vocabulary, interest in science, and ability to explain their complicated project.

To learn more about the science curriculum or the robotics program please visit [http://bassettes-laUSD-ca.schoolloop.com/cms/page\\_view?d=x&piid=&vpid=1355303635473](http://bassettes-laUSD-ca.schoolloop.com/cms/page_view?d=x&piid=&vpid=1355303635473)



Board Member Schmerelson observing students as they program two robots

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## 36th Annual Labor Solidarity Parade

United Teachers Los Angeles and members of the LAUSD Board of Education joined the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor Labor Coalition at the annual Labor Solidarity Parade.

Each year local unions and individual supporters march in order to honor working people and to demonstrate support for those who continue the day-to-day struggle for the right to unionize.

During the parade state AFL-CIO president Samuel E. Lathem pointed to and called out the names of each local's leaders and highlighted their current collective bargaining issues.

Among the unions and organizations participating were the AFL-CIO, UTLA, SEIU, United Local Workers Local 1183, NALC and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.



with UTLA Vice President Betty Forrester and LAUSD School Board President Steve Zimmer



with Assemblymember Gipson and UTLA Vice President Betty Forrester

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## Meet and Greet with Assemblymember Scott Wilk and Local Community Leaders

On Saturday, August 8, School Board Member Scott Schmerelson met with dozens of Neighborhood Council, Chamber of Commerce, and local community leaders at a Meet & Greet hosted by Assembly Member Scott Wilk in Porter Ranch.

It was a great opportunity to connect with local leaders, to swap ideas, and to foster collaboration with state officials on many different issues that will impact parents and students in Board District 3.

Board Member Schmerelson looks forward to working effectively with all local elected officials to increase much needed support and resources to improve student achievement and college and career readiness.



Board Member Schmerelson with Assemblymember Wilk and Local Community Leaders





## Encino Neighborhood Council Education Committee

On August 10, Board President Steve Zimmer, Board Member Schmerelson, Local Superintendent Vivian Ekchian and her staff, the President of the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council, school principals and parents all participated in the first Encino Neighborhood Council Education Committee meeting in preparation for the start of the new academic year.

At this meeting, Ms. Ekchian presented information concerning the District's apprenticeship programs and the LA Youth Orchestra's role in enhancing music education programs in our schools.

The meeting focused on prioritizing committee goals for this school year including the importance of parent engagement and collaboration between local leaders and community stakeholders in supporting visual and performing arts to benefit the schools in the Encino area.

The committee met again on September 10 and agreed to adjourn early in order to attend Board Member Schmerelson's Back-to-School Open House.

For more information on the Encino Neighborhood Council, please visit: <http://encinonc.com/>

## Special Olympics World Summer Games

On July 23, 2015 Board Member Schmerelson joined school police officers, athletes and coaches as they cheered on and supported 6,500 student athletes, from around the world, who participated in the United Relay Torch Run.

This day was just the beginning of a nine-day sporting event in Los Angeles that showcased the power of athletes with intellectual disabilities competing to be champions of their sports.

To read more about the Special Olympics program please visit [www.specialolympics.org](http://www.specialolympics.org)



Board Member Schmerelson  
with student participants



## LAUSD Rookie of the Year

Congratulations to Jose Pillado, a Special Education teacher at Leichman High School, who was named one of the 23 new LAUSD teachers named "Rookies of the Year" after being selected from first-year teachers who were nominated by school site administrators.

In this inaugural recognition, teachers were selected based on effectiveness in preparing and delivering instruction, providing a positive classroom climate with strong routines and procedures, adopting a dynamic and engaging teaching style, and demonstrating high levels of professionalism.

## Northwest Principals Meeting

On August 5, Local Superintendent Vivian Ekchian and her staff laid the groundwork and foundation for a successful 2015-2016 school year.

The meeting was held at Portola Middle School where 127 school principals and their administrative staff were in attendance.

As a group, they committed to the following Core Beliefs:

1) Students come first; 2) Families and communities are our partners; 3) Diversity is our strength; 4) Success is in the classroom; and 5) Quality teaching, leadership, and accountability are the keys to our success.

Utilizing those core beliefs as a guide, Local District North West's goals include a focus on early literacy and numeracy, relevant instruction for the globally competitive 21<sup>st</sup> century, safe learning environments, and making sure all students are college and career ready.

This important meeting was followed by an equally successful Principal's meeting on September 9th at Frost Middle School.

For more information on other Local District Northwest initiatives please visit: <http://achieve.lausd.net/northwest>



speaking to the Northwest principals



## Target Grant

Who is eligible? Educational professionals employed by an accredited K-12 public, private or charter school in the United States.

Applications must be submitted online via website to scholarship America between August 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015.

Target awards field trip grants to K-12 schools nationwide. Each grant is valued up to \$700.

To apply or for more information please visit the following website <https://targetfieldtripgrants.target.com/>

## Direct TV Goes to School Contests

The American Geosciences Institute has partnered with Direct TV to sponsor an Earth Science Week 2015.

Teachers and students K-12 are invited to take part in essay, photography and visual arts competitions.

The deadline for the contests is October 16, 2015.

### Photography Contest

Who can apply: Educators and students.

Theme: "Earth Systems Interacting"

For official contest site visit <http://www.earthsciweek.org/contests/photography>

### Visual Arts Contest

Who can apply: Students K-5.

Theme: "Picturing Earth Systems"

For official contest site visit <http://www.earthsciweek.org/contests/visual-arts>

### Essay

Who can apply: Students grades 6-9.

Theme: "Earth System Visualization Today"

For official contest site visit <http://www.earthsciweek.org/contests/essay>

Hope to see many of our schools apply for this great opportunity. Good Luck!!





## 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).

## Upcoming Meetings

9-30-15 Middle School Magnet Information Night at Sepulveda Middle School

The following meetings will be held at LAUSD Headquarters

333 S. Beaudry Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90017

10-6-15 Curriculum, Instruction and Educational Equity Committee

10-6-15 Early Childhood Education and Parent Engagement Committee

10-13-15 Closed Session

10-13-15 Regular Board Meeting

10-20-15 Budget, Facilities and Audit Committee

10-20-15 Successful School Climate Committee

## Contact Us

### Headquarters:

333 S. Beaudry Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90017

Phone: (213) 241-8333

### District Office:

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### We are on the Web!

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

