



# It's A Wrap

Volume 4 Number 5

## Student Response Systems Engage Student Focus

**Director of Education Technology and Information Services Victor Guthrie** presented the Board with an implementation update of the SRS in place at the District. The three-year initiative is in its second year of implementation. Mr. Guthrie reiterated that every technology advancement and enhancement in the classroom is linked to a District Strategic Goal.



The use of SRS in the classroom correlates to Student Achievement:

- All students will demonstrate *academic growth* across content areas

District Technology Plan Goals include:

- All teachers in the District will become *proficient* in the use of technology to improve data collection, analysis, and interpretation of data, assessment design, reporting, and decision-making and will apply these skills in their Professional Learning Community discussions.
- Staff will receive *differentiated* (or individualized) *professional development* based upon their own needs, including their skill level and comfort level with technology. This will happen through a variety of means, including shorter workshops differentiated by ability or comfort level, and individual coaching when necessary.

Mr. Guthrie introduced school site teachers and an administrator who shared the diversity and effectiveness of SRS in the classroom setting. **El Morro Elementary School teacher Jay Williams** defined the SRS as a powerful teaching and learning tool where the student quick response data creates an immediate opportunity to modify teaching strategies. He illustrated examples of individual and group teaching that the SRS augments and is looking forward to new ways that the District will be integrating into the educational experience. **Top of the World Elementary teacher Linda Barker** echoed his enthusiasm. She uses the SRS in several subject areas including math, language arts, vocabulary, reading and science as both a quick check and then as a follow-up assessment a few days after the initial instruction. Focused on providing the best first instruction, Ms. Barker also uses the SRS data as a way to reflect and evaluate her teaching instruction.



Using SRS as a tool to generate debate and discussion, **Laguna Beach High School teacher Jun Shen** has found innovative ways to incorporate it into his classroom. After a test, he will often use the SRS to take an informal poll of students' metacognition—how they analyzed the answers and made their choices. This data provides invaluable feedback that allows Mr. Shen to evaluate his instruction.

*It's A Wrap* is an ongoing communication protocol to keep staff updated and in the loop on LBUSD Board of Education decisions. *It's A Wrap* is published by and written by Darrin Reed and Kevin Yates.



**Thurston Middle School Assistant Principal Mike Modeer** announced that staff is interested in using the SRS in the classroom. He and **Principal Jenny Salberg** are working with Thurston teachers to build the momentum for this educational enhancement. The device was showcased at a recent Thurston staff meeting.

Each presenter expressed their appreciation to the Board, SchoolPower, the District and administrators for making this advancement available. Mr. Guthrie emphasized the organic expansion of the SDS. It is not a device for every educational purpose; the SDS is one of many tools in the District's teaching toolbox.

Uses include:

- Check for Understanding / Progress Monitoring
- Student Engagement / Focus
- Formative Assessments (*supporting the learning process*)
- Summative Assessments (*measuring the learning achieved*)

Unintended uses in the classroom include:

- Taking Attendance
- Lunch Counts
- Group Activities and Challenges

The Student Response Systems (SRS) were made possible through a donation from SchoolPower 2010 Fund-A-Need. **Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services Nancy Hubbell** thanked the organization for their visionary generosity.

**Norma Shelton, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services** presented the Monthly Budget Update for September. Although the District is receiving \$1.66 million less funding than in previous years, the District has made adjustments so programs are protected. She also shared details from the latest Joint Fiscal Management Committee (JFMC) Report.

The Board thanked the **LBUSD Technology Department** for their commitment to educational excellence and spoke of specific examples of how the team continues to make positive difference in the school district.



**Board Member Jan Vickers** expressed appreciation to **SchoolPower President Marcus Skenderian** who is an excellent ambassador for SchoolPower and the District through his many volunteer efforts.



Next Board of Education meeting is November 8.

*Photos courtesy of Kevin Yates*

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