

LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SERVING LONG BEACH, LAKEWOOD, SIGNAL HILL AND
AVALON

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
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January 14, 2011

Dear Buffum Parents,

The State of California's massive budget cuts to public education have caused the Long Beach Unified School District to reduce its own budget significantly in recent years. Unfortunately, the state budget continues to worsen, with a \$28 billion deficit projected in the coming months. The result is that our schools must find additional ways to reduce costs and improve efficiency.

As part of our continued cost-cutting efforts, our staff has been examining the possible closure of some of our smaller school campuses. We will be recommending that our publicly elected Board of Education, at its next regular meeting, begin considering the closure of Buffum Elementary School upon the conclusion of this school year. Buffum is one of two schools that we will recommend for closure. The other is Burroughs Elementary School.

The school board's next regular meeting is 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 18 at the LBUSD Administration Building, 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach. At this meeting, our staff will introduce our recommendation to the school board, though any formal vote on this matter would not occur until a subsequent meeting.

The reasons for our recommendation include the fact that these schools have relatively small numbers of students. In both cases, other nearby schools have the capacity to serve these students. By closing these smaller campuses, we would save valuable resources that would help to maintain our fiscal solvency and our high quality programs.

Should the Board of Education approve the closure of Buffum, school district staff will hold informational meetings for parents regarding student placement for the 2011-12 school year.

I'm sure that many of you will have questions as the school board considers our recommendation. You are welcome to attend the next school board meeting, and we will keep you updated on any developments regarding this issue.

Thank you for your patience as we find ways to maintain and improve our educational programs despite the state's unprecedented cuts to public education. I deeply appreciate your continued support of our students and schools.

Sincerely,



Christopher J. Steinhauser
Superintendent of Schools