



SUPERINTENDENT NEWSLETTER



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Progress and Partnership

February was an important and productive month for Las Lomitas.

At our February 11 Board meeting, the Board provided clear direction on the next phase of our **Balanced Budget Initiative**. That guidance allows us to move thoughtfully from analysis to action. The work is serious and steady, and in this edition you'll find a concise update on what was discussed and what comes next.

I'm also pleased to share that we are partnering with the **City of Menlo Park** to apply for a state grant to reimagine the La Entrada field as a modern community athletic and park facility. It's an exciting opportunity, and meaningful community input will be essential. I hope you'll take a moment to learn more and participate.

In addition, beginning next school year, we will implement a bell-schedule adjustment at **La Entrada** that provides greater predictability for students and families while also reducing costs. It's a strategic change with both financial and systemic benefits, and you can read more about it inside.

I invite you to take a few minutes to read this newsletter in its entirety so you're up to date on our progress. Thank you for your attention, partnership, and support.

In partnership,
Erik Burmeister
Superintendent

Message from the Board President



*Thank you
for your
continued
partnership*

As we move into March, the Board continues working closely with Superintendent Burmeister to align our Strategic Shifts with our balanced budget goal. These are not easy conversations, and we understand that proposed changes can feel unsettling. Please know that decisions are being made with care and deep respect for our community.

We have also begun early discussions about a potential parcel tax, engaging Clifford Moss Consultants to assess feasibility and gather community input. **No decisions have been made.** Both efforts are part of our commitment to the district's long-term strength and sustainability.

Your voice matters. I encourage you to attend the **March 4 Board meeting** and share public comment—or email the board at schoolboard@llesd.org or me directly at klegg@llesd.org. Hearing from families and staff before decisions are made ensures we move forward together.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Legg
President, LLESD Board of Trustees

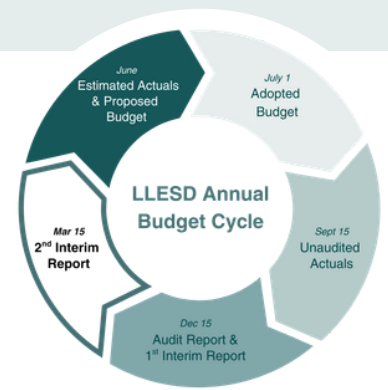
Good News for Taxpayers: District Locks In \$2.8 Million in Savings

On February 5, the District completed the refunding of \$23.6 million in outstanding Measure "S" General Obligation bonds—and the timing couldn't have been better.

By acting strategically to refinance at favorable rates, LLESD will generate approximately \$2.8 million in total savings for local taxpayers through 2040.

For the average residential property, that translates to about \$40 per year, or more than \$600 over the life of the bonds. No new taxes, no extended timelines. Just smart fiscal management that puts money back in the community.

This is the kind of proactive stewardship that reflects our broader commitment to responsible financial planning. Read the full [press release](#) for details.



Balanced Budget Initiative Update

At the February 11 Board meeting, the Superintendent presented a menu of potential staffing reductions totaling approximately \$2.2 million over two years across management, certificated, and classified categories. The goal is to use our current financial runway wisely — making thoughtful adjustments now rather than sharper reductions later.

Staffing Reduction Highlights

Management changes include recalibrating roles around upcoming retirements. Certificated reductions center on a shift at La Entrada from an 8-period to a 7-period schedule, along with intervention restructuring and a gradual phase-out of the Library Teacher role. Classified adjustments include paraprofessional realignment, food service, and transportation.

A \$2 million gap remains. Addressing it sooner gives us more flexibility and makes reductions less impactful. Delaying action limits options and increases the likelihood of sharper cuts later.

Transportation

LLESD remains the only district in the county offering free full-service transportation. The Board directed staff to begin by reducing one bus route and indicated interest in further discussion about a potential fee-based model if additional savings are needed.

Board Direction and Next Steps

Following the February 11 discussion, the Board directed staff to move forward with proposed reductions and prepare for formal action at the March 4 meeting.

Trustees expressed interest in a more measured approach to intervention reductions — while overall restructuring moves forward, there was support for slowing the pace of interventionist reductions while redesign work continues.

The district has reduced its projected structural deficit from approximately \$4.5 million to \$2.0 million over the past year. The Board was clear in its direction: continue implementing ongoing solutions now to eliminate the remaining gap and ensure long-term sustainability.

This work is serious and consequential — it impacts colleagues, programs, and long-standing practices. Taking measured action now is what protects the future of Las Lomitas and our ability to deliver exceptional experiences for students.



We're Going Social (The Professional Way)

Public education is deeply human work—and it's also deeply professional work.

In the Las Lomas Elementary School District, our teachers, staff, and leaders are engaged every day in thoughtful, innovative, and student-centered practice.

That story deserves to be told—not just inside our classrooms and at Board meetings, but in the broader professional conversation about education.

So yes... we're going social.

But in a very LLESD way.

You won't find dance trends or viral challenges.

What you will find are snapshots of learning in action, celebrations of our staff, highlights from student experiences, reflections on leadership, and updates on strategic work moving our district forward.

That's why we pop onto LinkedIn from time to time: to share our story in a space of professional dialogue and learning.

If you believe public education matters...

If you're proud of our schools...

If you want to amplify the great work happening here...

[Follow us on LinkedIn.](#)

Read. Like. Share.

Help us tell the story of LLESD beyond our borders.

See you on LinkedIn.

Redesigning the La Entrada Bell Schedule

As part of our ongoing design work initiated this fall, the district has been redesigning the La Entrada bell schedule to reduce costs, increase staffing flexibility, and create greater clarity for students and families.

Our current eight-period alternating "waterfall" schedule has benefits, but it increases per-student costs and adds complexity. After analysis, it became clear that meaningful savings required moving to a seven-period, non-rotating schedule. Natural attrition in key subject areas created a timely opportunity to make this shift while avoiding layoffs.

At the February 11 meeting, the Board directed staff to proceed with the change beginning next school year. The design team is now focused on building the strongest possible schedule within that framework—incorporating math minutes, electives, breaks, and a coherent 4-8 experience.

A formal recommendation comes to the Board in May. Students, staff, and families can expect prototype pilots in April.



A Field of Dreams: Reimagining La Entrada Together

Las Lomas Elementary School District is excited to share that we are partnering with the **City of Menlo Park** to explore something bold, community-centered, and long overdue: applying for state grant funding to completely reimagine the La Entrada field as a true community park and athletic facility.

This is not a done deal. There is no guarantee we will be awarded the grant.

But we believe in taking our shot—especially when the opportunity could transform a well-loved space into something extraordinary for students, families, and the broader Menlo Park community.

Imagine What Could Be

Close your eyes for a moment and picture:

- An all-weather track encircling
- A new, environmentally friendly turf field
- Open green space for informal play and relaxation
- A dedicated dog park for the many four-legged friends who visit after school hours
- Improved athletic and recreational amenities that serve students during the day and the community after hours

La Entrada's field is already a gathering place. Our dream is to elevate it into a shared, thoughtfully designed, multi-use community asset that reflects how much we value wellness, connection, and access to beautiful public spaces.

But here's the truth: if we're going to dream big, we need your voice at the table.

How You Can Help Make It Happen

1. Attend an input session. We're hosting five in-person listening sessions to gather community ideas before submitting our grant application—four open to the community, and one dedicated specifically to La Entrada students:

- Thursday, March 12 | 9:00 am | LE MUR
- Thursday, March 12 | 6:00 pm | LE MUR
- Saturday, March 14 | 1:00 pm | LE MUR
- Wednesday, March 18 | 4:00 pm | Phillips Brooks
- Thursday, March 12 | Lunch | Students ONLY

2. Complete the online survey. In addition to attending a session, community members are asked to complete the survey [at this link](#).

3. Invite a neighbor. This field is used daily by walkers, runners, families, and youth sports groups. If you know someone who visits the field regularly, bring them to a session or share the survey. The more diverse our input, the stronger our application.

Why Not Dream Big?

At LLESD, we believe in design thinking. We believe in listening first. We believe in building spaces that reflect the needs of the people who use them.

There's no guarantee we'll secure the funding. But if we do? We have big dreams for La Entrada. Now we need yours. Join us.

A FIELD OF DREAMS

The City of Menlo Park and LLESD are considering an application for state grant funds to completely reimagine and remodel the La Entrada field into a community park with improved athletic fields, a dog park, play space, and more!

And we want to hear from YOU!

Community Input Session Opportunities

Thur, March 12	9:00 a.m.	LE MUR
Thur, March 12	LUNCH	Students ONLY
Thur, March 12	6:00 p.m.	LE MUR
Sat, March 14	1:00 p.m.	LE MUR
Wed, March 18	4:00 p.m.	Phillips Brooks



Join us for one of the above in-person community sessions.

In addition or as an alternative, COMPLETE THE ONLINE SURVEY
← **using the QR code.**

Learning Community Updates

2026-27 Registration Opens March 15

Registration opens March 15 for **new and returning families**. We've worked to simplify and streamline the platform for a more intuitive experience.

Please register as early as possible — timely enrollment helps us plan staffing, sections, and budgets responsibly, and gives us the best chance to retain staff affected by reductions.

New this year: returning families will be asked to resubmit proof of residence, aligning with best practices in surrounding districts. Families can also join and donate to PTAs directly during registration.

Please share feedback to agould@llesd.org so we can continue improving the process.



Summer School Program

The district will offer Summer School for invited students from **June 22–July 17**, Monday through Friday, 8:15 AM–12 PM, at Las Lomas Elementary School. There will be no school on June 19 or July 3, and a daily snack will be provided.

Students in Rising TK – 7th grade will be invited based on academic data and teacher input, with the goal of strengthening foundational skills and supporting a strong start to the upcoming school year.

A **Math Bridge** program will also be offered to select Rising 5th–7th graders interested in compacted math courses at La Entrada in Fall 2026, designed to build the skills and confidence for an accelerated pathway.

Families of eligible students will receive details and registration information during this month's Parent-Teacher Conferences.

Thank You to Investors



Thank you to the hundreds of families who have invested in the LLEF Annual Campaign. Your generosity directly supports programs that make LLESD exceptional.

A Donor Roll goes out the week of March 9, so if you'd still like to contribute and be recognized, visit www.llef.org/invest.



MARCH 5

Menlo Park Sheriff Meet and Greet

San Mateo County District 3 Supervisor Ray Mueller invites you to come and meet your New Sheriff of San Mateo County at **Las Lomitas School, Cano Hall, on March 5 at 6 pm**. Sheriff Ken Binder will be joined by MPPD Chief Norris and Supervisor Mueller.

This great event is an opportunity to strengthen our community and have open channels of communication.

APRIL 1

LLEF Full Community Campaign Launch



For the first time ever, LLEF is expanding its reach with a broader Community Campaign launching in early April. A direct mailer will go to all residents, businesses, and community members in the LLESD area — because the whole community benefits from great schools.

District families are invited to serve as ambassadors: spread the word with neighbors and local businesses to help make this first-ever expansion a success.



APRIL 18

LLEF Donuts & Donations for Auction



Join us at Las Lomitas on **Saturday, April 18th, from 9:00–10:30 am** for a fun, family-friendly morning of donuts, coffee, and community connection. This is a great chance to meet other families, enjoy a treat, and support the LLEF Auction in a meaningful way.

We're inviting families to bring an auction item valued at \$100 or more. To make the event even more exciting, here are some high-impact items we're hoping to feature this year:

- **Getaways:** ski weekends, beach vacations, wine-country escapes, cabins
- **Experiences:** zipline adventures, sailing excursions, guided hikes, tours
- **Tickets & Access:** Giants or 49ers tickets, concert tickets, theater passes
- **Hosted Events:** themed dinners, cooking classes, mixology nights
- **Lessons & Services:** music lessons, sports coaching, photography sessions

To donate an item for the auction, use this link [here](#), or email us at auktion@llef.org



MAY 16

LLEF Rodeo & Auction



Dust off your boots and join us for the Annual LLEF Rodeo & Auction on **Saturday, May 16th from 5:30–9:30pm** at Las Lomitas. This beloved community event brings the LLESD parents, staff, and community together for an evening of fun, dancing, great food, beer, wine, cocktails, and philanthropy in support of our schools.

Tickets can be purchased here: https://onecau.se/_f3r6g1

Stay Connected

Important Dates

Wednesday, March 4

Board Meeting
6:30 pm at LE MUR

Thursday, March 5

Sheriff Meet and Greet
6:00 pm at Las Lomas Cano Hall

Thursday, March 12

La Entrada field input sessions
9:00 am at LE MUR
6:00 pm at LE MUR

Saturday, March 14

La Entrada field input session
1:00 pm at LE MUR

Sunday, March 15

2026-2027 student registration opens

Wednesday, March 18

La Entrada field input session
4:00 pm at Phillips Brooks

Wednesday, April 1

LLEF Full Community Campaign Launch

Saturday, April 18

LLEF Donuts & Donations
9:00-10:30 am at Las Lomas

Saturday, May 16

LLEF Rodeo and Auction
5:30 pm at Las Lomas

June 22 - July 17

Summer School Program

Resources & Links

La Entrada Field Community Input
[Online survey](#)

LLESD LinkedIn Profile
[Link to LinkedIn](#)

Las Lomas Education Foundation
Auction tickets: [Link here](#)
Donate an item: [Link here](#)
Invest: llef.org/invest

Board Contact
schoolboard@llesd.org
Kimberly Legg: klegg@llesd.org

Superintendent Contact
eburmeister@llesd.org

District Website
<https://www.llesd.org>

Las Lomas PTA
<https://www.laslomaspta.org>

La Entrada PTA
<https://www.laentradapta.org>



**Las Lomas
Elementary
School District**
Inclusive. Engaging. Inspiring.