



SUPERINTENDENT NEWSLETTER

Designing Our Future Together

This month marks the launch of Strategic Shifts—a new series inviting your input on important decisions. Strategic Shifts treat challenges as opportunities to thoughtfully improve our systems. The first five are now on my [Superintendent webpage](#), with more coming soon. Each poses a "How might we...?" question with an early prototype to spark dialogue—not signal final decisions.

At January's Board meeting, I shared good news on our Balanced Budget Initiative: we've reduced our structural deficit from \$4.5 million to about \$2.0 million, extending our financial runway through 2027–28 without using reserves. The remaining work requires careful choices about cost reductions and modest revenue opportunities—challenges shared by districts across our region.

State law requires staffing decisions by March 15, which is why the Board will discuss options in February and March. Nothing we're considering reflects broken programs—these are valued services and exceptional staff. But we must align resources with current realities.

Your engagement matters. Please complete the transportation survey, attend Board meetings, and share feedback on Strategic Shifts at eburmeister@llesd.org. Together, we can navigate this work with transparency and care.

With gratitude and optimism,
Erik Burmeister
Superintendent



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Message from the Board President



*We encourage
you to stay
informed and
engaged*

As we move through February and March, community engagement is especially important as the Board considers budget options. Hearing from our families, staff, and neighbors helps ensure thoughtful, well-informed decisions.

Please complete the Transportation Survey, attend Board meetings, and share your feedback. Our next Board meeting is **February 11 at 6:30 p.m.**, followed by **March 4 at 6:30 p.m.** You can always reach the Board at schoolboard@llesd.org.

Superintendent Burmeister will publish **Strategic Shift** documents outlining potential changes to save money and improve programs. These invite your feedback—please engage with them.

We remain grateful for our dedicated staff and volunteers and committed to strong fiduciary governance—keeping Las Lomitas strong while being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Legg
President, LLESD Board of Trustees

January Board Meeting Recap

Balanced Budget Initiative Progress

The Board heard good news that LLESD's structural deficit has been reduced from \$4.5 million to \$2.0 million through higher revenues and disciplined cost containment. The District's First Interim report was certified Positive, with the financial runway extended through 2027–28 without using reserves.

Budget Study Session Cancelled

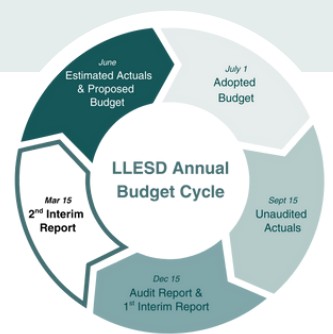
The Board cancelled the February 2 Budget Study Session, noting that regular budget discussions are already occurring at Board meetings and with the Superintendent's Budget Advisory Committee (SBAC).

Transportation Services Review

Staff presented information on the District's transportation program. LLESD is the only Bay Area school district providing this level of free, voluntary transportation. The Board discussed potential cost savings and revenue options but took no action, focusing on tradeoffs and equity considerations.

Phillips Brooks School Requests

The Board voted to support PBS's revised Conditional Use Permit request to the City of Menlo Park, which includes limited modifications based on community feedback. The Board also authorized PBS to continue working with staff on a building proposal for innovation and art programs.



Balanced Budget Initiative: Why Timing Matters

At the January Board meeting, I shared an update on our [Balanced Budget Initiative](#)—our long-term effort to ensure financial stability while maintaining strong programs, excellent staff, and positive student experiences.

The Context: Real Progress, With Work Still Ahead

Good news: through higher revenues and disciplined cost containment, LLESD has reduced its structural deficit from **\$4.5 million to about \$2.0 million**, extending our financial runway through **2027–28** without using reserves.

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.

Reduction Considerations: Not Easy, But Necessary

Budget reductions are never easy. They affect people, programs, and a community we care deeply about. They also create an opportunity to zoom in on our priorities and ensure that our resources are aligned with current realities.

After **five years of declining enrollment**, we must align staffing with current realities.

LLESD does many things exceptionally well—nothing under consideration is broken or unimportant. These are valued programs and staff, but they are expensive.

State law requires staffing decisions by **March 15**. The Board will discuss options in **February and March** to preserve flexibility and reduces future disruption.

Throughout this process, we value every member of our staff and remain committed to supporting our community with transparency, care, and respect.

Revenue Opportunities: Exploring a Balanced Approach

Cost containment is only one side of the equation. The Board is also considering potential revenue opportunities that could help reduce the depth of future reductions.

These include possible one-time discretionary state funds, transportation fees for currently free voluntary services, increased partnership with the Las Lomas Education Foundation, potential lease revenue from district property, and—if the Board chooses to explore it—a future parcel tax discussion.

Stay Engaged

Community input matters. As part of this work, we invite you to **complete the transportation survey** included in this newsletter. Your feedback will help inform Board discussions and guide next steps.

Balanced budgeting is about planning ahead, making thoughtful choices, and working together. Thank you for staying informed, engaged, and supportive as we navigate this important work—together.

Strategic Shifts: How We're Designing the Future of LLESD

Big decisions don't happen all at once—they're shaped by how we ask questions, invite input, and design solutions together.

That's the idea behind Strategic Shifts, a way we're sharing important redesign work underway in Las Lomas Elementary School District.

At their core, Strategic Shifts are about how we solve problems together. I believe in building a human-centered, design-thinking culture in LLESD—one where challenges are treated not as crises to react to, but as opportunities to thoughtfully improve how our systems work.

Strategic Shifts are one way we intentionally invite perspectives from our engaged families, dedicated staff, talented students, and committed School Board into meaningful problem-solving.

Strategic Shifts are also about reducing costs, improving service, and strengthening outcomes—thoughtfully and transparently. Over the past year, we've reduced the District's structural deficit from \$4.5 million to about \$2 million.

The remaining work requires continued discipline, careful choices, and consideration of modest revenue options—challenges shared by districts across the region.

Some harder conversations have already begun. In January, the Board discussed potential changes to transportation services and the possibility of exploring a future parcel tax.

Strategic Shifts are not shortcuts around difficult decisions; they surface ideas early, invite feedback, and operate with a clear "no surprises" mindset.

With this newsletter, I'm sharing the first four **Strategic Shifts**, now posted on my [Superintendent webpage](#):

- [La Entrada Bell Schedule](#)
- [Reimagining Transportation Services](#)
- [Joint PTA/LLEF Campaign](#)
- [Instructional Capacity Building](#)

Each is framed as a "How might we...?" question, followed by an early prototype meant to inform, spark curiosity, and invite dialogue—not signal final decisions. More Strategic Shifts will be added over the coming weeks.

If you have feedback or input on any of the Strategic Shifts, I welcome hearing from you at eburmeister@llesd.org.

Learning Community Updates



Math Town Halls

Thank you to everyone who joined our Math Town Halls last week. If you missed them, find the virtual recording [here](#) and slide deck [here](#).

Superintendent Burmeister shared the **Math Design Team's** work examining grades 6–8 pathways, planning for future textbook adoption, and exploring ways to strengthen K–5 instruction.

The prototype maintains three middle school pathways:

- **Grade-level math**
- **One-year accelerated**, to Algebra 1 by 8th grade
- **Two-year accelerated**, to Geometry by 8th grade

A key shift: **compacting content through demonstrated mastery** rather than skipping content, ensuring strong foundations while allowing appropriate acceleration. The prototype includes summer and school-year bridge opportunities for pathway transitions.

Superintendent Burmeister reminded families of LLED students' strong state assessment performance and our exceptional math teachers.

Share feedback and questions at math@llesd.org.

LCAP Survey: Save the Date

Each year, we invite students, staff, and families to share feedback for our Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP). Family surveys will be sent **February 23** and stay open through **March 6**.

The survey focuses on school climate, culture, and relationships. Your input directly informs how we plan, prioritize, and improve programs and supports for students.

Students in grades 3–8 will complete surveys during class time. We hope families will also take a few minutes to share their perspectives.

Your voice matters, and we're grateful for your partnership in creating supportive, inclusive, and engaging learning environments for all students.

E-Bike Safety Update

The Atherton Police Department has shared an important update on e-bike safety and enforcement. The letter outlines California's e-bike laws, including the three official classes, age and helmet requirements, and locations for use.

Modified or high-powered bikes that exceed legal specifications may be treated as motor vehicles, requiring registration, licensing, and insurance. Officers use education and warnings as a first step, with enforcement action when necessary.

Parents are encouraged to [review the comprehensive guide](#) with their children to ensure safe and lawful riding.

Operations & Tech Updates



Your Perspective: Transportation Survey

The District is surveying families about transportation services. Your feedback is critical as we explore potential cost-saving measures, including service reductions or fees. [Take the survey.](#)

The survey will assess current usage, understand family impact, and evaluate preferences. Responses will inform Board discussions and remain confidential. Please complete by **Monday, February 9, 2026.**

Bus Stop Courtesy

As we gather at neighborhood bus stops each morning and afternoon, we ask families to please be respectful of our neighbors who live nearby. Stay on sidewalks, avoid standing on private lawns or driveways, and keep noise to a minimum—especially during early morning hours. Thank you for helping us be good neighbors and keeping our community positive for everyone.

Pre-Registration for TK and Kindergarten Open

We are excited to share that pre-registration for Transitional Kindergarten (TK) and Kindergarten will open on February 1 for the upcoming school year 2026-2027.

We strongly encourage families to register early, as early enrollment allows us to thoughtfully plan staffing, classroom placements, and resources, and helps us ensure a smooth and welcoming start for our newest learners and their families.

For families who are planning to apply for an Interdistrict Transfer (IDT), please note that April 1 is the deadline to submit all requests and required paperwork. Submissions received after this deadline may result in the District's decision to revoke the request, so we encourage families to plan accordingly and submit materials on time.

We look forward to welcoming new families into our LLESD community and partnering with you as your children begin this exciting chapter. Thank you for your continued support and for helping us plan for a successful school year ahead.

Stay Connected

Important Dates

Monday, February 9

Transportation Survey deadline

Tuesday, February 11

Board Meeting

6:30-9:30 pm at LE MUR

Sunday, February 23

LCAP Survey opens

Wednesday, March 4

Board Meeting

6:30-9:30 pm at LE MUR

Thursday, March 6

LCAP Survey closes

Tuesday, April 11

Deadline to submit Interdistrict Transfer (IDT) requests and required paperwork



Resources & Links

Math Town Hall Recordings

[Virtual recording](#) and [slide deck](#)

Strategic Shifts

Docs: [Superintendent webpage](#)

Feedback: eburmeister@llesd.org

Board Contact

schoolboard@llesd.org

Atherton Police E-Bike Safety Guide

[PDF safety guide](#)

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.