



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**May 1, 2018**

**STATEMENT FROM BOARD MEMBER SCOTT SCHMERELSON  
REGARDING THE SELECTION OF LAUSD SUPERINTENDENT**

On April 20, by the slimmest majority possible, four members of the LAUSD Board of Education (Garcia, Melvoin, Vladovic, Rodriguez) voted to authorize negotiations for an employment contract with Mr. Austin Beutner as the General Superintendent of the District. I did not vote for Mr. Beutner.

Today, a three-year contract for Mr. Beutner was considered for action. In good conscience, as an elected trustee for this District and a retired educator who served the children of LAUSD for over three decades, I again voted “no” on the selection of Mr. Beutner.

I do not believe that Austin Beutner, who has absolutely no experience in the field of public education, is qualified to manage the largest school district in the nation with an elected Board. He has never taught in a public school, never managed a public school, has no instructional background, and has never worked for a school district of any size. The Board majority refused to exercise due diligence regarding Mr. Beutner’s lengthy and tangled business affairs including the disputed delivery of services and breach of a \$3 million contract between LAUSD and Vision to Learn, an organization that he founded and continues to lead.

I apologize to the dedicated parents and constituents who have been advocating for a voice in the superintendent selection process. I am especially addressing those who have been expressing their frustration with the lack of transparency during the last ten days, when every member of the Board knew that a decision had already been made while pretending to be maintaining an open mind toward all the candidates who were deemed finalists. These ten days have been extremely painful for me personally.

It's easy to talk about putting kids first. But, I believe that the Board majority has forced a process and made a decision that clearly overlooks the well-being of our kids in favor of a political agenda that I will continue to resist as the duly elected Board Member representing BD 3.

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