

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

John McGinnis Announces Candidacy for the Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education

LONG BEACH, CA (September 24, 2009) - John McGinnis, retired Dean of the Library and Learning Resource Center at Cerritos College, announced his candidacy for the Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education. A special election will be held December 29 to fill the seat left vacant by Michael Ellis's resignation.

McGinnis, troubled by Ellis's absenteeism, promised to, "work responsibly with other board members to support policies to make one of the best school districts in California even better." He added, "I want serve on the Board in order to continue my lifelong commitment to public education and to give something back to the community. I wholeheartedly support the District's Strategic Plan and District Goals to improve student learning. I have the experience, time and energy to contribute positively to the District's mission of supporting the personal and intellectual success of every student, every day."

McGinnis brings 20 years experience as a community college administrator to his run for the school board. In addition, he worked for 20 years in the Newport-Mesa Unified School District, twelve as a high school English teacher and seven as a school librarian. McGinnis served an internship at an elementary school in Long Beach USD in 1981, while earning a school library credential.

In 1980-81, while on leave from Newport-Mesa USD, McGinnis served on the Orange County Grand Jury. He chaired the General Services Committee and authored a major report on the county supervisors' acquisition of a new computerized vote counting system that failed to perform as promised, and another report on the county's controversial plan to expand John Wayne Airport.

In his role as Dean at Cerritos College, McGinnis was responsible for hiring, supervising and evaluating faculty and support staff. He managed large budgets in good and lean years. He also promoted reading and educational technology to benefit students of rich and diverse cultures. He successfully procured state funds to rebuild the college library into a dynamic new facility. He initiated and helped lead a capital campaign to raise over \$300,000 to transform the antiquated card catalog into a state-of-the-art online database with access to rich electronic resources. He also won unanimous support from the Faculty Senate, College Budget Committee and College Board of Trustees for a \$200,000 annual book budget, still the largest of any community college in the state.

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At Newport Harbor High School, McGinnis taught composition and literature to students of all ability levels. In 1981, McGinnis was appointed school librarian. In that role, he was awarded the Parent Teachers Association Annual Service Award for outstanding service to the school in 1985. In 1986, his school library won the prestigious John Cotton Dana International Library Award from the American Library Association. Given annually to approximately 15 libraries out of more than a hundred public, university and school libraries that apply, McGinnis's was the only school library to win the award in 1986.

In 2002, McGinnis was elected president of the California Academic and Research Library Association (CARL) whose membership represents the Universities of California, California State Universities, California Community Colleges and independent colleges and universities. McGinnis is only one of two community college library directors to be elected president of CARL in its thirty-year history. In 1994, McGinnis was elected president of the California Media and Library Educators Association (since renamed the California School Library Association.) He was also elected to serve for several years on the state executive boards of the Council of Chief Librarians - California Community Colleges, and the Learning Resources Association - California Community Colleges.

McGinnis was appointed to the California Reading and Literature Project State Policy Board (1994-97). He also served as the Governor's appointee to the Education Council on Technology in Learning State Board (1996-98).

McGinnis earned a Bachelor of Arts in English (1967) and Master of Arts in Communication Arts (1972) from Loyola University, Los Angeles (now Loyola Marymount University), and a Master of Science in Library Science from the University of Southern California (1981). He was inducted into the Beta Phi Mu International Library Honor Society in 1982. He has been married 42 years and has two children who attended public schools from kindergarten through the University of California. McGinnis and his wife Dianne were both active in their children's schools serving in PTA's and on school site councils.

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