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Superintendent offered top Nevada schools post

McLaughlin set to leave district after six years

By JON MAYS
DAILY PLANET STAFF

Berkeley Superintendent of Schools Jack McLaughlin has five days to decide if wants to accept an offer to take over Nevada's top education post this weekend.

But after turning down a superintendent position in

Salem, Ore. and being edged out for San Francisco's top school post last May, he seems to be interested in taking over an office that oversees 400,000 urban, suburban and rural students.

"It appears to be a different kind of challenge. I'd say it's very intriguing," he said.

Nevada officials announced the decision Saturday and McLaughlin, 59, said they will send him a written offer today. If he accepts, McLaughlin said the hardest part will be saying goodbye to the Berkeley Unified

School District and its 9,500 students.

"It will be very difficult to leave Berkeley because of the friends I've made. We don't always agree on everything but it's been real fun - real rewarding," he said.

One school board official hopes McLaughlin chooses to stay.

"It's not certain he's going to leave. He has five days to decide and I hope he stays with us. He's a great superintendent and he's doing a great job," said Ted Schultz, Berkeley Unified

School District board of directors. "But if he does choose to move on, he's given us six good years and I wish him good luck."

Schultz said the board has yet to decide on how to find

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Third sexual assault reported in schools

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A prosecutor says a third sexual assault happened in Berkeley's middle schools during a two-week period.

Deputy District Attorney Walter Jackson told an Alameda County juvenile court judge Friday that two girls were assaulted

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A Beary good

New antennas radiate health risk worries



JUDITH SCHIERO/DAILY PLANET

A Beary good idea

Unkown persons decorated these bears for the holidays at the Marin Circle fountain last week. The stone bears are wearing both Christmas wreaths and yalmulkas.

New a radiat risk w

BY JOHN GELUARDI
DAILY PLANET STAFF

Berkeley residents are concerned about health risks from the radiation-emitting wire antennas sprouting up around town but city officials say the antennas look good.

The City Council will consider a recommendation to amend municipal code to better regulate the installation of telecommunications systems this Tuesday. But the new ordinances will regulate maintenance and installation of the systems.

Federal law limits the city from regulating the appearance of the antennas, according to Vivian Khan, interim deputy director of the Planning and Development Department.

Khan said the antenna emission levels and safety concerns are regulated by the federal government under the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and that is absolutely nothing the city can do beyond requiring the structures not be unsightly. "Residents concerned about negative health effects from the towers should be directing their concerns to their federal representative," she said.

But Dr. Leonard Schwartz

Schools keep desegregation plan

BY NICOLE ACHIS FREELING
DAILY PLANET CORRESPONDENT

Despite possible legal challenges, the Berkeley Unified School District Board of Directors voted Wednesday to continue using the school's current desegregation system — which assigns students to schools based upon a combined choice and lottery system.

The board assigns students to schools to maintain the racial distribution in each school so that it's within five percent of the racial makeup for the entire Berkeley school system.

While the assignment method has generally met with support from the community, the district's legal counsel — Celai Ruiz of Ruiz & Sparrow — have cautioned the board that it could be vulnerable to legal challenge because it uses race as a deciding factor in determining which school a student will attend.

Berkeley, which initiated its school diversity program in 1968, was the first district of its size in the country to voluntarily use school busing for desegregation. The current desegregation method,

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