

UPDATE

Week of January 17, 2011

JOHN DEASY TO REPLACE RAMON CORTINES IN APRIL

In case you missed it, the Board of Education hired **Dr. John Deasy** on January 11, 2011, to take over for Superintendent **Ramon Cortines** on April 15, 2011. Dr. Deasy received a three-year \$330,000 contract, which represents roughly a 30% increase in salary for the job of LAUSD Superintendent. Of course, there was no talk of a “me-too” clause for the rest of the employees and administrators in the District. We have heard no word yet as to whether the Board will grant him lifetime health benefits, annuities or retirement boosts. The *Los Angeles Times* reported on Wednesday that he will receive \$10,000 annual bonuses for raising student achievement.

The Board’s decision was announced via a press conference on Tuesday. The Boardroom was filled with news cameras, recording equipment, reporters and invited guests. **Mayor Villaraigosa’s** advance team appeared to be part of the choreography. The Board voted 6-0 in favor of Dr. Deasy’s appointment, with **Steve Zimmer** abstaining in protest of the lack of an open search process. The Mayor stood next to Dr. Deasy in direct view of the cameras, with **Yolie Flores** on Dr. Deasy’s other side. Mr. Cortines could not be seen by the audience, nor did he speak.

Interestingly, the atmosphere in the room was somber, not upbeat, as one would expect. Each Board member spoke, praising Mr. Cortines and expressing full support for Dr. Deasy. Ms. Flores invited the mayors of South Gate and Vernon up to the front. It was not until John Deasy spoke that the energy in the room focused. He spoke first in Spanish, and then English, emphasizing that, “... Students have shown they can do it.” He mentioned the importance of strong school leadership, while expressing support for collaboration and the urgency to move the District forward.

Dr. Deasy lauded the many high-performing schools in LAUSD, citing the examples of Maywood Elementary School, Mt. Gleason Middle School and Hollywood High School. He said that over 100 LAUSD schools have API scores of over 800, and 50 have API scores over 900. He acknowledged the District’s dedicated staff members and lambasted the fact that public education is “woefully underfunded.”

Nevertheless, he said he was impatient with the slow rate of improvement. His goals are for LAUSD to be “best in the West and first in the nation.” He concluded his comments by saying that there is “... often far too little civility,” and we must all “... treat each other with dignity.”

The press conference ended with no opportunity for the public to ask direct questions of the Board or Superintendent. The Mayor left. **Board President Mónica García**, Dr. Deasy and Mr. Cortines held sidebar interviews with the press. Immediately following this session, the new Chief of LAUSD School Police, **Steven Zipperman**, was installed. He received a standing ovation.

THE BOARD'S SELECTION PROCESS

ALA recognizes that the Board of Education is the elected body to determine whom they will hire as the Superintendent of Schools for the Los Angeles Unified School District. In fact, this is one of the most important decisions any Board will make. It is the representative function of elected officials to gather input from their constituencies to determine who will best lead the administrators and teachers charged with educating students. To that end, school boards often solicit input from parents, community groups, businesses, civic leaders and others—including organizations such as AALA that represent District employees. LAUSD's Board of Education chose not to engage in an open, transparent process to select the new Superintendent.

ALA believes that **John Deasy** is qualified for the job and would have been one of the top candidates should the Board have chosen to do a national search. AALA leadership has worked productively with Dr. Deasy since July 1, 2010, when he left the Gates Foundation to become Deputy Superintendent under Superintendent Cortines. We have found him to be smart, energetic, ambitious and straight-forward. We agree with him on some issues and vigorously disagree with him on others. Nevertheless, he has been accessible to us and promises to continue doing so.

Our concern is not with him specifically, but with how the Board made their decision. We are troubled particularly by the lack of process in search for the new Superintendent. We do not believe any consideration was given to other potential candidates. No national search was conducted. No outreach was done to ask parents, community members or educators what values, skills and goals should be looked for in the new superintendent. We believe that the Charter Schools Association, Gates and Broad Foundations and other special interests conducted a great deal of backroom lobbying with Board members. We know that Dr. Deasy is a keen supporter of charter schools ("good charter schools," he insists) and Public School Choice.

Despite our concerns, we pledge to continue working with Dr. Deasy as he transitions into his new responsibilities. We plan to share AALA's budget priorities and educate him about LAUSD history and effective practices. We will continue providing you information about our progress via *Update*.

REMINDER...REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The second of this school year's four Representative Assembly meetings is scheduled for **Thursday, January 27, 2011**, at 1910 West Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles 90026. The format will be the same as in the past: 4:30 p.m.—Departmental caucuses; 5:30 p.m.—Dinner meeting/Third Floor Conference Room. These meetings are always important and even more so now. Please RSVP your attendance to AALA at 213.484.2226 or e-mail cvacca@aala.us so that we may prepare adequately for the meal.

GOVERNOR BROWN'S 2011-2012 BUDGET PROPOSAL

Governor Jerry Brown introduced his budget proposal to address California's \$25.4 billion budget deficit on January 11, 2011. The Governor is proposing a balanced approach with \$12 billion in revenues, \$12.5 billion in cuts, \$1.9 billion in "other solutions" and a \$1 billion reserve. In recognition of the \$18 billion in cuts education programs have suffered over the past three years, Governor Brown's proposal spares K-12 education funding from any further cuts contingent upon voters approving an extension of temporary taxes enacted as part of the 2009-2010 budget. The Governor plans to hold a June special election to ask for a five-year extension of income taxes, sales taxes and the vehicle license fee. If the measure passes, the governor will be able to implement his plan. If the voters do not pass the extension, Proposition 98 will be cut by an additional \$2 billion for next year.

Summary: The Governor's K-12 budget will provide \$49.3 billion in Proposition 98 funding for 2011-2012 to maintain the same level of funding in effect during 2010-2011 if voters approve the tax extension mentioned above. However, there will be no cost of living adjustment (COLA), which is currently estimated to be 1.67%. The budget defers an additional \$1.9 billion in K-12 funding to 2012-2013. It proposes legislation to extend categorical flexibility for an additional two years, through 2014-2015.

The Governor is working with the legislature to adopt the statutory changes he has proposed within 60 days, or by March 1, 2011. Once the results of the June special election are known, the appropriate changes and adjustments will be made for legislative review and approval by the Governor.

Conclusion: While the Governor's plan offers potentially good news for public education, California voters historically have not favored increased taxes. Therefore, it is incumbent upon all of us who support public schools to work in favor of his proposal, particularly since this election may not garner a great deal of public interest. If the measure loses, public education funding will be devastated. Currently, 48th in the United States in education funding, California could fall to the bottom, a sad state of affairs for the eighth largest economy in the world.

ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL EXAM CLARIFICATION

In the last AALA *Update*, information was provided regarding the upcoming examination process for Elementary Principal. This is to clarify that the process will include the enhanced Recommendation of Readiness (RoR) and a multiple choice knowledge test. Through the use of this process, qualified potential leaders will be placed on an eligible list for consideration at local sites. The actual interview for a principal position will occur at the school site or Local District (as applicable), where a vacancy exists, to ensure the candidate considered meets all of the specific needs of the local school. These school-site interviews will be the best utilization of District resources and ensure that the best candidate is selected for the position. HR will provide guidance to local sites to ensure the interview process is a rigorous and quality assessment resulting in the placement of leaders that are the best fit for the individual school site.

CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Newly elected **Governor Jerry Brown** moved quickly to name his State Board of Education during the very week he took office. This indicates that public education is a high priority for his administration. The seven appointees he selected indicate Brown's desire to change the composition and focus of the State Board. His announcement in his State of the State address that he will not cut public education funding until the special election in June indicates that he understands the value of sustaining the public education system during times of recession.

The State Senate refused to confirm two Schwarzenegger appointees, **Ted Mitchell** and **David Lopez**. Several other charter school advocates, including **Ben Austin**, were removed. Brown's appointees include long-time allies of the Governor as well as several new to this role.

Brown named Stanford University Emeritus Professor **Michael Kirst** of Palo Alto to serve as President of the State Board. Kirst was a member of the Board under Governor Brown from 1975 to 1982. He has written extensively on school governance and is a thoughtful school analyst.

The Governor originally selected former State Superintendent **Louis "Bill" Honig** of Marin County, who is currently President of the Consortium on Reading Excellence. Honig withdrew his name Monday after a Republican Senator protested because Honig was convicted in 1993 of felony conflict-of-interest charges stemming from his authorization of state funds to his wife's nonprofit organization. The felony was later reduced to a misdemeanor. Honig indicated he wanted to avoid becoming a distraction during the Senate confirmation process. The former State Board members' allies who bemoaned Governor Brown's removal of the previous Board's pro-charter school membership fanned the controversy. Late Monday, Brown named as his replacement **Ilene Straus**, a Superintendent in the Beverly Hills Unified School District and former principal of Santa Monica High School.

Governor Brown appointed **Carl Cohn** of Palm Springs, former Superintendent of Long Beach and San Diego Unified School Districts, who also served as LAUSD's *Chanda Smith Consent Decree* Federal Court Monitor. Rounding out the first round appointees are **Trish Boyd Williams** of San Jose, the Executive Director of EdSource, a nonprofit educational policy organization where **Santiago Jackson**, LAUSD's former government relations superintendent, sits as a board member; **Aida Molina** of Bakersfield, the Executive Director of academic improvement and accountability for the Bakersfield City School District and leader of the California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE); **James Ramos** of San Bernardino, Chairman of the San Manuel Band of Indians and a member of the San Bernardino Community College Board of Trustees; and **Patricia Ann Rucker** of Elk Grove, the legislative advocate for the California Teachers Association.

Appointments to the State Board of Education require Senate confirmation and are compensated \$100 per diem.

ESTABLISHMENT OF FRIENDS OF AALA

AALA is pleased to announce the establishment of FRIENDS OF AALA, a nonprofit corporation whose specific and primary purpose is to raise funds for the benefit of the students and community of the Los Angeles Unified School District. Since experiencing a decrease in revenue caused by the loss of members during the LAUSD budget reductions, we began looking at ways to enhance the budget to guarantee continuance of our outstanding student scholarship program and our community volunteer awards program. With the establishment of FRIENDS OF AALA, we believe we have found that way. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, we will be able to provide a tax incentive to prospective donors that, we hope, will encourage their support. All funds collected will go to support the student scholarship program and the community awards program.

A Board of Directors comprised of seven (7) members has been selected for FRIENDS OF AALA, and the fundraising activities are about ready to begin. The members of the Board are **Dr. Eve Sherman**, President; **Dr. Evangeline Stockwell**, Vice President; **Jane Pollock**, Secretary; **Neal Kleiner**, Treasurer; **Bea Lamothe**, **Dan Isaacs**, and **Dr. Judith Perez**, members. The Board is dedicated to the mission of FRIENDS OF AALA, and looks forward to engaging our members, active and alumni, in that mission. Should you have any questions or suggestions and/or recommendations for the Board as it begins its fundraising quest, please contact the office at 213.484.2226.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT, Adult Education Style

During the 2009-2010 school year, more than 58,000 LAUSD parents attended classes provided by the Division of Adult and Career Education (DACE). Approximately 32,000 LAUSD parents participated in the Division's *Community Based English Tutoring* (CBET) program. CBET classes combine English as a second language coursework with instruction that focuses on developing tutoring skills. During 2009-2010, CBET parents logged 1.8 million hours actively tutoring their children in learning English.

An additional 26,000 LAUSD parents took advantage of the Division's *Parent Education* program. The Division's catalog of classes for parents covers a spectrum of content that ranges from *Anger Management* to *Transitioning to High School*; classes are currently available throughout the District.

Engaging parents in these programs and others, such as the high school diploma program and career training, not only serves to meet parents' own educational objectives, but also familiarizes them with the functional structure of the District; demystifies District procedures and protocols; and encourages participation in school-site and District activities that extend far beyond the adult education classroom. Thus, parental involvement in adult education classes provides a multiplicity of positive outcomes.

The Division's course catalog and current schedule of classes are available at www.adultinstruction.org. Information and assistance is also available at 888.730.3276.

ACADEMIC DECATHLON VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The 2011 LAUSD Academic Decathlon competition, the 30th annual, will be held on Saturday, January 29, 2011, and Saturday, February 5, 2011, at Roybal Learning Center, 1200 West Colton Street, Los Angeles 90026. Past support by administrators and teachers, **elementary, middle, and high school**, for this competition has been outstanding, and that support is needed again this year, especially on the first day, January 29, for the Speech, Interview and Essay events. Also, participating schools' principals and assistant principals are encouraged to volunteer as Super Quiz proctors on February 5. Volunteer applications are available at all participating high schools, Local District offices, and at www.acadecala.net. Contact **Cliff Ker**, Academic Decathlon Coordinator, at 818.654.3695 or at cliff.ker@lausd.net if you have any questions.

Special Request for Retired Administrators to Volunteer: Your help is needed on both days of the Decathlon, January 29 and February 5, and you are encouraged to volunteer for this exceptional student activity. Also, there is a special need for readers to score student essays on Wednesday, February 2, 2011, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Beaudry, 25th Floor. If you can help read essays, please contact Cliff Ker at the numbers above. Validated parking will be available in the Visconti garage.

CSULA EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR PROSPECTIVE ADMINISTRATORS

Are you interested in becoming an assistant principal or principal? Are you thinking of working at the district office as coordinator, director or maybe superintendent in the future? Would you like to learn to be equipped for these positions? If you are, here's a great opportunity for you!

Join the newest Educational Administration Program in the Charter College of Education at **California State University, Los Angeles**. This **ONE-YEAR program with final assessment** is designed for aspiring administrators who have *at least two years of successful teaching experience with California Professional Clear teaching credentials*. One of the special features of the program is the intertwined curriculum for both degrees and service credentials. Upon successful completion of the program, candidates receive *a Master of Arts Degree in Educational Administration and the California Preliminary Administrative Services Credential*. You get **BOTH** the **MA degree** and the **credential** all at once. You will start the program in Fall 2011 and complete it in Fall 2012.

Fall 2011 Information Meeting

Dates: February 28, 2011
Time: 4:20 – 5:30 p.m.
Place: King Hall D2076A, CSULA
5151 State University Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 90032
Phone: 323.343.4330

**Bring the application materials to the meeting. Download them from <http://www.calstatela.edu/academic/ccoe/docs/tier1app.doc>*

CALL FOR PAPERS

The California Association of Latino Superintendents and Administrators (CALSA) is accepting papers addressing important issues of practice concerning the education of linguistic minority and nonlinguistic minority Latino students. The papers will be presented at the Spring 2011 CALSA Conclave to be held at CSU, Fresno, on April 8, 2011. CALSA has organized this conclave in collaboration with CSU, Fresno, in order to share information and foster partnerships between school district leaders and researchers at universities and other organizations. Papers may be based on academic research or teacher or administrator (action) research. Papers must address one or more of the questions below, but the focus may be within any one or more areas of effectiveness, for example: instructional strategies, professional development/growth, areas of cultural proficiency, assessment, community/home partnerships, districtwide strategies, etc. In addition, papers may focus on elementary, middle, or high school level or on strategies that address multiple levels. The two framing questions to be addressed by the papers are:

1. **What practices and strategies does research validate as effective in raising the school achievement of Latino students who are English learners?**
2. **What practices and strategies does research validate as effective in raising the school achievement of Latino students who are not English learners?**

For additional information, please contact **Dr. Kenneth Magdaleno**, Executive Director, CALSA Center for Latino Leadership, Equity and Research at kmagdaleno@calsacenter.com or 559.431.5600 or (cell) 559.346.8728.

IN MEMORIAM

RITA FORST – Former Principal of Burbank Blvd., Lankershim, Van Gogh Street schools, and Assistant Principal of Haddon Avenue School. She retired on June 30, 1988, and passed away on November 10, 2010.

MARCELLUS COLE – Former Assistant Principal of Frost, Reed, Maclay middle schools, and Westchester and Los Angeles high schools. He retired on August 27, 1987, and passed away on December 18, 2010.

ADMINISTRATORS' SPEAKER SERIES: Revised Dates

Due to some scheduling conflicts, the Office of Curriculum, Instruction and School Support changed the dates of the Speaker Series on Writing Instruction from January 27, February 3 & 10 to **January 25, February 1 & 8**. Dr. Elliott sent out an e-mail blast to all LAUSD administrators on Wednesday with the new dates and registration directions.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Minimum Qualifications: Candidates are responsible for making sure all the District requirements have been met. Do not contact AALA for information regarding positions. Use the listed contact phone number.

CLASSIFIED POSITIONS AVAILABLE

SENIOR POLICY ANALYST, MAYOR'S OFFICE OF EDUCATION

The Senior Policy Analyst will work with the Deputy Mayor of Education to carry out the Mayor's education policy agenda. Compensation will be negotiated within established annual salary range commensurate with demonstrated skills and work experience. Interested individuals should send a letter of interest and résumé to **Alysha-Stein Manes** at alysha.stein-manes@lacity.org.

PROGRAM AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT ADVISOR

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) is seeking a highly qualified and motivated individual with extensive knowledge and considerable experience managing the entire life cycle of large-scale school reform initiatives. The individual chosen to fill this position will be part of the innovative team that will be setting strategic vision for the District's future. For information about this opportunity go to: <http://lausdjobs.lausd.k12.ca.us/appv1/main> or http://lausdjobs.lausd.k12.ca.us/appv1/main/pdf/ppda_monique.pdf.

CERTIFICATED POSITIONS AVAILABLE

PRINCIPAL, ELEMENTARY

Hamasaki ES (5) MST 41, 4865 First Street, Los Angeles, CA 90022
 Hamasaki is an E Basis school. For information and application procedures contact **Maria Martinez**, Principal Leader, at 323.224.3172. **Filing deadline is Friday, January 21, 2011.**

The following positions are available to view in their entirety by going to the AALA Website, <http://www.aalausd.com>. By clicking on "positions available" to the left of the screen, you can select School-Based and Nonschool-Based positions and click on any position to view the specific flyer.

| Position | Location | Deadline | Contact |
|-----------------------|------------|----------|--------------|
| Principal, Elementary | Harmony ES | 01/21/11 | 323.224.3172 |

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| <p>▪ COORDINATOR, SPEECH AND LANGUAGE, MST 42, E Basis (plus Z Basis), Division of Special Education For information and application procedures contact Deborah Rubenacker, Director, at 213.241.6200.</p> | <p>12:00 p.m. Fri., Jan. 21, 2011</p> |
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