

## UPDATE

Week of April 7, 2008

### WHAT CAN TEN MILLION DOLLARS BUY?

In order for the Los Angeles Unified School District to address the current budget crisis, it is projected that \$460,000,000 in cuts will be required. These cuts will affect every school in the District and therefore every student. With so many students affected, it seems ludicrous to spend tens of millions of dollars on designated “partnership” schools while the vast majority of schools need basic assistance. Mayor **Antonio Villaraigosa** has bragged that he can raise millions of dollars for the partnership schools. In fact, he has stated that he already has \$50,000,000 that can be spread over five years with more on the way.

If the Mayor is not merely boasting about his fundraising prowess, but can actually deliver the money, AALA wonders why this money is not used to help all students. Aren’t all the children in Los Angeles his responsibility?

Let’s assume for a minute that the money is spent to benefit all students. What can even \$10,000,000 buy that will help with the budget crisis? AALA believes that this money could be used to purchase any of the following items to alleviate the District’s fiscal woes and help educate ALL students:

- Approximately 133 school police officers including salary and benefits
- Approximately 100,000 textbooks
- Approximately \$125,000 per senior high school to fund the interscholastic athletics
- Approximately 167 special education teachers to reduce the impact of the general fund encroachment
- Approximately 667 education aides or teacher assistants to assist kindergarten teachers
- Approximately \$15 per student in all schools to purchase needed instructional materials.

Based on the State Education Code governing public schools in California, it has long been the policy in the District that all students must be treated equally. In fact, in the past when large donations were given to one school they were shared with other schools in the District. What has happened to the equal treatment requirement?

In the opinion of AALA, disparate treatment of students in partnership schools is a Williams Decision-type lawsuit waiting to happen. If some students receive benefits far in excess of others, the whole concept of a free and equal public education has been undermined.

AALA suggests that the Mayor rethink the use of his fundraising prowess and assist the plight of all schools and all students. Every student in Los Angeles deserves equal opportunities.

***Editor’s Note:*** AALA is still waiting for the District to receive money from the Grand Street Partners headed by **Eli Broad** to pay for the tower built at the new Performing Arts High School at 450 North Grand that looms over the 101 Freeway across from the Cathedral. District money was spent with the understanding that it would be returned as a donation. The money could have been spent to assist students in other parts of the District. So, Mr. Broad, “Show us the money!”

**IS DISTRICT LEADERSHIP AWARE OF THE ADDITIONAL BURDENS BEING PLACED ON PRINCIPALS OF SCHOOLS SHARING A CAMPUS WITH A CHARTER SCHOOL?**

A brief case study based upon factual information will reflect the answer to the captioned question stated above.

An elementary school principal serving 750 K-5 students was directed to provide six classrooms for a charter middle school. Some issues regarding this cohabitation follow:

- The principal was told that movers would come to the school to move out the furniture from the six rooms. This did not happen. In fact the elementary school staff moved the furniture.
- An upper grade computer lab for the elementary students had to be disassembled in order to provide one of the six charter classrooms.
- There is no nonclassroom certificated staff person assigned to supervise the 150 students enrolled by the charter. In other words, no charter school administrator is on the site.
- There is no reimbursement by the charter school for essential supplies, such as restroom products.
- No written agreement or contract exists which reflects the usage of the site by both schools.
- Dissimilar bell schedules add to management confusion.
- In addition, the placement of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students on a campus with K-5 students is problematic at best.

Some related questions to this set of circumstances:

- Who has responsibility for the management of emergencies at the charter school?
- Could the District be held liable should a serious incident occur involving a charter student or teacher?
- Who has the responsibility to address the inequities in this shared campus?

AALA is requesting that the Superintendent and appropriate senior staff respond to the aforementioned situation and also initiate a review of each site currently being cohabitated by District and charter schools to insure that resources are properly allocated and that LAUSD is not unfairly subsidizing individual charter sites.

AALA has informed the Superintendent and appropriate staff and Board Members regarding the aforementioned issues.

## SENIOR DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT “DR. VACANT” IS NO LONGER WITH THE DISTRICT

AAALA members will recall prior Update articles that reflected on the inordinate number of vacant and interim senior staff positions that Superintendent **David L. Brewer III** had yet to fill. Additionally, these articles noted that for the 2007-2008 school year he has yet to publish an organization chart. Perhaps some of the central office chaos can be traced to these staffing failures.

On April 4, 2008, AALA was informed that **Ramon Cortines**, former Interim Superintendent of LAUSD, has been hired to fill the position of Senior Deputy Superintendent. AALA has some questions regarding this assignment.

- Does the arrival of Mr. Cortines portend the departure of another senior staff member?
- Is this assignment connected in any way to the partnership agreement with the Mayor?
- How much is Mr. Cortines being paid compared to his former role with the Mayor?
- What responsibilities has Superintendent Brewer assigned to Mr. Cortines?
- What divisions will report directly to Mr. Cortines?
- Will the arrival of Mr. Cortines hasten the filling or disbanding of those senior staff positions currently held by several Dr. “Vacants” and Mr. or Ms. “Interims”?
- Does Mr. Cortines now have one foot in the District Office and one foot in the Mayor’s Office?
- Will the arrival of Mr. Cortines result in a central staff reorganization?
- Is LAUSD going back to the future by hiring Mr. Cortines?

Despite the questions above, AALA certainly welcomes Ramon Cortines back to LAUSD if his educational experience and expertise will help the District. However, we do not need another "short timer" just to plug gaps! More than anything, LAUSD needs and deserves experienced-based stability. Goodbye Dr. "Vacant"; welcome Ramon Cortines!

**MINNESOTA SENATORS ARGUE TO REASSERT  
LOCAL CONTROL OF SCHOOLS**

**Geoff Michel** (R-Edina) and **David Hann** (R-Eden Prairie), state senators from Minnesota, ask in the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*: who do we want to run our schools? Don't worry, they answer their own question, and the answer is: not a federal government that is 1,200 miles away from their classrooms. Instead, the senators think Minnesota needs to recommit to local control of schools and empower parents, teachers and principals. To that end, the state's Senate Republicans are calling for a decisive end to their state's participation in No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and have drafted legislation that would allow the state to opt out of the federal mandate. In their opinion, the federal government should support state education efforts, not drive them. Michel and Hann find that federal intrusion hampers local decision-making, burdens Minnesota teachers and prevents the state's kids from achieving excellence.

<http://www.startribune.com/local/west/17125746.html>

**RETIREMENT CELEBRATIONS**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Debbie Martinez-Rambeau	Sunday, June 1, 2008 11:00 a.m.	Odyssey 156 Odyssey Dr. Granada Hills	Beth Holmes 818.769.3130 Graciela Rodriguez 818.892.1104 Nancy Oda 818.509.3400
Tanya Macapinlac Grace	Saturday, June 21, 2008 7:00 p.m.	Olympic Collection 11301 Olympic Blvd Los Angeles	Akida Long 310.326.5075 323.296.8043

**REMINDER**

**AALA SCHOLARSHIP/COMMUNITY AWARDS BANQUET**

**MILLENNIUM BILTMORE HOTEL**

**THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2008**

**5:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

**POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

**Minimum Qualifications:** Candidates are responsible for making sure all the District requirements for administrative positions have been met. AALA is not responsible for errors in publication.

**NOTE:** Please do not contact AALA for information regarding administrative positions. Use the listed contact phone number, or contact LAUSD Human Resources Division at 213.241.6886 or via e-mail at [http://certificated.lausd.k12.ca.us/admin\\_vacancies](http://certificated.lausd.k12.ca.us/admin_vacancies).

***PRINCIPAL, EARLY EDUCATION CENTER (MST 38, A Basis)***

**Early Childhood Education Division, 1360 Temple St., Los Angeles, CA 90026 213.481.3367**

**Normandie & 36<sup>th</sup> Street EEC**

**Marina & Kentwood EEC**

Normandie is a LEARN center. 36<sup>th</sup> Street is an SBM center.

Marina & Kentwood are LEARN centers.

For information and application procedures contact **Carole Blanks. Filing deadline is 4:00 p.m., Friday, April 18, 2008.**

***ADMINISTRATOR, SMALL LEARNING COMMUNITY (PRINCIPAL) (MST 40, B Basis)***

**School for Visual Arts & Humanities (4), 1200 W. Colton St., Los Angeles, CA 90026**

The school is an autonomous Pilot School in the Belmont Zone of Choice, opening in September 2008 at the Edward Roybal Learning Complex. For information and application procedures contact **Edmundo Rodriguez**, Director, Belmont Pilot Schools Network, at 213.207.2290. **Filing deadline is Friday, April 18, 2008.**

**Academic Leadership Community (4), 322 Lucas Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90017**

The school is an autonomous Pilot School in the Belmont Zone of Choice, transitioning from a Small Learning Community and opening in September 2008. For information and application procedures contact **Edmundo Rodriguez**, Director, Belmont Pilot Schools Network, at 213.207.2290. **Filing deadline is Friday, April 18, 2008.**

**Los Angeles Teacher Preparatory High School (4), 1575 West 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Los Angeles, CA 90026**

The school is an autonomous Pilot School in the Belmont Zone of Choice, opening in September 2008 at Belmont High School. For information and application procedures contact **Edmundo Rodriguez**, Director, Belmont Pilot Schools Network, at 213.207.2290. **Filing deadline is Friday, April 18, 2008.**

**PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED POSITIONS STILL AVAILABLE**

Position	Location	Deadline	Contact
Asst. Prin., EIS	Chandler School	04/18/08	818.755.5300
Asst. Prin., Secondary	Narbonne HS EXTENDED TO	04/16/08	310.354.3400

**Know Your Contract**

**ARTICLE XIII – HOLIDAY AND VACATION**

**3. Vacation on A-Basis**

The amount of vacation earned shall be as follows:

An employee who has served less than 19 school years shall earn .06923 hour of vacation for each hour assigned to active service (*11.0768 hours per pay period* or 18.06903 days per school year); or, beginning with the first pay period of the school year after 19 years, the employee shall earn .07693 hour of vacation for each hour assigned to active service (*12.3088 hours per pay period* or 20.07873 days per school year). An employee who has served sufficient time during a school year to be eligible for step advancement in accordance with Article XII, 2.0 or other applicable collective bargaining agreements governing step advancement shall be deemed to have served a school year for the purpose of this section.

No employee shall be permitted to accrue vacation in an amount greater than that which the employee earns in **18 pay periods** (the employee's "vacation cap amount" – *199.39 hours* or *221.56 hours*). Once the employee has accrued vacation in an amount equal to the employee's vacation cap amount, the employee shall cease to accrue vacation until the employee uses vacation in an amount sufficient to reduce the employee's accumulated vacation balance below the employee's vacation cap amount. All appropriate adjustments shall be made annually at the end of each fiscal year so that the employee's earned vacation balance carried forward to the next fiscal year shall not exceed the employee's "vacation cap amount."

**REMINDER**

**ADULT/ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY/EARLY EDUCATION/SUPERVISORY**

**RETIREES LUNCHEON**

**The Center at Cathedral Plaza  
Viewing Foyer**

**Wednesday, April 23, 2008  
11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Some words of wisdom...

**How To Stay Young**

by George Carlin

- Throw out nonessential numbers. This includes age, weight and height. Let the doctor worry about them. That is why you pay him/her.
- Keep only cheerful friends. The grouches pull you down.
- Keep learning. Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever. Never let the brain idle. "An idle mind is the devil's workshop." And the devil's name is Alzheimer's.
- Enjoy the simple things.
- Laugh often, long and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath.
- The tears happen. Endure, grieve, and move on. The only person who is with us our entire life is one's self. Be ALIVE while you are alive.
- Surround yourself with what you love, whether it's family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, hobbies, whatever. Your home is your refuge.
- Cherish your health: If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it. If it is beyond what you can improve, get help.
- Don't take guilt trips. Take a trip to the mall, to the next county, to a foreign country, but NOT to where guilt is.
- Tell the people you love that you love them at every opportunity.

**CONGRATULATIONS: Coeur d' Alene School**

Coeur d'Alene ES (Principal, **Rex Patton**; Assistant Principal, **Maralyn Soifer**) recently became a California Distinguished School. Coeur d'Alene is located in Venice, LD3. AALA is pleased and proud of their teachers, students, and parents. Congratulations!

**IN MEMORIAM**

**JOHN J. "JACK" HUNT** – Former District Administrator, former Principal of Narbonne and Gardena high schools, and Gompers Middle School, Assistant Principal of Burroughs and Foshay middle schools. He retired in August 1983 and passed away on April 3, 2008. There will be no public funeral. A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Saturday, May 17, 2008** – **Women in Educational Leadership (WEL)** is celebrating 35 years of doing WEL. Their End-of-Year Brunch will be held at the Marina del Rey Hotel, Waterfront Room, 13534 Bali Way, Marina del Rey, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. The guest speaker will be **Linda Del Cueto**, Superintendent, Local District 8. For additional information, contact **Penny Sommers** at [psommers@collegeboard.org](mailto:psommers@collegeboard.org) or 323.463.3077.

## CONSIDERING RETIREMENT?

As you near retirement age, it is a good time to review your current financial status and plan for your final career years and approaching retirement. If you are about age 50, or if you are within a few years of your retirement date, you may want to consider the following:

**Workshops** — CalSTRS and LAUSD host retirement workshops conducted by a regional counselor. You may attend a workshop at any point in your career. However, it is particularly important for you to attend a workshop within five years of retirement. CalSTRS also encourages you to attend a workshop early in your career as part of your financial planning process. Each workshop lasts approximately an hour and a half. A schedule of workshops is prepared in the fall and distributed to schools, offices and published in the *UPDATE*. Reminders are also published.

**Personal Interview** — Before you file a retirement application, schedule a retirement interview with a CalSTRS-trained Regional Counselor. During this interview the retirement counselor will outline the alternatives available to you and provide you with an estimate of your retirement allowance. The counselor can also provide information about when you will receive your retirement allowance and answer other questions you may have. Preretirement interviews should be scheduled at least six to twelve months in advance of your planned retirement date.

**Information to bring to the interview** —

- Anticipated date of your retirement
- Estimate of your unused sick leave
- Number of days in assigned contract year (A Basis, 261; E Basis, 234; B Basis, 221)
- Estimate of last three years of earnable compensation (one year, if STRS membership is over 25 years)
- Most recent Annual Statement of Account

You are encouraged to bring your spouse or your intended or named option beneficiary to this interview. If your option beneficiary is unable to attend the interview, please be prepared to supply his or her birthdate. All information shared with the retirement counselor during this interview is confidential and used only for preparing your personal retirement estimate.

**Golden Handshake** —The **LAUSD** Board of Education took no formal action regarding the Golden Handshake program and is **not a participant** in the program.

**Service Credit Year** — If you retire before completing at least 130 days of your **contract year**, you will NOT receive a full-year's service credit. Additionally, you may owe money to the District if you are E or B Basis and on "annualized" payment schedule.

**"Education:** That which discloses to the wise, and disguises from the foolish, their lack of understanding."

-- Ambrose Bierce