

UPDATE

Week of June 8, 2009

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT AND SENIOR STAFF

As AALA wraps up the 2008-2009 school year, our members, unfortunately, have many unanswered questions that need to be addressed as soon as possible. The issues that need to be addressed by Superintendent **Ray Cortines** and his senior staff are listed below:

- When will the District put forward a creditable plan to raise revenue, such as a local parcel tax, to alleviate the budget distress caused by the dysfunction in Sacramento?
- When will the District share ending balances for the 2008-2009 school year?
- Why is the District reluctant to propose meaningful changes in the certificated evaluation procedures so that progressive growth can be emphasized rather than a pass/fail philosophy that inhibits growth in teachers and administrators?
- Why is the WASC (**Western Association of Schools and Colleges**) accreditation process not being used in all District schools, not just high schools, so that parents can be reassured that their children are attending quality schools?
***Note:** Most charter schools and private schools at all K-12 levels currently participate in the accreditation process. Shouldn't LAUSD parents receive this same level of accountability and assurance?*
- When will the **Chief Academic Officer** provide a clear and understandable instructional plan for the District?
- What support will be given to principals, especially in single administrator schools, in the areas of curriculum and instruction, as well as operations, at the local district office and central office levels?
- Who is in charge of the District when Superintendent Cortines is away from the District on professional or personal business?
- In addition to WASC mentioned above, what other reform strategies may be undertaken by the District?

***Note:** Will individual schools be expected to come up with their own reform plans?*

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS (Continued)

- Why is the Division of Career and Continuing Education replacing the current Assistant Superintendent with an *Executive Director*, a new position at a potentially **higher** rate of pay in this time of budget uncertainty?
- When will there be a thorough accounting for the myriad of consultant contracts that are rampant in Facilities Division and elsewhere in the District?
- When will the District provide school administrative teams with appropriate contractual and staff relations training?
Note: *The Board of Education Resolution regarding certificated accountability does not reference the critical role of the Staff Relations Office in **advising** administrators regarding due process.*
- Given the enormous number of legal staff (which took few cuts if any), why is the District continuing to contract large numbers of cases to outside law firms at very high billing rates?
- **What are the measures being used by the Board of Education to evaluate the Superintendent and his senior staff?**

Dialogue and discussions related to these questions would be very refreshing. And, if the decisions were based on true collaboration with all stakeholders, that would be even more refreshing. Transparency and reform cannot be accomplished without answers to the posed questions.

RESTORING OUR "TEACHING INFRASTRUCTURE"

Professor **Linda Darling-Hammond** of Stanford University wants to know why people don't demand excellent teachers in every classroom. In a recent interview with *The Des Moines Register*, Darling-Hammond states that Americans "have behaved for a very long time as if that is not something to be expected, in contrast to high-achieving nations that have put in place an infrastructure for producing high-quality teaching." She feels the last attempt to strengthen this "teaching infrastructure" was in the 1960s and '70s, but we've now gotten used to variable teaching quality. Every reform, she feels, depends on quality teachers, and a key issue is the lack of collaborative planning in the profession. In most high-achieving countries, teachers have 15 to 25 hours a week where they plan collaboratively with colleagues, "so they are not just making up lessons at the kitchen table on a Sunday night by themselves." What Darling-Hammond prescribes is American teachers working together, observing each other, and problem-solving together. They also need access to expertise about teaching strategies in specific content areas, for particular groups of students. This, she says, "is not what most professional development looks like in the United States."

Read more: <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20090521/OPINION01/905210339/-1/ENT05>

Rowland Unified School District Parcel Tax

AALA supports the Rowland K.I.D.S. Measure E campaign. Due to the State budget crisis, Rowland Unified School District will lose a minimum of \$9,000,000 this coming school year, which is the equivalent of losing 129 teachers or 6% of the school district's annual budget. A parcel tax is the only way for schools to raise consistent, significant funds that can be used only for local educational programs. These are FUNDS THAT CANNOT BE TAKEN AWAY BY THE STATE. AALA congratulates Superintendent **Maria Ott** (former Deputy Superintendent in LAUSD) and the Rowland Unified Board of Education for taking this proactive, bold step for the 16,000 students, their parents and the entire district staff. AALA members and friends who are interested in contributing to this worthwhile venture should contact **Kathleen Anke**, Measure E Campaign Coordinator.

Note: AALA contributed \$100 on behalf of its members.

RETIREMENT CELEBRATIONS

Name	Date, Time	Location	Contact
Arthur Chandler	Sunday, June 14, 2009 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	The Reef on the Water Harbor View East 880 S. Harbor Scenic Dr. Long Beach	Anna Perez 323.232.4291
Arne Rubenstein	Sunday, August 30, 2009 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Universal Sheraton 333 Universal Hollywood Dr. Universal City	LaNelle Harvey lnh3456@lausd.net
Carlos Barrón and Jeanne Akashi	Sunday, June 28, 2009 6:30 p.m.	O-Bar 8279 Santa Monica Blvd. West Hollywood	Janet Moore 213.241.4170 janet.moore@lausd.net Judy Chiasson judy.chiasson@lausd.net
Richard Alonzo	Saturday, July 18, 2009 4:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Grapevine Arbor 324 S. Mission Dr. San Gabriel	Danny Palma 323.326.3834
Lee Fields- Robinson	Saturday, June 27, 2009 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Alpine Village Inn 833 W. Torrance Blvd. Torrance	Rosa Morris 951.368.4137 msblaq1@hotmail.com
Richard López	Monday, June 29, 2009 12:00 noon	Miramonte School Pavilion 1400 East 68 th Street Los Angeles	Mirna Cooper 323.583.1257 mec5525@lausd.net
Karen Rose	Friday, June 26, 2009 6:30 – 11:00 p.m.	California Yacht Club 4469 Admiralty Way Marina del Rey	Linda Funches lfunches@lausd.net

TEACHER LIBRARIANS and ACHIEVEMENT

Instructional Media Services, the UTLA Library Professionals Committee, and the Los Angeles School Library Association are collaborating on the development of a short presentation to secondary school principals that focuses on the contribution of Teacher Librarians (TLs) to academic achievement. We feel a principal's perspective is vital to the success of this project.

We would like to include two middle school and two high school principals on this committee. The organizing meeting is scheduled as follows:

Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2009
Time: 9:00 a.m. – Noon
Location: Room 201 – Adams Plaza
1545 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90017
(Please call for parking directions)

We envision four to five meetings over the summer.

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact **Esther Sinofsky**, Director, Instructional Media Services, at 213.207.2271 or esther.sinofsky@lausd.net.

DR. JESSICA B. WHITE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Jessica White unexpectedly passed away on May 19, 2009. In her memory and honor, a scholarship fund has been established at Downtown Magnets High School. In these difficult economic times and with Cal Grants in danger of being withdrawn, the need for scholarships is more critical than usual.

Contributions to the scholarship fund should be made **payable to Downtown Magnets High School**. In the memo section write "Jessica B. White Scholarship," and mail to Downtown Magnets High School, c/o **Lynda McGee**, 1081 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Send any inquiries regarding the scholarship to **Lynda Markham** at lynda.markham@lausd.net.

BEGINNING ASSIGNMENT DATES FOR E, B, and D BASIS

FOR YOUR INFORMATION—

E Basis assignments begin on Friday, July 31; **B Basis assignments** begin on Wednesday, August 19; and **D Basis assignments** begin on Wednesday, August 12.

CONGRATULATIONS: *Angel Barrett*

Angel Barrett has received California's 2009 National Distinguished Principal Award. Angel will represent all of the state's elementary principals next fall in Washington, D. C., when she receives her award from the United States Secretary of Education, **Arne Duncan**.

Angel is the principal of Plummer Street School in North Hills. During her tenure as principal, Plummer's API score has risen from 405 to 777, with an expectation to move past 800 this spring. Her efforts have been buoyed by building a total participation of teachers, classified staff, and hundreds of community volunteers in making Plummer a source of deep neighborhood pride. Since 1999, 21 teachers have studied for their administrative credential; 15 have become administrators at other District schools or at the District office. Plummer has become a place where leaders are developed and where everyone shares in the success of every student and every teacher.

The National Distinguished Principal recognition program in California is cosponsored by the Elementary Education Council of ACSA and the national affiliate, the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP). The annual selection is made in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Education and the program's corporate sponsor, AID VALIC.

Angel is AALA Vice President, Elementary Department. She is also the President-Elect of ACSA, Region XVI. **Congratulations, Angel!**

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The District's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) offers confidential assistance to all District employees and their families in many areas of concern, including: financial and legal consultation (initial consultation at no cost), short-term counseling services (three sessions at no cost), and referral for assistance with such issues as emotional concerns.

You can contact the EAP 24 hours every day, by telephone or the Internet, for information and referral to services. You can access the EAP by calling the toll-free number: 866.312.3077 and choosing the "member" option, by visiting the EAP website at www.liveandworkwell.com; access code: LAUSD or through the LAUSD Benefits Administration homepage at <http://benefits.lausd.net>. All contact with the EAP remains strictly confidential in accordance with state and federal laws.

In addition, if you are currently receiving health care benefits through LAUSD, your health care provider covers you for a variety of services designed to assist you in maintaining your well-being. You can access your health plan benefits by contacting your provider, through your primary care physician, member services or the health care provider website. Contact numbers and website addresses are: Anthem Blue Cross members, 800.700.3739 or www.anthem.com/ca; Health Net members, 800.654.9821 or www.healthnet.com/lausd; Kaiser members, 800.464.4000 or www.kp.org/ca.

REASONS TO SEE YOUR DOCTOR

Feeling healthy? That's great! But prevention is still important. Here are some reasons to consider setting up an appointment today.

- **When your family history changes.** Notify your doctor if your parent or sibling receives a serious diagnosis, such as cancer, or has a serious health event, such as a heart attack before age 50. Family history not only helps direct your medical care, but also must be revised regularly.
- **When you're making lifestyle changes.** Many studies have shown that counseling from a doctor can help a person make lifestyle changes. If you are about to start an exercise program, for example, it's best to talk with your doctor first if you smoke, have health problems or are over age 40. If you want to start a weight-loss program, it's important to talk with your doctor about your health conditions, such as type 2 diabetes. If you want to stop smoking, your doctor can help you decide if a medication would be helpful.
- **At different stages in your life.** Are you preparing to care for your aging parents? Did you just turn 40 or 50 and are due for certain screening tests? Based upon your life stage or situation, your doctor may want to review different aspects of your health, such as risk factors, nutrition, stress or environmental factors.
- **For routine care.** Regular preventive visits, based on the schedule your doctor suggests, allow you to build a relationship with your care provider. It's also a good time to discuss your family history, lifestyle, habits, concerns, medications, any symptoms you're experiencing and plans for your care. A recent study published in the **Archives of Internal Medicine** found that primary care visits that address these topics lead to better health outcomes and lower medical costs.
- **If you adjust your living will.** A living will helps your family and your doctor make decisions about your care if you can't speak for yourself. As your health or perspective on life changes, revisit and revise your living will as necessary – and discuss any changes with your doctor.

Source: Mayo Clinic Health Solutions, March 2009

IN MEMORIAM

RACHEL ORTEGON TEMPLEMAN – Former Director, Educational Options, former Principal and Assistant Principal, SCS, of Ramona High School. She retired on July 1, 1999, and passed away on June 7, 2009.

AN INDICTMENT OF TEACHER EVALUATION

In public school districts nationwide, parents are asked to trust that their children are receiving a quality education, even though no one can tell them whether they have a quality teacher, according to a study from the New Teacher Project. "Were you to examine the district's teacher evaluation records yourself," state the authors, "you would find that, on paper, almost every teacher is a great teacher, even at schools where the chance of a student succeeding academically amounts to a coin toss, at best." This failure to distinguish between good, fair, and poor teachers is, in the words of the report, "The Widget Effect" -- a tendency of districts to assume effectiveness is the same from teacher to teacher, with teachers seen less as individual professionals than as interchangeable parts. "In its denial of individual strengths and weaknesses, it is deeply disrespectful to teachers," the study says. "In its indifference to instructional effectiveness, it gambles with the lives of students." To reverse the phenomenon, the report, which drew on research from 12 districts in four states, recommends adopting more comprehensive and credible evaluation systems and gathering better information about instructional quality, which can be used to inform other important decisions over who teaches in our schools.

Read more: <http://widgeteffect.org/downloads/TheWidgetEffect.pdf>

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.

PRINCIPAL, ELEMENTARY

Canyon Charter School (3) MST 40, 421 Entrada Drive, Santa Monica, CA 90402

Canyon is a D Basis school. For information and application procedures contact **Robbi Bertz**, Director, at 310.253.7100. **Filing deadline is Friday, June 19, 2009.**

Lorne Math-Science Magnet School (1) MST 41, 17440 Lorne Street, Northridge, CA 91325

Lorne is an E Basis school. For information and application procedures contact **Madelyne Coopersmith**, Elementary Director, at 818.654.3614. **Filing deadline is Friday, June 26, 2009.**

El Oro Way School (1) MST 40, 12330 El Oro Way, Granada Hills, CA 91344

El Oro Way is a D Basis school. For information and application procedures contact **Lisa Gaboudian**, Elementary Director, at 818.654.3626. **Filing deadline is Friday, June 26, 2009.**

POSITIONS AVAILABLE (Continued)

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

Normandie Avenue Early Education Center (7)

36th Street Early Education Center (7)

For information and application procedures contact **Iadrana Williams**, Director, at 323.242.1375.

Filing deadline is Friday, June 19, 2009.

Arminta Early Education Center (2)

Telfair Early Education Center (2)

For information and application procedures contact **Alec Caballero** at 818.755.5300. **Filing deadline is**

4:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 23, 2009.

Vaughn Early Education Center

Gluck Maclay Early Education Center

For information and application procedures contact **Alec Caballero** at 818.755.5300. **Filing deadline is**

4:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 23, 2009.

ADMIN. COORDINATOR, PRE-K-12 ARTS PROGRAM (Temp. Adv., MST 45, A Basis)

Chief Academic Officer, 333 S. Beaudry Ave., 25th Fl., Los Angeles, CA 90017 213.241.5333

Responsibilities include administering District art instruction in the area of the arts. Requires 8 years of successful full-time certificated service, with 2 years in a management position. For information and application procedures contact **Sharon Riley**. **Filing deadline is 5:00 p.m., Friday, June 19, 2009.**

SPECIALIST, ADAPTED PHYSICAL EDUCATION (MST 37, A Basis)

Div. of Spec. Educ., 333 S. Beaudry Ave., 16th Fl., Los Angeles, CA 90017 213.241.3325

Responsibilities include coordinating the functions and services of the itinerant APE Program. Requires 5 years of full-time certificated service, with one year as a teacher of adapted physical education and physical education and adapted physical education teaching credentials. For information and application procedures contact **Deborah Rubenacker**, Related Services Department. **Filing deadline is 5:00 p.m., Friday, June 26, 2009.**

PRINCIPAL, CONTINUATION HIGH SCHOOL

John R. Wooden High School (1) MST 38, 18741 Elkwood Street, Reseda, CA 91335

Wooden is an E Basis school. For information and application procedures contact **Kathy Rattay**, Director, at 818.654.3673. **Filing deadline is Friday, June 26, 2009.**

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED POSITIONS STILL AVAILABLE

Position	Location	Deadline	Contact
Principal, Small School	Libra Academy Pilot School	06/17/09	323.224.3173
Asst. Prin., SCS	Fremont High School	06/19/09	323.242.1314