

UPDATE

Week of February 22, 2010

COLLABORATION WORKS!

On February 23, the Board of Education voted on who will run each of the 30 LAUSD schools under Public School Choice—internal school teams, the Mayor’s partnership, or charter operators. Watching the televised Board meeting was like being part of an exciting theatrical event, full of emotion and dramatic twists.

Would **Barack Obama** Middle School have to share its campus with an incompatible charter, as the Superintendent recommended, or would Local District 7 and the school team prevail? Would **Esteban Torres** High School become a peculiar hybrid of three pilot schools and two different charters, or would the community-preferred model of five pilot schools win out? **In both cases the Board voted in favor of the internal school teams.**

Ultimately, of the 12 focus schools and 18 new sites considered for takeover by outside operators, the Board selected only four to be run by charters. This is a tremendous victory for the AALA members, teachers, and parents who worked together within an inadequate timeline to prepare their required plans.

AALA has played an instrumental role in Public School Choice for the past eight months. The Los Angeles School Development Institute (LASDI), co-led by AALA, provided school teams and local districts tremendous assistance. AALA and UTLA, along with other District unions, worked with the L.A. County Federation of Labor to promote the local school plans. We met regularly with Board of Education Members, community leaders and District personnel. Collaboration works!

Act II of Public School Choice is about to begin. Two more new schools are in a fierce competition with outside operators and must complete plans in March. Who will prevail this time? Which will be in the next group of focus schools? What about the schools being considered for reconstitution? Stay tuned!

AALA BARGAINING BULLETIN—NO. 8

AALA’s eighth negotiating session is scheduled for February 26, 2010. Bargaining will include the Superintendent’s proposal to shorten the 2009-10 instructional year by five days and eliminate the second pupil-free day. We will continue to keep you informed!

**AN EFFECTIVE “OPEN THE BOOKS” MEETING
OR JUST
ANOTHER FAILED PUBLIC RELATIONS EVENT?**

The Superintendent arranged for an “Open the Books” Meeting to be conducted by Chief Financial Officer **Megan Reilly** on Friday, February 19, 2010. The meeting allegedly was called to create a level of transparency by providing information and data that would influence leaders of bargaining units to agree to take furlough days for 2009-2010 and agree to some yet to be determined salary cut for 2010-2011. The meeting invitation was addressed to bargaining unit leaders. Neither the Superintendent nor Mrs. Reilly informed invited guests that parent representatives and the press were also invited. Unfortunately, this caused some delay during the meeting. The parent representatives were critical of bargaining representatives wanting to save their members’ jobs. Several of the union representatives reminded parents that they too had children and grandchildren attending LAUSD schools. All in attendance demonstrated mutual respect.

It is unfortunate that Mrs. Reilly didn’t send the agenda in advance. From 9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m., she reviewed the same information that has been shared on prior occasions. (Was she “vaccinated” with a phonograph needle as **Groucho Marx** used to inquire of people who repeat information?) The bottom line was that the District anticipated a \$470 million deficit for the 2010-2011 school year, and then, based upon additional projected state budget cuts, increased the deficit to between \$640-670 million. **No new budget details were shared.**

Questions asked of Mrs. Reilly basically went unanswered. One example, asked by AALA, was what revenue loss will the District suffer if the Board approves seven (7) Independent Charters on Tuesday, February 23, 2010?

For some unknown reason, **James Sohn**, Facilities Chief, and **Sharyn Howell**, who is in charge of the Special Education Division, spoke of their funding sources and potential budget cuts within each of their responsibilities.

Finally, the morning ended with a lengthy monologue by **Dick Fisher**, the recently hired (\$250,000 for six months) negotiator for the District. Fisher, currently in O’Melveny & Myers retirement pasture, has been brought back ready to star in “Back to the Future TV.” He repeatedly indicated that if all the unions took the six-day furlough this would only address some of the \$170 million that has been projected as an add-on to the existing \$470 million deficit. Like the Superintendent, he was seeking the cooperation of bargaining units but did not answer any questions with any degree of specificity. Much of his commentary was directed toward UTLA. Questions asked by AALA and answered by Mr. Fisher follow:

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"OPEN BOOKS" MEETING OR FAILED PUBLIC RELATIONS EVENT? (Continued)

- The Superintendent said that staff positions would be saved if unions agreed to the projected furlough days and/or the shortening of the school year. What number of positions will be saved and from which bargaining units? Answer—the District is working on that!
- Is the District looking at a payback to provide bargaining unit members a monetary give-back upon retirement, much like what the District established during the 1991-1992 school year? Answer—the District may look at options for salary reductions, but not for furlough days.

AAALA pointed out that there was a major lack of agreement between what the District is asking of its employees and the essential and specific information needed by unions that represent these employees. Why is the District not considering the use of Title I monies in a more flexible fashion?

Essentially, this meeting was a weak public relations effort with no meaningful information provided. If it was to be an “open the books” meeting, the print was invisible!

**FOR PRINCIPALS, APS AND OTHER
MANDATED REPORTERS**

Annual Form 700s – Due by April 1!

Once again, the annual April 1 deadline for the state-mandated Form 700 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) filing is fast approaching. We ask Principals for your assistance in reminding other school-site filers (e.g., Assistant Principals, Senior Financial Managers, Financial Managers, Coordinators, and Specialists) of their filing obligation as well.

All filers can access the materials needed to complete the filing by visiting the “Form 700 Center” on the Ethics Office website which includes a quick video to walk through the filing process. Please remember that, by law, faxed or electronic copies of the Form 700 cannot be accepted. Also, leaving or retiring employees must also complete a final Form 700 before exiting LAUSD.

Finally, please be aware that you can access other ethics resources such as the brand new Ethics University at: www.lausd.net/ethics.

A LETTER FROM *AMAE* TO THE DISTRICT

February 23, 2010

Dear Members of the Board and Superintendent Cortines,

AMAE members who work as teachers, principals, and administrators in the Los Angeles Unified School District have been in receipt of conference registration information and brochures regarding the upcoming 4 LAUSD by LAUSD: First Annual Best Practices Conference scheduled for March 13, 2010. AMAE expresses its concern that there is a serious disconnect between the title of the conference and the absence of workshop strands that specifically address the core constituents of LAUSD, namely ELs and SELs. While AMAE agrees that a number of workshop titles reflect quality practices for leadership, positive behavior instruction, integrating technology, and the problem-solving method, it is unconscionable that a 4 LAUSD by LAUSD conference would be shamelessly “neutral” on aspects of culture and language in instruction, ignoring the fact that best practices cannot be separated or de-contextualized from the students for whom they are intended. When instructional practices fail to take into consideration the experiential, linguistic, and cultural strengths of the students for whom they are intended, they cannot be validated as best practices.

If you’ll recall in our last letter, we called attention to the fact that three years ago the District convened the historic Achieving A+ Summit in an effort to make quality instruction for all English Learners and Standard English Learners a priority in this District. We also called attention to the A+ Summary Proceedings (pg. 10), and the three major findings of the Summit: (1) Major subgroups are LAUSD’s core constituents (EL’s and SEL’s); (2) There is an urgent need for differentiated instruction; (3) Every teacher needs to emphasize language and content. AMAE asks, how will the 4 LAUSD by LAUSD conference help English Learners and Standard English Learners without any strands dedicated to best practices for language acquisition and academic achievement for these groups? We are quite surprised that this question has not been raised by anyone in the Language Acquisition Branch, Superintendent’s Office or Board of Education. This is why we are writing this letter.

AMAE remains the longest established Latino educational advocacy organization in the state of California. We have survived budget cuts, strikes, and recessions for nearly half a century. During our 45 years of existence, we have continually been at the forefront of the fight for Latino educational access and excellence. In our 45 years of experience, we have learned the difference between word and deed. We have learned to pay more attention to the actions that school districts take to ensure educational opportunity and access for Latino students rather than their assurances.

In reading this letter we ask that you take the time to think about the current reality of this “best” practices environment and compare it to the spirit of the A+ Summit where one astute participant stated, “we need to finally recognize that the heart of the LAUSD constituency is made up of families who do not speak the language of the school, therefore, decisions about instruction, professional development, parent engagement, budget, policy, assessment and accountability all need to be considered through the lens of these constituencies.” These comments reflect the true spirit of best practices, and it is our hope that others take them to heart and remain vigilant as to their implementation.

Best regards,
Antonio José Camacho
AMAE State President

cc: Californians Together
Council of Mexican American Administrators
Council of Black Administrators
Associated Administrators of Los Angeles

LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE: Open Enrollment

AALA is conducting an Open Enrollment for the UNUM Group Long Term Care Insurance Plan, which **has been EXTENDED TO MARCH 15, 2010**. The effective date of coverage will be **May 1, 2010**.

During this brief period, Active Employees of LAUSD/Members of AALA have the opportunity to enroll **without** completing a Health Application (Automatic Acceptance – Guaranteed Issue). Family members and retirees can also enroll; however, they **DO NEED** to fill out a Health Application and are subject to Medical Underwriting. If you are serious about your financial future and preserving your estate, you may want to strongly consider this coverage.

When you leave LAUSD, for any reason, you may continue this benefit with no changes in coverage and at the same rate of premium. If you retire, your premiums can automatically be deducted from STRS.

Enrolling now locks in your premium at your age as of the Effective Date of 05/01/2010. **Rates do not increase because of age**. Benefits paid by this policy are tax free, and **the premiums you pay could be tax deductible**. Check with your tax consultant.

According to current government studies, many people will experience the need for Long Term Care during their lifetime. Why risk paying higher premiums for Long Term Care Insurance in the future? Do yourself a favor and consider this important coverage now!

If you have any questions or if you are requesting a packet or need more information, please contact Specialists in Long Term Care Insurance Services, Inc., by phone at 800.764.6585 or e-mail at info@specialistsinlongtermcare.com. You can also go to the website w3.unum.com/enroll/aala. **PLEASE NOTE: If you use the website, you must use the exact address. DO NOT type it as "www."**

If you are requesting an enrollment packet by e-mail, please use your employee number and state that you are an AALA member.

IN MEMORIAM

JOSEPHINE "JO" SPEARMAN – Former Principal of Manual Arts High School and Woodland Hills Academy, Assistant Principal of Crenshaw and Dorsey high schools, and Mulholland and Hughes middle schools. Jo retired on June 30, 1984, and passed away in Arizona on February 11, 2010. She was one of the founders of the Council of Black Administrators (COBA), and served as its second president, following the late **Fred Dumas**.

SAVE THE DATES

THURSDAY, MARCH 4, THROUGH SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2010 – The **Western Regional Council on Educating Black Children (WRCEBC)**, in collaboration with the Council of Black Administrators (COBA), the California Association of African-American Superintendents and Administrators (CAAASA), the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), the Education Is A Civil Right Committee (ECRC), the California State and Branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the 100 Black Men, Inc., of Los Angeles, the Southern Christian Leadership Council (SCLC), and the Urban League (UL), will host a **Leadership Summit** on Thursday, March 4, through Saturday, March 6, 2010, at the Westin Hotel & Resort, 5400 West Century Blvd., Los Angeles. The theme of the summit is: **Demanding Excellence for African American Children...Through A Leadership Summit for Change: "Implementing the Blueprint for Action - Phase XIV."** Colleagues from the states that form the Western Region (Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington) are working with us. For information and registration go to www.wrcebc.org, or for additional information, contact WRCEBC at 866.614.9847.

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2010 – **Women Educators (WE)** presents its **Educators' Issues Forum**, "Keeping Positive in Difficult Times," from 4:30 – 8:00 p.m. at St. Anne's Conference Center, 155 North Occidental Blvd., Los Angeles. Participants may earn Professional Growth Hours for Career and Salary Advancement. For additional information call **Monica Balbuena** at 213.765.2573.

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 2010 – The "**Critical Teaching in Action**" Conference will be held from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at Mount St. Mary's College's Doheny campus, Los Angeles. For more information go to www.culturalfluency.org and click on "**Critical Teaching in Action Conference.**"

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2010 - **Association of California School Administrators (ACSA)** presents the **2010 ACSA Region XVI Social** from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the University Club (Lamb's Lounge), California State University Northridge, 18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA. Featured Keynote Speakers are **Tamar Galatzan**, LAUSD School Board Member, and **Sid Thompson**, Former Superintendent, LAUSD. Current ACSA members and anyone interested in joining ACSA are welcome. Parking is available at **LOT G1** on the corner of Dearborn and Zelzah. For additional information contact **Brian Sida** at 818.609.2522 or e-mail him at bsida@lausd.net.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2010 – **ACSA-R Region XVI** presents an "**Opportunities Faire**" from 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Junior Achievement Center, 6250 Forest Lawn Drive, Los Angeles.

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

Name	Date/Time	Location	Contact
Willie Richardson	Saturday, March 13, 2010 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Proud Bird Restaurant 11022 Aviation Blvd. Los Angeles	Pat Nichols 310.702.0137

HOW TO REPORT A DEATH TO CalSTRS

CalSTRS (California State Teachers Retirement System) should be notified as soon as possible of the death of a member. This can be done by writing to:

CalSTRS
Claims Section-Member Services Division
P. O. Box 15275-C
Sacramento, CA 95851

or by calling STRS Public Service Office toll-free at 800.228.5453 or 916.229.3870.

PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- Deceased person's name and Social Security Number
- Individual's status – a member in active teaching status, retired, disabled, or a beneficiary under option, etc.
- Date of death
- Name, address and telephone number of contact person

A Beneficiary Information Questionnaire will be sent to the contact person within 5 days of the date CalSTRS receives the notification of death. This questionnaire serves as an official acknowledgment of receipt of notification. The completed questionnaire, when returned to CalSTRS, will provide the System with the most current information regarding the decedent's family and estate. This information is necessary to identify the eligible beneficiary(ies) for various benefits including the **\$6,163 death benefit or \$24,652 death benefit** (depends upon whether decedent has Coverage A or Coverage B). If the deceased had previously retired, the benefit is \$6,163.

A **certified copy** of the death certificate will need to be sent to STRS. The appropriate parties will be contacted if additional certificates or documents are needed.

CalSTRS generally pays survivor benefits to beneficiaries within 45 days of the receipt of the last required document. Payment may be delayed if documentation, such as marriage license or death certificate, is not received in a timely manner or because of the absence of a valid beneficiary designation form on file with current beneficiary address.

For **ACTIVE** employees, the employee's administrator must notify Payroll Services Branch, (213.241.2896), Local District/Division/Branch administrator, Office of Risk Management and Insurance Services (213.241.3138), and **ONE** of the following offices, as appropriate: Certificated (K-12) Placement and Assignments (213.241.5100), Certificated Administrative Assignments Unit (213.241.6365), Adult Personnel Office (213.241.3174), Early Childhood Education Division (213.625.6540), or (Classified) Employment Transaction Services (213.241.3900).

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.

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED POSITIONS STILL AVAILABLE

Position	Location	Deadline	Contact
Asst. Prin., Secondary	Drew Middle School	03/02/10	323.242.1314
Asst. Prin., Secondary	Fremont High School	03/02/10	323.242.1300
Asst. Prin., SCS	Fremont High School	03/02/10	323.242.1300
Instructional Specialist	Stevenson Middle School	02/26/10 or Until filled	justin.sergi@partnershipla.org
Principal, Secondary (7 positions)	Roosevelt High School	Until filled	Stephen.cockrell@partnershipla.org

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 NONSCHOOL-BASED POSITIONS AND CLICK ON ANY POSITION TO VIEW THE SPECIFIC FLYER.

POSITIONS	FILING DEADLINE
COORDINATOR, OPERATIONS SUPPORT SERVICES, MST 41, A Basis, Local District 5. For information and application procedures contact Cristopher Ziegel , Interim Assistant Superintendent, at 323.224.3100.	Fri., March 12, 2010
COORDINATOR, CHARTER SCHOOLS DIVISION, MST 41, B Basis, Charter Schools Division. DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL OVERSIGHT, MST 45, B Basis, Charter Schools Division. For information and application procedures contact Aaron Eairleywine , Central Business Advisor, at 213.241.5516	UNTIL FILLED