

UPDATE

Week of October 12, 2009

AALA BARGAINING BULLETIN - NO. 1 **LET THE SUNSHINE IN!**

AALA submitted its collective bargaining Sunshine Letter to the LAUSD Superintendent last week. The purpose of the letter is to give formal notice to the District that we are prepared to begin negotiating our 2009-2010 *successor agreement* (i.e., three-year contract). As you know, our negotiating team prepared initial bargaining proposals based upon the priorities AALA members identified through their survey responses in August. The Sunshine Letter is a legal document that identifies, in general terms, the sections of the Contract we plan to negotiate.

We were informed this week that the District has received our Sunshine Letter, and it will be on the agenda of the November 10, 2009, Board of Education meeting. We anticipate that the District has been developing its initial bargaining proposals for AALA and expect that Staff Relations will contact us sometime after the November 10th Board Meeting to begin negotiations. We will keep you informed through this *AALA Bargaining Bulletin* as negotiations progress.

AALA ALERT!

An Administrative Assignment: A Chance for District Leadership to Demonstrate Transparency

On Friday, October 9, 2009, Dr. **Judith Perez**, AALA President, forwarded a confidential memo to Superintendent **Ramon Cortines** and all seven Board of Education Members regarding the administrative assignment process being initiated by the leadership of one of the eight Local Districts.

AALA is awaiting a response from the Superintendent and the Board of Education. Should District leadership fail to address this personnel issue in a fair and transparent fashion, AALA will address the matter publicly.

Stay Tuned ...

CONGRATULATIONS, ANTONIO JOSÉ CAMACHO!

The Friends of the Charter College of Education, California State University, Los Angeles are presenting Antonio with the coveted *Distinguished Educator Award* in recognition of his professional achievements. This prestigious honor will be given at Cal State, L. A. on October 30, 2009.

José wrote the following letter to express concerns felt by many AALA members regarding the education of the thousands of English Learners in our District:



Association of Mexican American Educators, Inc.

PO Box 98

San Pedro, CA 90733

<http://www.amae.org>

e-mail: losangeles-amae@sbcglobal.net

October 9, 2009

Dear Superintendent Cortines and Members of the Board,

It has come to the attention of the Association of Mexican American Educators that the progress of culturally relevant and responsive education (CRRE) in Los Angeles has been severely hampered by the nature and consequence of recent budget cuts and shifting instructional priorities by the Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and School Support. Currently, few if any resources exist to continue the very promising work that was carried out to further knowledge and understanding of CRRE generated from the Achieving A+ Summit two years ago. At this moment no comprehensive or high-quality training exists for CRRE outside of schools that participate in the Academic English Mastery Program—a program that specifically addresses SEL's. Additionally, no identified support personnel with deep knowledge of CRRE exist at the Local District level that can provide authentic support and training. AMAE finds this puzzling because this runs counter to Mr. Cortines' decentralization efforts that put professional development resources closer to the schools.

Two 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. AMAE asks, where are we now? Recent data has shown that EL's have not made sufficient academic progress compared to other subgroups and SEL's continue to languish in the achievement gap. According to the A+ Summary Proceedings (pg. 10), three major findings emerged from the A+ 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. All three major findings speak to the need for educators to consider who is being taught, not just what is being taught, a central tenet of CRRE.

As a methodology, CRRE is critical to developing in teachers the understanding of these three major findings as they apply to creating additive learning environments that affirm and validate the culture and language of each child. These findings represent the conclusions of some of the most notable scholars and educational practitioners in the nation.

Since then, the instructional direction and vision that has emerged has been singularly focused on the gradual rollout of an instructional framework (RtI) that may or may not authentically speak to the aforementioned conclusions. As AMAE analyzes the overall status of CRRE in the Los Angeles Unified School District, we have detected a serious discrepancy between the language of CRRE in policy and the ability to build capacity for its implementation within any

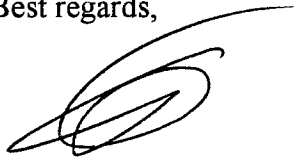
LETTER FROM AMAE TO SUPERINTENDENT CORTINES (Continued)

instructional plan or framework. This is of great concern to us and we are perplexed as to the rationale behind this discrepancy.

It is simply unacceptable for LAUSD to continue to proceed as if the A+ Summit were a distant memory amidst new and exciting plans to incorporate RtI and provide greater educational choices for students and parents. It is indeed unconscionable that LAUSD is falling behind as a District that once served as an emerging model for the implementation of culturally relevant and responsive education. Whereas different school districts are growing their efforts in this direction, LAUSD is shrinking them. AMAE asks why? How did this come to pass? How did CRRE become a non-priority? Who is responsible?

In order for any instructional plan or framework to be successful within the Los Angeles Unified School District it must be culturally relevant and responsive in deed and not just in words. This sentiment was well recognized by an A+ Summit participant who 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." In terms of CRRE, the District, whether it realizes it or not has been moving in a direction that is the opposite of this sentiment. Please call us at (310) 251-6306 if AMAE can provide assistance in meeting the needs of our students.

Best regards,



Antonio José Camacho
2010 State AMAE President

REMINDER...

AALA RETIREES FALL LUNCHEON

Guest speaker: **LARRY ACEVES**, Candidate for State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Also **UPDATE** on **HEALTH BENEFITS**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2009
THE CENTER AT CATHEDRAL PLAZA
11:00 A.M.

CSUN TIER II PROGRAM

California State University, Northridge will again be offering its one semester, 12 unit Tier II program to current administrators working to clear their Administrative Credentials, as well as administrators who have been displaced from their administrative positions.

While the displaced administrators are waiting for reassignment into an administrative position, they may complete the course work necessary to apply for the Clear Credential. Any educator who has activated their Preliminary Administrative Services Credential is eligible to apply for the Tier II program. All other requirements to be granted the Clear Administrative Services Credential will still apply.

The CSUN program is a hybrid program, with five face-to-face classes, and all other work completed on-line. The dates for the five classes are:

February 1
February 22
March 15
April 19
May 3

The five class sessions will be held in a central location, to be determined, and will run from 4:20 to 9:30 p.m.

For additional information, please contact the CSUN Educational Leadership & Policy Studies Office at 818-677-2591 or Graduate Advisor **Debbie Leidner** at 818-677-2528 or e-mail debbie.leidner@csun.edu.

Thank you for your interest.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program, part of the federal NCLB law, recognizes elementary and secondary schools that are both academically superior and have demonstrated dramatic gains in student achievement, while serving an economically disadvantaged population of students. Schools recognized through the BRSP are national models of excellence for other schools to emulate. All were previous California Distinguished Schools or California Title I Academic Achieving Award schools. Only 264 public schools received the honor nationwide. These LAUSD schools were selected: Clifford Street (Principal, **Kerry Kehrley**), Danube Avenue (Principal, **Sharon Geier**), Delevan Drive (Principal, **Patrice Velasquez**), Hamlin Street (Principal, **Victoria Christie**), 156th Street (Principal, **Esther Kim**), and Solano Avenue (Principal, **Richard Hickcox**). Congratulations to all the schools, administrators, the students, parents, teachers, and staff.

ONE COURAGEOUS MATH TEACHER: WE NEEDED THAT

Random Thoughts

By Diana L. Chapman

The word failure rattles everyone's bones. So when Los Angeles Unified School District placed our San Pedro High campus...along with twelve other "underperforming" schools...on a so-called "focus list," a math teacher bubbled with anger.

As I told you last week, this San Pedro High teacher—who one student defined as an instructor who went out of his way to help his kids—challenged the LAUSD school superintendent that the campus was not at the bottom of the barrel—in fact not even close. Despite that, San Pedro High along with Gardena High and several other schools were put on a "focus list" which now opens the doors for outside operators, such as charters and nonprofits, to bid to run those schools while competing with the district. To many of us here in San Pedro, the so-called "focus list" spelled out failure – and some parents, teachers and staff took it personally.

"Can you please correct the perception that you created by (1) placing one of your top schools on a list known in the news as "the failing schools" list and (2) your statements in the press by making clear that San Pedro High is not one of the most underperforming schools in either LAUSD or LD8, but that you hope to help take us to greater heights?" **Richard Wagoner** wrote to Cortines. "On behalf of the staff, students, parents and administration, it would be most appreciated." "And," he wrote, "if you are in town, please stop by and say hello. I would love to show you some of the great things we do."

As far as I know, Cortines has not made an appearance at San Pedro High School...and perhaps he should. But he did surprise some of us with a quick response to the Wagoner letter. The district, he explained, will offer further support to improve the schools on the list, so they can compete against outside operators. In addition, Cortines and the school board make the final decisions on who runs any of those ailing schools...or the 24 new schools included in the "public school choice."

Cortines responded to Wagoner:

"Recent events and misperceptions regarding our announcement of "Focus Schools" have caused me to clarify my position in promoting and providing an enhanced learning environment for a number of our schools," Cortines responded. "Let me assure you that in my public correspondence and media interviews regarding this subject I have always stated that the purpose of this process is about providing our schools with the appropriate support to develop and implement plans that meet the needs of our students. At no time did I disparage San Pedro High School or any other school listed as part of our "Focus Schools." "Furthermore," Cortines continued, "I'd like to reiterate that being classified as a 'Focus School' should not be viewed as a negative term. Instead, I want us to work together to identify strategies that can help our schools overcome the challenges that they are facing. It will take all of us working together to help our students reach their highest potential."

The superintendent also clarified that San Pedro—or any of the high schools on the list, which also included, Maywood, Lincoln, Garfield and Jefferson, as well as three elementary and three middle school campuses were not necessarily failing, but not improving quickly enough.

RANDOM THOUGHTS (Continued)

I wrote last week that it all smacked of politics to me. San Pedro High has had severe overcrowding issues, inconsistent leadership over the past several years, and the former principal, **Bob DiPietro**, charged that the staff resisted change before he left after a two-year stint. The new principal, **Jeanette Stevens**, however, who stepped into the post in August, has vowed with her "excellent" staff and students to revamp and overhaul teaching strategies so they can beat all. It seems to me the recent action involving the Harbor area school may just be a way to force the staff to work with the new head administrator. Stevens, a San Pedro resident whose daughters attend LAUSD's Park Western Avenue Elementary School, has far greater personal reason to improve the overcrowded ailing campus than her predecessors. She wants her children to attend there.

"San Pedro High School is engaging in a process to write a plan that will be successful for students, parents and teachers," e-mailed Stevens, noted for her networking abilities to bring groups together. "We are committed to hearing community input, concerns and ideas that will continue to enable all students to be college prepared and career ready. Stevens plans to meet with the community at 6 p.m. Monday (October 19) at San Pedro High School's Auditorium.

In the meantime, district officials said all 12 of the campuses that were targeted with the "Public School Choice," which allows outsiders to compete for the schools, would receive additional support from the district. **Linda Del Cueto**, the superintendent of Local District 8, which includes San Pedro and Gardena high schools, explained that district staff members will come in to help guide the development of a new plan, facilitate focus groups and ensure that all "the stakeholders are involved."

"We will work closely with the schools throughout the duration of the plan writing and implementation," she e-mailed.

Students and parents across the board at all the focus schools probably feel as though they are left in limbo. Actually they are, as no one knows what the future holds for these schools.

Outside organizations—such as Green Dot Charters—may or may not offer to take them over in this revolutionary change in the school district's history that allows other entities to step up and attempt to takeover these public schools.

But personally, at this moment, I'm glad one courageous math teacher demanded clarification from the superintendent. We needed that.

(**Diana L. Chapman** was a journalist for 15 years with the *Daily Breeze* and the *San Diego Union*. She can be reached at hartchap@cox.net or visit her blog www.theunderdogforkids.blogspot.com)

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HEALTH BENEFITS FAQ

Topic: Medicare Requirements for Retirees and Employees Retiring in 2010

I plan to retire after January 1, 2010. What will I need to do?

Current active employees and spouses of active employees who retire on or after January 1, 2010

- Must enroll in Medicare Part B when first eligible in order to be eligible for any District health coverage.
- Must enroll in Medicare Part A when first eligible if they are eligible for Part A at no cost through their or their spouse's work history or if they are eligible to be reimbursed for the basic Part A premium from CalSTRS.

I am over 65 years of age. What should I do if I don't have Medicare Part A or Part B?

What you do depends on your age group—1) over age 75 and 2) between 65 and 74.

1. **Retirees and spouses of retirees over age 75** born before January 1, 1935, will be grandparented at their current A and/or B subscription level, but must maintain enrollment in A and/or B if they currently have it.

All retirees are encouraged to enroll in Part A if they are eligible at no premium through their or their spouse's work history or through CalSTRS payment.

2. **For retirees between 65 and 74 years of age**, born on or after January 1, 1935, coverage will be continued without the assumption of Part A or Part B until July 1, 2010, but:
 - They must enroll in Medicare Part B by the January 2010 open enrollment period to be eligible by July 1, 2010. All retirees between 65 and 74 must have Part B.
 - Must enroll in Medicare Part A by the January 2010 enrollment period to be eligible by July 2010 if they are eligible for premium-free A through their or their spouse's work history, or CalSTRS payment.

Retirees not eligible for premium-free Medicare Part A (quarters worked, spousal coverage or CalSTRS payment), may qualify for grandparenting if they provide documentation from two sources: CMS denying their eligibility for premium-free Part A and CalSTRS denying their payment of Part A.

If I do not meet the District's Medicare guidelines, will I be dropped from my health plan and lose all of my health benefits?

No. If you do not meet the requirement to have Medicare coverage by July 1, you will incur additional out-of-pocket expenses at the point of service or when you file a claim.

I am a retiree over 65 living outside of the United States. What is required of me?

You are subject to the same guidelines as District retirees who reside in the United States. Medicare offers only limited coverage outside of the United States.

Where can I get additional information?

AALA will hold an informational meeting on Health Benefits for ACTIVE and RETIRED members. The meeting will take place on Monday, November 9, 2009, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., in the LAUSD Board Room, 333 South Beaudry Avenue, Los Angeles. **Tom Morrison** will present the 2010 benefit changes as they affect active and retired AALA members. A Q & A period will follow the presentation. Validated Parking: Visconti Garage (Entrance on Miramar Street)**For general information on Medicare, go to the website: <http://www.medicare.gov>**

For information regarding all LAUSD Benefits, visit the website: <http://benefits.lausd.net>.

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.

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.

POSITION	FILING DEADLINE
FIELD COORDINATOR, SCHOOL NURSING, Temp. Adv., MST 39, B Basis, Student Health and Human Services. For information and application procedures call District Nursing Services at 213.765.2800.	5:00 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2009
COORDINATOR, HEAD START PROGRAM, EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, Temp. Adv., MST 38, B Basis, Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and School Support. For information and application procedures contact Ruth Yoon , Early Childhood Education, at 213.241.8172.	4:00 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2009
DIRECTOR, SECONDARY SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES, Temp. Adv., MST 45, A Basis, Local District 1. For information and application procedures contact Corrine Lopez at 818.654.3611.	5:00 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23, 2009
SUPERVISOR, PROGRAM INFORMATION, COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND GRANTS, Temp. Adv., MST 38, B Basis. Division of Adult and Career Education. For information and application procedures contact Isabel Vazquez , Director, Career Technical Education, at 213.241.3150.	Friday, Oct. 23, 2009
SPECIALIST, ENGLISH LEARNER PROGRAMS, Temp. Adv., MST 38, A Basis, Local District 7. For information and application procedures contact George McKenna , Superintendent, at 323.242.1300.	5:00 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23, 2009
SPECIALIST, GRANTS DEVELOPMENT AND PERKINS PROGRAM, MST 35, B Basis, Division of Adult and Career Education. For information and application procedures contact Isabel Vazquez , Director, Career Technical Education, at 213.241.3150.	5:00 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30, 2009

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED POSITION STILL AVAILABLE

Position	Location	Deadline	Contact
Director of Instructional and Operational Oversight	Charter Schools Division	UNTIL FILLED	213.241.2656