

## UPDATE

Week of February 15, 2010

### WHOM DOES THE BOARD OF EDUCATION SERVE?

*On February 9, 2010, the District brought to the Board of Education a motion to seek a State Board of Education waiver to allow charter schools, operating under Public School Choice, to give preference for admission to students living within the schools' respective attendance areas and backfill using a lottery. Charter law currently requires charter schools to admit all students by lottery. Notably, new schools built through the use of bond funds have a single purpose: to relieve overcrowding and remove neighboring schools from multitrack year-round calendars. **New schools were not built to accommodate charters but to serve their local communities.***

*The Board postponed this item until February 16, 2010. Following are comments made by AALA President Judy Perez at that meeting.*

Good afternoon, Madam President, Members of the Board of Education, and Superintendent Cortines. My name is Judith Perez, and I am President of Associated Administrators of Los Angeles.

I am speaking today in opposition to the District's plan to request that the State Board of Education grant an attendance boundary waiver for charter schools under Public School Choice. We ask the Board to delay voting on this important matter until a thorough discussion takes place between AALA and the District.

Education Code sections 33050 and 33051 provide that when requesting a waiver, a school district must not jeopardize public or school personnel protections, must provide an opportunity for advisory committees and appropriate councils to weigh in on the waiver, **and have the exclusive representative of employees participate in the development of the waiver** (among other things). Otherwise, the State Board of Education shall deny the request.

Even though the waiver request originally appeared on the Board's February 9 agenda, AALA was not contacted until February 10 to schedule a meeting to discuss the waiver. We were given only two potential dates, with limited time slots, to meet with District staff—February 11 or February 12—which was only a single working day prior to today's Board meeting. **Clearly, excluding AALA in this way is in direct opposition to the Education Code.** Postponing the waiver decision will allow sufficient time for us to discuss the waiver with District staff in a meaningful fashion.

Board members, you are fully aware that administrators are accountable for school safety and student performance. The District ignored AALA's requests to provide protections for our members through the Workforce Stability Taskforce, despite the fact that 20% of our membership has been cut since June 2009. AALA was excluded from true participation in development of the District's charter policy and now, this waiver request, as well.

**WHOM DOES THE BOARD OF EDUCATION SERVE? (Continued)**

**AALA seeks to partner with the Superintendent and Board members in a number of ways, including the forthcoming parcel tax measure. However, partners must share their views, listen to each other and attempt to reach consensus.** This has yet to occur in the matter before you today. Therefore, we ask you to postpone your decision until we can have a meaningful discussion with District staff.

*Without any discussion by Board members, a roll call vote resulted in a 5 to 1 vote in favor of the motion. Only Board Member Steve Zimmer voted against it. (Marguerite LaMotte was absent.)*

***The District and Board actions raise many questions, such as:***

- *How long has the District known that a State Board waiver is necessary for charters to operate schools under Public School Choice? Why did the District wait until the last moment to bring the waiver request to the Board?*
- *Why was there no timely public discussion regarding the impact of the Board motion on all of our students?*
- *Why has AALA been excluded from participation in District discussions and decision-making about charter policy and Public School Choice?*

*We have scheduled a meeting with District staff to discuss the waiver request and will report to you the results of that meeting and subsequent developments.*

**AALA BARGAINING BULLETIN—NO. 7**

Your AALA negotiating team concluded a seventh bargaining session with the District last week, with no agreement reached. **The Superintendent later announced a proposal to shorten the instructional year (2009-10 and 2010-11) by five days and eliminate a pupil-free day.** We expect our eighth bargaining session to be scheduled soon and will continue to keep you informed.

**IS THE SUPERINTENDENT UNDERPAID OR  
IS THE DISTRICT'S NEGOTIATOR OVERPAID?**

AALA has learned that the District recently hired retired attorney Dick Fisher to serve as its negotiator during bargaining sessions with UTLA. It is reported that his compensation for a six-month period of time will be \$250,000, the same as Superintendent Cortines' annual salary.

Mr. Fisher is a highly regarded attorney who served the District well in past years, but with the District's current budget deficit of approximately \$670 million, you would think that the District could select one of its current 37 attorneys to handle the negotiations with UTLA. Superintendent Cortines has indicated on a number of occasions that he was going to "comb the floors of Beaudry" to find any and every cost savings possible. Yet, here we have another \$250,000 to underwrite! Is there something wrong with this picture? Is the District seeking a grant to underwrite the additional expense? We hope that this salary will not be incorporated in the parcel tax that is going on the June ballot.

## ACADEMIC DECATHLON ACCOLADES

Congratulations to Marshall High School's Academic Decathlon team for capturing the 2010 LAUSD Academic Decathlon title. The team, coached by **Larry Welch**, amassed a total of 48,656 points out of a possible 60,000 to emerge victorious. El Camino Real High School, coached by **John Dalsass** and **Stephanie Franklin**, finished second with 48,395 points. Granada Hills Charter High School, guided by **Nick Weber** and **Matt Arnold**, was third in the competition with 47,429 points. In Super Quiz, Marshall also placed first, Granada Hills Charter was second, and Franklin High School, coached by **Sam Kullens**, was third. To be commended for the fine performances of their teams are Principals **Daniel Harrison**, Marshall; **Dave Fehte**, El Camino Real; and **Brian Bauer**, Granada Hills Charter.

The top-scoring students, there were two this year, in the Super Quiz event and winners of the **Larry McCormick Memorial Award** were **Eun Chung**, Granada Hills Charter High School, and **Candy Macias**, San Fernando High School. Both students had perfect scores of 1,000 for the event. The award, which is sponsored by AALA, was established to honor Larry McCormick for his strong support of the Academic Decathlon. He served for twelve years as the quizmaster. AALA President **Judy Perez** and **Vivian Ekchian**, Chief Human Resources Officer, presented the plaques and scholarships to Eun and Candy at the Awards Ceremony. **Anastasia Lloyd-Damnjanovic**, Marshall High School, was the top-scoring student in the competition with a score of 8,934 points out of a possible 10,000 points.

The California Academic Decathlon competition in Sacramento March 12 - 15 will be Marshall's next challenge. Also invited to compete at the state finals by virtue of their high scores in the LAUSD competition are El Camino Real; Granada Hills Charter; San Pedro, coached by **Cathy Figuracion** and **Bobby Uchida**; Garfield, coached by **Lucy Romero** and **Kevin Murchie**; Palisades Charter, coached by **Lisa Saxon** and **Minh Ha Ngo**; Hamilton, coached by **Tom Metro**; Franklin, coached by **Sam Kullens**; and Francis Polytechnic, coached by **Brian Block**. We are proud of all the teams' accomplishments, and we wish them good luck in the state finals! Congratulations to Principals **Jeanette Stevens**, San Pedro; **José Huerta**, Garfield; **Marcia Haskin**, Acting, Palisades Charter; **Gary Garcia**, Hamilton; **Luis Lopez**, Franklin; and **Gerardo Loera**, Francis Polytechnic, for the fine performances of their teams.

**Brian Block**, Francis Polytechnic, and **Jeff Goldberg**, Crenshaw, were honored as Coaches of the Year. This award was established by the late **Dr. Warren Steinberg** to honor outstanding coaches for their dedicated commitment to the Academic Decathlon program.

This year's Most Improved team was Huntington Park High School, coached by **Cynthia Tiscareno** and **Israel Garcia**. Congratulations to Principal **Raul Correa** for this fine accomplishment.

AALA also extends congratulations to **Cliff Ker**, the District's Academic Decathlon Coordinator, for an excellent job in presenting this outstanding event.

If you are going to be in Sacramento March 12 - 15 for the state finals, consider volunteering to help at the event. Go to the CAD website, [www.academicdecathlon.org](http://www.academicdecathlon.org), and download the volunteer application.

**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 (CAASA), 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](http://www.wrcebc.org), or for additional information, contact WRVEBC 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.

**COLLEGE-AND-CAREER-READY:  
But For Which College Or Career?**

Under a proposal from the Obama administration, No Child Left Behind's Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) would be replaced with a different metric, but how exactly would this work? AYP is the accountability vehicle at the heart of NCLB, but has been criticized as too rigid, prompting states and districts to retool their assessments, instructional plans, and even schedules in order to meet its targets. It has also been blamed for a watering down of standards, so that fewer schools get sanctioned under NCLB rules. The new metric would measure student progress toward readiness for college or a career, but these terms are yet to be more specifically defined. While some observers, such as **Kati Haycock** of the *Education Trust*, praise the general direction of proposed changes as a move toward a more nuanced set of decisions that don't make it just pass/fail, others find them overly vague. I don't know how you collect the data that's meaningful to say that a school is achieving [the equivalent of] AYP, especially when it comes to a career-readiness standard, said **Mark Bielang**, a Michigan superintendent. Different skills apply to different careers. It seems a lot more like a portfolio-based [assessment] system would be appropriate.

Read more:

[http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2010/02/05/21eseaweb\\_ep.h29.html?tkn=YPFhGWNTzYU91BMRs%2FoM1d3WFB1Qj5%2FOE](http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2010/02/05/21eseaweb_ep.h29.html?tkn=YPFhGWNTzYU91BMRs%2FoM1d3WFB1Qj5%2FOE)

## **LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE: Open Enrollment**

AALA is conducting an Open Enrollment for the UNUM Group Long Term Care Insurance Plan, which will end **February 28, 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 when you do your taxes.

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 want an Enrollment Packet, please call or e-mail Specialists in Long Term Care Insurance Services, Inc., at 800.764.6585 or [info@specialistsinlongtermcare.com](mailto:info@specialistsinlongtermcare.com). You can also go to the website [w3.unum.com/enroll/aala](http://w3.unum.com/enroll/aala)

### **THE FORUM IS HERE! BRING YOUR COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS!**

**ACSA REGION XVI and AALA are proud to host an  
Educational Forum with the candidates for State Superintendent of  
Public Instruction on**

**Thursday, February 25, 2010, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.,**

**at Los Angeles Central Area High School #9 (Visual and Performing Arts),  
450 North Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, 90012.**

Additional supporting organizations include Alliance of Asian/Pacific Administrators (AAPA), Association of Jewish Educators (AJE), Association of Mexican American Educators (AMAE), California Council for Adult Education (CCA), Council of Black Administrators (COBA), The Council of Mexican American Administrators (CMAA), Elementary Principals Organization (EPO), Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, Los Angeles School Police Association, Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council, Phi Delta Kappa-CSUN Chapter, Teamsters, UNITE-LA, and United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA)

**THE OTHER GAP**

According to a new report from the *Center on Evaluation & Education Policy*, a convincing body of evidence suggests an "excellence gap"—an achievement gap at the higher levels of academic performance—has been overlooked due to an emphasis on gaps among demographic groups at minimum competency levels. **The economically disadvantaged, English Language Learners, and historically underprivileged minorities represent a smaller proportion of students scoring at the highest levels of achievement, and there is a persistent gender gap as well, with females performing better in reading and males performing better in math.** Data show little progress in substantially reducing excellence gaps since the passage of NCLB, particularly in reading, although there is also little existing evidence to support claims that NCLB-mandated accountability systems are increasing excellence gaps. The report recommends that the closing of this other gap be made a national priority. Any policy discussions should include questions about how it will affect the brightest students, especially those from lower-income families, and how it will help other students begin to achieve at higher levels. "This attention need not come at the cost of addressing minimum competency," the authors write. "Yet continuing to pretend that a nearly complete disregard of high achievement is permissible, especially among underperforming subgroups, is a formula for a mediocre K-12 education system and long-term economic decline."

See the report: <http://ceep.indiana.edu/mindthegap/>

**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

**IN MEMORIAM**

**ROBERT BOSANKO** – Former Principal of Nimitz Middle School and Venice High School, and Assistant Principal of Bell high School. He resigned on June 30, 1972, to Principal of Mission Viejo and El Toro high schools and President of Saddleback Community College. He passed away on February 1, 2010. Donations in his memory may be made to The Salvation Army or the Presbyterian Church of the Master, 26051 Marguerite Parkway, Mission Viejo, CA 92692.

**GERALD BURKE** – Former Assistant Principal of Hamilton and Chatsworth high schools and of Sutter, Gompers, Sun Valley, and Henry middle schools. He retired on June 30, 1984, and passed away on February 12, 2010. Services will be held on Monday, February 22, 2010, 1:30 p.m., at Weaver Mortuary, 1177 Beaumont Avenue, Beaumont, CA, 951.845.1141.

## SCHOOL-BASED ADMINISTRATIVE EXAMINATION PROCESS

LAUSD Human Resources (HR) Division has been charged with streamlining the school-based administrative examination process. A key component of this streamlined process will continue to be the *Recommendation of Readiness (RoR)*. HR staff is in the process of working with focus groups on strengthening the *RoR* process to ensure that it will foster a critical analysis of each candidate, adding objectivity and fairness to the process.

Tentatively, HR plans to begin offering the new streamlined school-based administrative examination in Fall 2010. As the components of the new process unfold, HR Division has committed to partner with AALA to make the members fully aware of the new examination process.

### SUMMARIES OF CONFERENCES: ANONYMOUS CORRESPONDENCE

This is a reminder to all AALA members that conferences with supervisors during which concerns are expressed regarding performance of duties or other matters and are followed by a written conference summary are to be taken seriously. This may be the first sign that disciplinary action, or a less than satisfactory evaluation, is a possibility. Members receiving summaries of conferences are advised to contact the AALA office *immediately* so that we may discuss the problem(s) and develop strategies for future action.

**If you are invited to a conference with a supervisor, ask if the conference involves the possibility of discipline. If it does, contact AALA and ask for an AALA representative to attend the conference with you. It is your right to have representation!**

Also, from time to time individuals are asked by their supervisor to respond to anonymous correspondence. If you are asked to make a formal response to unsigned, unidentified correspondence, which almost always is expressing criticism of your performance, please contact the AALA office *before* responding.

It is important to keep in mind that **Article VII, Section 5.0** requires that any derogatory written correspondence which is considered to be critical of an employee's performance of duties or character—if it is going to be retained by the District—must be provided to the employee within ten (10) working days of receipt of the allegations. Documents provided or discovered beyond the required ten (10)-day period are subject to the grievance procedure, and ultimately will be destroyed.

**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.

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, SECONDARY**

**Drew Middle School (7) MST 40**, 8511 S. Compton Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90001  
 Drew is an A Basis school. For information and application procedures contact **Daryl Narimatsu**, Director, at 323.242.1314. **Filing Deadline is Tuesday, March 2, 2010.**

**Fremont High School (7) MST 40**, 7676 S. San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, CA 90003  
 Fremont is an A Basis school. For information and application procedures contact **Russ Thompson**, Director, at 323.242.1300. **Filing Deadline is Tuesday, March 2, 2010.**

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, SECONDARY COUNSELING SERVICES (SCS)**

**Fremont High School (7) MST 40**, 7676 S. San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, CA 90003  
 Fremont is an A Basis school. For information and application procedures contact **Russ Thompson**, Director, at 323.242.1300. **Filing Deadline is Tuesday, March 2, 2010.**

**INSTRUCTIONAL SPECIALIST**

**Stevenson Middle School, MST 39**, 725 S. Indiana Street, Los Angeles, CA 90023  
 Stevenson is part of The Partnership for Los Angeles Schools, and B Basis. For additional information contact **Justin Sergi**, The Partnership for Los Angeles Schools, at [justin.sergi@partnershipla.org](mailto:justin.sergi@partnershipla.org). **Filing deadline is Friday, February 26, 2010, or until filled.**

**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
<p><b>COORDINATOR, CHARTER SCHOOLS DIVISION, MST 41, B Basis, Charter Schools Division.</b></p> <p><b>DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL OVERSIGHT, MST 45, B Basis, Charter Schools Division.</b></p> <p>For information and application procedures contact <b>Aaron Eairleywine</b>, Central Business Advisor, at 213.241.5516</p>	<p><b>UNTIL FILLED</b></p>