

UPDATE

Week of October 19, 2009

WHERE IS THE ACCOUNTABILITY? WHERE IS THE LEADERSHIP?

For the second time in a little over a year, the Local District 8 Superintendent has failed to provide support for a principal. She has also negated the capabilities of the 19 remaining candidates on the Secondary Principals' Eligibility List by initiating a 4214 without first conferring with AALA and without following the District's regular assignment process. Let's begin with the facts:

Gardena High School's Principal, Kevin Kennedy's Reassignment Chronology

- 10:00 a.m. Monday, October 5, 2009 – At his request, Mr. **Kevin Kennedy** meets with Ms. Del Cueto, Local District 8 Superintendent, to share information regarding faculty members who have issues about the school and his leadership.
- 3:30 p.m. Monday, October 5, 2009 – Local District 8 Superintendent, Ms. Del Cueto meets with approximately 30 faculty members from Gardena High School.
- 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 6, 2009 – **Juan Flecha**, Local District 8 Director, calls Mr. Kennedy and directs him to a meeting with Ms. Del Cueto at which time Ms. Del Cueto indicates that she has lost confidence in his leadership of Gardena High School. Further, Mr. Kennedy is told his last day at Gardena is Friday, October 9, 2009. He is told to wait until late in the day and then put a letter in the mailboxes after staff has left. This directive is later rescinded and he is told to make the announcement on Thursday, October 8, 2009. **FOR THE RECORD, MR. KENNEDY WAS NEITHER AFFORDED DUE PROCESS NOR PROFESSIONAL COURTESY.**
- Mr. Kennedy received a "meets" Stull Evaluation with no recommendations to improve at the close of the 2008-2009 school year.
- Mr. Kennedy has not received a single conference memo this year or last school year.
- Ms. Del Cueto advised Mr. Cortines (per Mr. Cortines' phone conversation with Dr. **Judith Perez** on Wednesday, October 7, 2009) that Mr. Kennedy was ill and lacking in energy. In fact, Mr. Kennedy's health is fine and his energy level is high (any interested party may check with Mr. Kennedy and/or his physician).
- Currently, there are 19 eligible candidates on the Secondary Principals' Eligibility List, all of whom deserve the right to compete for a vacant position.
- Ms. Del Cueto stated in a memo dated October 8, 2009, to Superintendent Cortines, with a noted copy to AALA President, Dr. Judith Perez, and Board of Education Member, Dr. **Richard Vladovic**, "**Please know that I have reviewed the current eligibility list for this class. The candidates on the list are not a match to effectively transform Gardena High School.**" No other Board Member was copied.
- Research indicates that Ms. Del Cueto selected Mr. Kennedy to serve as principal of Gardena High School on February 1, 2008. Ms. Del Cueto reassigned Mr. Kennedy effective October 12, 2009.

WHERE IS ACCOUNTABILITY? LEADERSHIP? (Continued)

AAALA is requesting that Superintendent Cortines respond in writing to the following questions:

1. How many times did the Local District Superintendent visit Gardena High School to determine the real issues that needed to be addressed?
2. What assistance and guidance did the Local District 8 Superintendent provide Mr. Kennedy prior to his reassignment?
3. Did the Local District 8 Superintendent interview all of the 19 candidates on the District's Secondary Principals' Eligibility list before recommending a 4214* assignment?
4. What analysis did the Local District 8 Superintendent undertake to determine that "The candidates on the list are not a match to effectively transform Gardena High School?"
5. Why did the Local District 8 Superintendent give AALA President, Dr. Judith Perez, different reasons for the reassignment of Mr. Kennedy than she provided to Superintendent Cortines?
6. Did the Local District 8 Superintendent receive a written evaluation for the 2008-2009 school year?
7. Will Superintendent Cortines create a District Task Force entitled: "How To Be An Effective Local District Superintendent?"

In a letter to Superintendent Cortines and Board Members, dated October 9, 2009, AALA has requested that the selection of a principal for Gardena High School be transparent and follow the District's authorized process. AALA further requested that Ms. Del Cueto and the Superintendent give a letter of apology to Mr. Kennedy for the shabby handling of this matter.

**4214: A particular position may be placed in a special class and filled by direct appointment of an employee under the following conditions:*

The Superintendent or designee finds that the particular position requires an incumbent with special personal or professional qualifications, not a part of the class description for the regular class, and recommends a direct appointment.

The employee must file for and take the examination for the class when next offered.

HEALTH BENEFITS INFORMATION MEETING

Do you (active or retired) have questions about the 2010 Health Plans? Come to the November 9, 2009, AALA-sponsored Health Benefits Information Meeting for answers.

Date: Monday, November 9, 2009
Time: 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Location: Board Room, LAUSD Headquarters, 333 S. Beaudry, Los Angeles

Validated Parking: Visconti Garage (Entrance on Miramar St.).
Handicapped Parking (with valid placard): Beaudry Building parking structure.

E-MAIL TO THE SUPERINTENDENT

Perez, Judith

From: Perez, Judith
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2009 9:21 AM
To: Cortines, Ramon
Subject: Public School Choice Documents
Attachments: Workforce Stability Taskforce Comments (rev.) 10.5.09.doc

Dear Mr. Cortines:

On October 5, 2009, I made comments to the Workforce Stability Task Force regarding administrators' concerns in relation to the Public School Choice resolution. AALA suggests the following ways to improve the process you have created to review applications submitted by LAUSD schools and charters to operate the 12 focus schools and 24 new schools:

Applications must address:

1. How the needs of **English Learners** will be met: Your Oct. 16 documents do not mention administrative oversight and supervision of the instructional program, CELDT testing, analysis of test data, classroom organization, appropriate teacher credentialing, professional development or parent involvement.
2. How the needs of **Special Education students** will be met: Your Oct. 16 documents leave out these students altogether. Applications must address how these students will receive a free and appropriate education. Further, they must describe the administrative oversight of Special Education assessments, the IEP process, special services provided to students, scheduling mainstreaming, monitoring student progress, ensuring safety, professional development and parent involvement.

The District must require schools to:

1. Maintain District records (e.g., cumulative records, student health cards).
2. Use existing District data systems (e.g., SIS, ISIS, MyData) to track student information and progress.

Finally, the District must provide heightened oversight to ensure the needs of English Learners and Special Education students are met by any independent charter organization that operates LAUSD schools. For too long, charters have had minimal oversight, at best. Let's level the playing field. Accountability is necessary for all.

Best,

Judy Perez

SOCIAL SECURITY FAIRNESS RALLY

November 7, 2009

10:00 a.m. to Noon

The Pavilion at the Pasadena Convention Center

300 East Green Street – Pasadena

COME TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR:

- Social Security Fairness for California Public Employees.
- Senator Feinstein’s S 484 and Representatives Berman, McKeon and Schiff’s HR 235 to repeal the Social Security penalties (Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision) affecting the earned, paid for benefits of California public safety, fire fighters, teachers, local government public servants.
- California’s legislators who voted for Assembly Joint Resolution 10 (Torlakson) urging Congress to pass, and President Obama to sign, Social Security Fairness legislation.

Confirmed Speakers/Organizations

Carolyn Widener, California Federation of Teachers; **Dennis Smith**, California Federation of Teachers; **Ken Hewitt**, California Retired Teachers Association; California School Boards Association (tentative); California Teachers Association; Association of California School Administrators; Faculty Association of California Community Colleges; and Los Angeles Community College Faculty Guild

Invited Speakers

The Honorable **Dianne Feinstein** - *Pending*

The Honorable **Howard Berman**

The Honorable **Howard “Buck” McKeon**

The Honorable **Carol Liu**

The Honorable **Brian Nestande**

The Honorable **Anthony Portantino**

Associated Administrators of Los Angeles

United Teachers Los Angeles

United States Senate

United States Congressional District 28

United States Congressional District 25

California State Senate

California State Assembly

California State Assembly

Directions

From the 134 eastbound:

Take the 134 east to the 210 east and exit at Fair Oaks/Marengo. Turn right on Marengo and proceed 4 blocks to Green Street. Turn left onto Green Street. The Pasadena Convention Center is located on the right hand side at 300 E. Green.

From the 110 northbound:

Take the 110 freeway north to the end of the freeway. Proceed north on Arroyo Parkway. Turn right onto Green Street. The Pasadena Convention Center is located two blocks down on the right hand side at 300 E. Green.

FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL'S PRINCIPAL: A FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP

Visitors approaching Franklin High School immediately sense the school's inviting atmosphere by the word "Welcome" in world languages emblazoned across the entire front of the main building. **Luis Lopez**, principal and alumnus of Franklin, is equally welcoming to students, staff, and community, alike, as he emerges from an office located right off the main office's reception area.

Last year, despite having faced several major crises and the looming threat of teacher layoffs, the school was able to maintain its focus and raise API scores by 35 points. Reflecting continuing gains, the school had achieved full six years of WASC accreditation during Lopez' first year as the school's principal in 2005-2006. Lopez attributes his school's steady growth in API scores to the "family environment," a combination of caring and qualified staff with a focus on instruction, and strong community support and university partnerships. Six Small Learning Communities (SLCs)—Arts, Business & Sports Science; American Studies; Arroyo Seco; Health and Human Services; Math, Science, & Technology (Magnet); and Media & Graphic Arts offer students rich and unique experiences in a caring environment where teacher-student relationships are at the heart of learning.

The school's instructional and professional development programs are tightly aligned through sustained implementation of *Understanding by Design* (UBD). Established by assessment experts, Wiggins and McTighe (1998), teachers work together to implement the "backward design" process that begins with determining how students will demonstrate understanding of "big" ideas. They then design brain-based instructional strategies to achieve student-learning outcomes. To ensure that everyone is on the same page, teachers participate in one-week UBD workshops at the beginning of each school year. Any new teacher must take "booster" UBD courses, and during the year, 10-15 teachers attend annual UBD conferences.

Despite the school's instructional focus, Franklin faces continuing PI 5 status, due to one sub-group not meeting AYP targets—English Language Learners (ELLs). To address ELLs learning needs, Lopez ensures that teachers use student achievement data to develop both short-term and long-term strategies. In addition to classroom instruction, ELLs participate in systematic support, both team-based and individualized. These supports include after-school tutoring, pullout instruction, Saturday school, and family contracts. The school is also involved in Project Sol, a large UCLA math project that partners with the University of Mexico to provide primary language support to ELLs enrolled in Algebra classes.

When asked how the school maintains its upbeat focus on students and their learning, Lopez proudly emphasizes all the positive things happening at the school—like the close university partnership programs with Occidental College and UCLA, like the Franklin High School Scholarship Fund endowed with \$2.5 million that provides graduating seniors scholarships of \$200 to \$4,000 a year (for up to five years), like the college-going climate established through Upward Bound and Gear-Up, like the involvement of noted community leaders in scholarship fundraising efforts, and like the vision and efforts of dedicated teachers, administrators, support staff, and community partners working together to ensure student success.

CSULA TIER I PROGRAM INFORMATION

Join the newest Educational Administration Program in the Charter College of Education at **California State University, Los Angeles**. This **ONE-YEAR Program with final assessment** is designed for aspiring administrators who have *at least two years of successful teaching experience with CA Professional Clear teaching credentials*. One of the special features of the Program is the intertwined curriculum for both degrees and service credentials. Upon successful completion of the program, candidates receive a Master of Arts Degree in Educational Administration and the California Preliminary Administrative Services Credential. You get both the MA degree and the credential all at once. You will start the program in Fall 2010 and complete it in Fall 2011.

We have scheduled two information meetings for your convenience. You only need to attend one.

Educational Administration Program (Tier 1)

Fall 2010 Recruitment Meetings

Dates: November 2, 2009 (Monday) or November 12, 2009 (Thursday)

Time: 4:20 – 6:00 p.m.

Place: King Hall D2076A, CSULA
5151 State University Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 90032

Phone: 323.343.4330

**Bring the application materials to the meeting. Download them from*
<http://www.calstatela.edu/academic/ccoe/docs/tier1app.doc>

REMINDER...

AALA RETIREES FALL LUNCHEON

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2009

THE CENTER AT CATHEDRAL PLAZA

11:00 A.M., Social

11:30 A.M., Speaker

Guest speaker: LARRY ACEVES,

Candidate for State Superintendent of Public Instruction

12:30 Lunch

Health Benefits Update by GEORGE TISCHLER

Join USC's Ed.D. Cohort and Become a Change Agent in Urban Education.

EARN YOUR DOCTORATE IN 3 YEARS!

USC's Ed.D. is a 3-year degree program that equips practitioner-scholars with the skills needed to connect research with practice, lead high-performing organizations, and help all students learn.

The program is designed for working professionals who want to be leaders in urban education and offers concentrations in K-12 Leadership in Urban School Settings, Educational Psychology, Teacher Education in Multicultural Societies (TEMS), and Higher Education Administration.

Learn how you can join the Fall 2010 USC Ed.D. Cohort:

- **October 27- Ed.D. Information Session-** 6:30-8:00 p.m.- USC University Club- 645 West Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles
- **November 5- USC Reception at ACSA-** 5:30 p.m.- Sheraton Grand Sacramento- 1230 J St., Sacramento
- **November 9- Ed.D. Information Session-** 4:30-6:00 p.m.- Pacific Palms Resort- One Industry Hills Parkway, Industry Hills
- **November 21- Ed.D. Prospective Student Day-** 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.- Radisson Hotel- 3540 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles

For information contact **Carolyn Stirling**, Associate Director, Recruiting and Admissions, USC Rossier School of Education, at rsoeadm@usc.edu or 213.740.0224.

IN MEMORIAM

RONI PARKER - former Director, Instructional Support Services; Assistant Principal, Mann Middle School; Specialist, Secondary Counseling Services; and Assistant Principal, SCS, Los Angeles High School and Berendo Middle School. Ms. Parker passed away on October 14, 2009. Funeral services will be held on Friday, October 23, 2009, 10:00 a.m., at Victory Baptist Church, 4802 McKinley Avenue, Los Angeles. Condolences may be sent to **Berlin Parker** and family at 3825 S. Burnside Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90008.

DOMINIC "DOM" SHAMBRA - former Director of Planning and Development, Principal of First Street Elementary School, and Assistant Principal of Woodlawn Elementary School. Dominic passed away on October 19, 2009. Viewing services on Sunday, October 25, 2009, 5:00-7:00 p.m., at Pierce Brothers, Turner & Stevens, 1136 E. Las Tunas Dr., San Gabriel. Funeral services will be on Monday, October 26, 2009, 12:00 noon, at Holy Family Church, 1501 Fremont Avenue, South Pasadena. Donations in his honor may be made to AEIOU Scholarship Fund, c/o **Al Fasani**, 4981 Ariano Dr., Cypress, CA 90630.

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

NAME	DATE, TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT
Verteane Lett Bereal	Saturday, November 14, 2009 11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	The Reef on the Water 880 Harbor Scenic Dr. Long Beach	Norma Berryman 323.242.1315 Faye Banton 310.631.7522

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, SECONDARY

West Adams Prep High School (MLA) MST 45, 1500 W. Washington Bl., Los Angeles, CA 90007
West Adams is an MLA Partner School. For information and application procedures contact **Elsa Chagolla**, Chief Operating Officer, MLA Partner Schools, at 213.745.4928. **Filing deadline EXTENDED TO Friday, October 30, 2009.**

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
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
SPECIALIST, LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT, K-12, Temp. Adv., MST 38, B Basis. For information and application procedures contact Don Macintosh/Emily Kuwahara , Administrative Coordinators, Support Unit South, at 310.354.3431.	4:00 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, 2009
ADMINISTRATOR, EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, MST 40, B Basis, Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and School Support. For information and application procedures contract Ruth Yoon at 213.241.8172.	4:00 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, 2009

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED POSITION STILL AVAILABLE

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