

UPDATE

Week of April 20, 2009

PERCEPTION IS EVERYTHING

When does perception become reality? During the current budget discourse with Superintendent **Ramon Cortines** and members of the Board of Education, AALA and the other employee unions have continued to stress the fact that the federal economic stimulus money provided to school districts by President **Barack Obama** is to be used primarily to avoid immediate employee layoffs. In addition, members of Congress have written a letter to LAUSD School Board Members specifically reminding them of this stimulus goal in the recovery act legislation.

Despite these entreaties, **the Superintendent and Board Members—Mónica García, Yolie Flores Aguilar, Marlene Canter and Richard Vladovic—passed an unwise motion last week that disregarded the intent of the economic stimulus and the directive from the President of the United States and the Congress.** Therefore, LAUSD employees, parents and all supporters of public education in Los Angeles need to ask the question, WHY? Why would this “simple” majority of Board Members upon the advice of the Superintendent vote to not use the approximately one billion dollars in available stimulus money as well as the approximately one hundred million dollars in savings engendered by the retirement incentive program to address a five hundred million dollar deficit and thereby prevent layoffs? Let us state the figures again, ONE BILLION DOLLARS in stimulus money to address a HALF BILLION DOLLAR deficit.

The Superintendent keeps saying that he is being fiscally responsible. **But, he is actually being irresponsible with the well-being of the District.** Laying off 9,000 or more employees is the height of irresponsibility at a time when more than enough money is available in 2009-10 to cover all employee costs. The employee unions have stated that if a budget deficit exists in 2010-11 and beyond, they would consider various means to address that need. This is called collaborative responsibility, a belief we all possess. No bargaining unit wants to see the District fail because that would mean that we are failing our students. We are in uncertain times, and no one can see more than one year into the future. However, if we address the needs of 2009-10 with the more than necessary available resources, we can collectively and collaboratively plan for future needs in a spirit of mutual trust and respect.

The Superintendent knows that he can prevent layoffs and still redirect central staff to schools if that is his goal. Teacher advisors, clerical staff, custodians and even central office administrators can certainly perform those tasks at school sites. We shouldn't forget that most central office employees came from school sites prior to their central office assignment.

PERCEPTION IS EVERYTHING (Continued)

As of right now, the Superintendent and the four aforementioned Board Members who publicly state that they are pro-labor are acting in direct opposition to workers and the President of the United States. AALA would also like to know if Mayor **Antonio Villaraigosa** is anti-labor being that the Superintendent and three of the four Board Members who voted for the layoffs are directly beholden to him for their current positions. This anti-labor perception of the Superintendent, the four Board Members and the Mayor may or may not be correct. However, perception is everything, and if it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it just might be a duck!

Mr. Superintendent, Ms. García, Ms. Flores Aguilar, Ms. Canter and Dr. Vladovic, there is still time to reconsider your ill-conceived budget and work collaboratively with your employee unions to utilize the stimulus and retirement incentive program savings to prevent layoffs in 2009-10 while working collaboratively to meet your school reform goals. Remember, perception is everything and it is up to you to revisit reality.

IN MEMORIAM

EARNEST DANIELS – Former Assistant Principal at Manual Arts, Reseda, and Garfield high schools, Horace Mann Middle School. He retired on July 1, 1995, and passed away on January 19, 2009.

ANTHONY "TONY" VENTRESCA – Former Principal at Lawrence, Muir, Burbank, and Millikan middle schools. Former Assistant Principal at Dorsey and Chatsworth high schools and Mount Gleason, Sutter, and Lawrence middle schools. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2009, at St. Stephan's Lutheran Church (818.891.1759), 15950 Chatsworth Street, Granada Hills.

HARRY NISHISAKA – Former Supervisor, Certification Promotional Selection; former Principal at Ninety-Fifth Street and Gardner Street schools. He retired on July 1, 1994, and passed away on April 19, 2009. A funeral service will be held on Monday, April 27, 2009, at 10:30 a.m., at Senshin Buddhist Temple, 1311 West 37th Street, Los Angeles.

JULIE KORENSTEIN'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

Julie Korenstein is retiring after 20 years of diligent service as a Member of the Board of Education. Help us say good-bye to an LAUSD legend. The celebration will take place on Sunday, June 14, 2009, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Porter Valley Country Club, 19219 Singing Hills Drive, Northridge. The cost is \$45 per person (includes champagne brunch and gift). Space is limited so please RSVP to korenstein.retirement@gmail.com by May 15, 2009.

If you would like to share a few words to thank Julie, or if you have any questions, please contact **Lisa Kendrick** at lisa.kendrick@lausd.net or 213.241.8137.

OWEN "NEAL" CORNELL

Neal Cornell was one of LAUSD's "Heroes and Teachers." During World War II, Neal served his country well. He was a "grunt"— an infantryman in the United States Army. His unit was involved in the invasion of Normandy, France. They landed on Omaha Beach. After his landing craft struck a mine on the way into the beach, he and his fellow soldiers waded ashore, dodging shells and bullets. He was involved in numerous campaigns. In addition to Normandy, there were battles in northern France, the Ardennes, Central Europe, the Rhineland, and the Battle of the Bulge. His unit continued in combat until the end of the war. Neal was decorated with the Bronze Star and Cluster, Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Arrowhead for the D-Day Invasion, and five campaign stars.

After the war, he continued his education at Occidental College (Bachelor's Degree) and at the University of Southern California (Master's Degree). Neal began his LAUSD service in 1948 and was a teacher at Latona, Atwater, and Eagle Rock elementary schools. He served as an Assistant Principal at Rowan and Atwater schools. Neal also served as Principal at Loreto, Solano, Hillside, Utah, and Latona schools. Neal gave service to the community as a long-time member of Optimist. He was very active in the administrators' organization, serving as President of the Association of Elementary School Administrators (AESA). He retired from the District on September 15, 1986. Neal Cornell passed away on April 21, 2009. He will be missed.

DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS FOR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Twelve Los Angeles area schools made the state's distinguished list for student achievement. El Camino Real High School in Woodland Hills and Francisco Bravo Medical Magnet High School in East Los Angeles were selected from the Los Angeles Unified School District. Ten of the honored schools are Los Angeles area charter schools.

A total of 261 middle and high schools across the state received the award this week for narrowing achievement gaps between student groups.

The California School Recognition Program, conducted by the State Department of Education, requires schools to provide an in-depth description of two "signature" practices that are replicable and directly related to student success. The signature practices are then investigated and analyzed for their effectiveness, according to the announcement.

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2009 – The **Los Angeles School Police Foundation** and **Los Angeles School Police Department K-9 Unit** will be hosting their 3rd Annual Golf Tournament at the Los Serranos Country Club in Chino Hills. All proceeds will benefit the LASP K-9 Unit. Carne asada lunch buffet and awards banquet are included. For further information contact **Jimmy Conner** at 213.393.4409

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2009 – The ACSA Region XVI Annual Administrators of the Year Award Banquet will be held at Casa Italiana Restaurant, 1051 North Broadway, Los Angeles, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

RETIREMENT CELEBRATIONS

Name	Date, Time	Location	Contact
Carmen Schroeder	Sunday, June 7, 2009 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Almanson Court 700 S. Almanson St. Alhambra	Irma Medina 323.224.3190
Patricia (McKenna) Forkos	Thursday, June 25, 2009 5:00 p.m.	Acapulco Restaurant 6270 E. Pac. Coast Hwy. Long Beach	Sharon Sweet 323.278.3963
Maxine Matlen	Friday, June 5, 2009 5:30 – 11:30 p.m.	Pickwick Gardens 1001 W. Riverside Dr. Burbank	Susana Cuevas 818.781.1040
Ken Easum	Saturday, May 30, 2009 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Odyssey Restaurant 15600 Odyssey Dr. Granada Hills	Mattie Kelly 213.241.0600
Rebecca Huffman	Friday, May 15, 2009 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.	94 th Aero Squadron 16320 Raymer Street Van Nuys	Marie Ferry 818.773.4700
Joseph P. Santana	Sunday, June 14, 2009 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Almanson Court 700 S. Almanson St. Alhambra	Ms. Bustos Ms. Ceja 213.745.3700 Ext. 3719
Michael O'Sullivan	Saturday, June 6, 2009 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Center at Cathedral Plaza 555 West Temple Street Los Angeles	AALA 213.484.2226
Nancy Festa Merrilee Glick	Saturday, June 20, 2009 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Maggiano's At the Grove Los Angeles	Bridget Arce 213.241.3373 bridget.arce@lausd.net
Richard Alonzo	Saturday, July 18, 2009 4:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Grapevine Arbor Hist. San Gab. Miss. Dist. 234 S. Mission Drive San Gabriel	Danny Palma Danny.palma@lausd.net

REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY REPORT FOR MARCH 26, 2009

Members received the 2009-10 AALA Budget as a noticed motion that will be voted on at the May 14, 2009, meeting. Nominations for AALA Executive Board positions were accepted and nominations were taken from the floor. All active members will receive ballots that will include the Office of President as well as the members' department office. Winners will be announced at the May 14, 2009, meeting. Various department concerns were also addressed.

AALA appreciates the participation of the following members as representatives at the March 26, 2009, meeting. Adult Department – **Fred Hermosillo, Ben Avila, Howard Saxe and Richard Wormus**; Elementary Department – **Angel Barrett, Joan Blair, Judith Perez, Elizabeth Abramowitz, Janet Chapman, Andre Cunningham, Judy Dichter, Eva Garcia, Sharon Kaiser, Kerry Kehrley, Marie Leyva, Lisa Marmon, Debra Hirsch, Janet Johnson, Barbara Friedrich, Jane Urbina, Ken Urbina, Traci Calhoun, Helen Yu, Marguerite Murphy, Emily Dixon, Barbara Honig, Diane Sanchez, David Santamaria, Richard Guillen, Leticia Muranaga, Wendy Molina-Solis, William Otto, Vermel Taylor, Cathy Margulies, John Graham and Kimberly Wright**; Secondary Department – **Margaret Prietto, Scott Schmerelson, Mark Simmons, Ann Allocca, Mike Smith, Dan Schar, Pamela Donesley, Stephen Foster, Erick Mitchell, John Ford, Tom Jones, Sayne Maza, Randy Delling, Salvador Velasco, Robert Weinberg, Elke Allwelt Miyahara, W. Crockett, Marino Parada, Odus Caldwell, Ken Easum, Alex Placencio, Harold Starr, Fay Chu, Dan Ellis and Karen Redway**; Supervisory Department – **Marsha Oh-Bilodeau, Manuel Caldera, Michael Guillemet, Zepore Kivork, Robert Meier, Martin Myers, Karen Timko, Evon Smith, Lisa Regan, Cheryl Fayson, Euna Anderson, Elizabeth Blackwell, Karen Bowles, Carol Collins, Delores Johnson, Maylin Ramirez, Bertha Reynaga, Terri Winbush, Wendy Peel, Joe Salvemini and Phil Naimo**; Association of Asian Pacific Administrators (AAPA) – **Brian Sida**; Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) – **Bob Kladifko and Jack Moscowitz**; Council of Black Administrators (COBA) – **J. Maxie Hemmans and Edna Burems**; President – **Mike O'Sullivan**. AALA staff present included: **Dan Basalone, Dan Isaacs, Jane Pollock, Lorraine Bush, Gema Pivaral, Gloria Souquette, Cathy Vacca, Steve Weingarten and Jack Silas**.

AGAIN, OUR THANKS TO ALL MEMBERS WHO SERVE OUR ASSOCIATION.

PEPPERDINE SEMINAR

The Pepperdine University Graduate School of Education and Psychology and The Superintendent Advisory Council presents **“Lessons From Successful Charter Schools.”** Discussion topics include: Using Accountability Measures & Data to Improve Student Achievement; Parent Engagement & Outreach; Creating a College-Bound Culture; and Utilizing Community Partnerships to Support Student Achievement. Presenters include experts and peers from Alliance for College-Ready Public Schools, Global Education Academy (K-5), Camino Nuevo Charter Academy (K-8), Oakland Aviation High School, and Gertz-Ressler High School.

Come to learn and network on May 9, 2009, 8:30 a.m. —2 p.m., at Pepperdine University West Los Angeles Graduate Campus, 6100 Center Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Further information and registration can be found at <http://gsep.pepperdine.edu/charter-school> or call 310.568.5622.

ONE IN 50 CHILDREN HOMELESS

A new report from the National Center on Family Homelessness finds that one in every 50 American children is now homeless, approximately 1.5 million. "America's Youngest Outcasts: State Report Card on Child Homelessness" offers a comprehensive, state-by-state analysis of child homelessness, ranking the 50 states in terms of severity. "Children without homes are on the frontline of the nation's economic crisis," says **Ellen L. Bassuk**, president of the National Center on Family Homelessness and associate professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. She added that as numbers of home foreclosures rise, child homelessness will rise correspondingly. According to the report, children experiencing homelessness have twice the rate of moderate-to-severe health conditions compared to middle-class children, and twice the incidence of emotional problems. Homeless children struggle in school, with an average of 16 percent lower proficiency in math and reading, and an estimated graduation rate below 25 percent overall. It's possible to end child homelessness within a decade, the report says, using dedicated funds from local, state, and federal governments, combined with reallocated dollars. Making homeless children a priority must come from the top, and "this is a perfect opportunity for President Obama to ensure that the Interagency Council on Homelessness expands its focus to include children and families," and coordinates its efforts with similar congressional activities.

Read more: <http://www.homelesschildrenamerica.org/>

PHILLY'S DISTRICT-RUN SCHOOLS OUTPERFORM PRIVATIZED SCHOOLS

A new study from Johns Hopkins University has found that pupils at district-run schools in Philadelphia outpaced privatized peers on state exams, according to *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. The report in the May issue of *The American Journal of Education* looked at test scores of sixth, seventh, and eighth graders at 88 city schools from 1997 through 2006. "By 2006, the achievement gap between the privatized group and the rest of the district was greater than it was before the intervention," states **Vaughn Byrnes**, author of the study. This jibes with earlier studies, and comes at a critical moment for Philadelphia's privatization experiment, largest of its kind in the country. Of the 18 school contracts due for renewal, 12 are managed by for-profit Edison Learning. **Jeanne Allen**, school-choice advocate, says the study should be looked at in context—outside managers took on the lowest-performing schools. **Helen Gym**, a founder of Parents United for Public Education, disagrees: "Philadelphia is probably the last major urban city that's experimenting with [privatization]—it's on the tail end, not the cutting edge," she said. "We don't think these managers have given us the result they promised, despite millions of dollars and years and years of time."

Read more:

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/education/20090409_Study_District-run_Philadelphia_schools_top_manager-run_ones.html

ASSOCIATED ADMINISTRATORS OF LOS ANGELES

SCHOLARSHIP/COMMUNITY AWARDS BANQUET

MILLENNIUM BILTMORE HOTEL
GOLD ROOM
506 SOUTH GRAND AVENUE, LOS ANGELES

DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2009

TIME: 5:30 P.M. – SOCIAL HOUR
6:30 P.M. – DINNER
7:30 P.M. – PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

- SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS
- COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER AWARDS

COST: \$70.00

PARKING: \$22 VALET IN HOTEL
\$6 SELF-PARKING – PERSHING SQUARE

----- TEAR-OFF -----

SCHOLARSHIP/COMMUNITY AWARDS BANQUET

RETURN TEAR-OFF WITH CHECK TO: AALA, 1910 SUNSET BLVD., SUITE 510
LOS ANGELES, CA 90026

RESERVATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, MAY 11, 2009

NAME _____ PHONE () _____

NUMBER IN YOUR PARTY _____ CHECK ENCLOSED FOR _____

NAME OF GUEST(S) _____

PRERETIREMENT WORKSHOPS

The District and CalSTRS are co-sponsoring preretirement workshops for the 2008-2009 school year. Information will be provided regarding the calculation of retirement allowances, available options, required forms, and District requirements necessary to establish benefits upon retirement. Time will be provided at the end of the workshop presentation for questions and answers. The workshops are individual meetings (not a series). All CalSTRS members are encouraged to attend a preretirement workshop at least three (3) times during their career in order to plan for retirement security: early in their career; again just prior to age 50; and one (1) year prior to retirement. **All workshops will be held from 4:00-5:30 p.m. THESE ARE THE FINAL 2 WORKSHOPS OF THIS SCHOOL YEAR.**

Date	Location
04/30/09 (Th)	Holmes Avenue School Auditorium, 5108 Holmes Avenue, Los Angeles
05/07/09 (Th)	Noble Avenue School Auditorium, 8329 Noble Avenue, North Hills

For certificated retirement information visit www.teachinla.com/retirement.
 For assistance or further information contact Personnel Services and Research Branch at 213.241.6356.

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.

POSITIONS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED STILL AVAILABLE

Position	Location	Deadline	Contact
Principal, Secondary	Manual Arts High School	05/01/09	213.745.4928
Local District Superintendent	Local District 4	04/28/09	213.241.6131
Local District Superintendent	Local District 5	04/28/09	213.241.6131