

UPDATE

Week of October 6, 2008

JOHNSON OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL DILEMMA

In a recent edition of the *Los Angeles Times*, an article written by **Howard Blume** reported that Johnson Opportunity School was being moved from its present location in South Central Los Angeles to a site adjacent to the new Helen Bernstein HS in the Hollywood area. As Mr. Blume pointed out in his article, anyone who has ever visited Johnson has come away impressed with the quality of the educational program and staff, and their ability to meet the needs of some of the highest risk students in the District. Thanks to a dedicated staff of teachers, administrators, and support personnel who truly engage their students, the school is spotlessly clean, respectful of students and staff, and well organized. In other words, it is an exceptional school addressing the needs of students seeking a second or third chance to successfully earn their diplomas.

Johnson is being moved to make way for a new secondary school that will relieve overcrowding in a part of the city where new school construction is critically needed. However, moving Johnson miles across town may greatly discourage students from traveling the distance by bus each day. In addition, by placing the school adjacent to a regular high school, the at-risk students may be returned to an environment that created problems for them initially. The current location of Johnson is far enough away from other crowded secondary schools to allow the students to have a new beginning with minimal or no distractions. Isn't this, in part, the intent of the small school concept?

At a time when there is a Board of Education Resolution supporting the concept of small schools, the District is treating one of its currently exceptional small schools with far less priority and almost as a throwaway! To some degree, this is true of all of the exceptional continuation and opportunity schools in the District. These schools annually keep thousands of students from dropping out and instead support their obtaining diplomas. Anyone who has ever attended the Districtwide continuation and opportunity school graduation at Palisades Charter HS would always have fond memories of the students' achievement against difficult odds.

AALA realizes that school construction is attempting to meet the needs of all students. Hopefully, the new schools, especially secondary schools that are being constructed, will allow all students to be in a smaller school environment that is more consistent with the norms that exist in suburban school districts. We hope that, just as primary centers have been constructed to relieve the overcrowding in our elementary schools and provide a small school environment for our very youngest students, we would also build smaller secondary schools to meet the needs of our older at-risk students in continuation and opportunity schools. **Mr. Superintendent and Members of the Board of Education, please value your continuation and opportunity schools by making them an equal partner within your small schools initiative and an active part of the secondary schools division!**

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Are you taking advantage of the full range of expert services available through your LAUSD Employee Assistance Program (EAP)? With your EAP, you will find the information, resources, and referrals that you may need to improve life at home and at work.

- *Expert Counseling* – professional counselors are available to provide an objective viewpoint and expert guidance. You can have on-the-spot advice over the phone or a referral to work with a counselor face-to-face.
- *Legal Assistance* – help with resolving a legal dispute, drafting a will, or finding mediation services. You get a FREE initial 30-minute phone or in-person consultation with a local attorney or mediator, per separate legal matter. Additional services are available at a 25% discount with network attorneys and mediators.
- *Financial Services* – up to 60 minutes of NO-COST phone consultations per financial issue with credentialed financial professionals from a variety of specialties.
- *Workplace Training Programs* – seminars on popular topics such as team building and problem solving, plus management consultations and other workplace resources.
- *Online Resources* – log on to www.liveandworkwell.com to discover wellness articles, self-assessment tests, health tools, calculators, preventive health programs, medication information, common forms and more.

Call toll free anytime to: 1-866-312-3077 or log on to: www.liveandworkwell.com, access code: LAUSD. All information and resources are FREE and CONFIDENTIAL.

CONSTRUCTION DONATION UPDATE

The donation thermometer is still firmly on zero after more than two years of construction. As of October 1, 2008, the Grand Avenue Partners and **Eli Broad**, noted billionaire philanthropist, have not contributed one cent towards the performing arts high school enhancements such as the “water slide” tower at 450 N. Grand Avenue as promised. Mr. Broad, LAUSD students are still waiting for the money! **Talk is cheap, show us the money!**

**CONGRATULATIONS...SCHOOLS WITH
GROWTH API OF 800 OR ABOVE**

AAALA congratulates the administrators, teachers, and support staff of the following schools for achieving a growth API of 800 or above.

The following schools achieved API growth of 900 or above: Balboa Gifted/High Ability Magnet Elementary, Wonderland Avenue Elementary, Woodland Hills Elementary, Fairburn Avenue Elementary, Warner Avenue Elementary, Lanai Road Elementary, Canyon Elementary, Clover Avenue Elementary, Overland Avenue Elementary, Roscomare Road Elementary, Third Street Elementary, Park Western Place Elementary, Kenter Canyon Elementary, Welby Way Elementary, Castlebay Lane Elementary, Community Magnet Charter Elementary, Ivanhoe Elementary, Mar Vista Elementary, Westwood Elementary, Solano Avenue Elementary, Carpenter Avenue Elementary, Palisades Charter Elementary, and Topanga Learn-Charter Elementary.

The following schools achieved API growth of 800 or above: Encino Elementary, Hancock Park Elementary, Mt. Washington Elementary, Hamlin Street Elementary, Beckford Avenue Elementary, Wilbur Avenue Elementary, Delevan Drive Elementary, Hesby Oaks Span School, Coeur D'Alene Avenue Elementary, Open Charter Magnet, Van Gogh Street Elementary, Colfax Avenue Elementary, Kester Avenue Elementary, One Hundred Fifty-Sixth Street Elementary, Beethoven Street Elementary, Pomelo Drive Elementary, Canfield Avenue Elementary, South Shores/CSUDH Visual and Performing Magnet Elementary, Marquez Avenue Elementary, Haynes Elementary, Superior Street Elementary, Serrania Avenue Elementary, Mountain View Elementary, Tulsa Street Elementary, Vintage Math/Science/Technology Magnet Elementary, El Oro Way Elementary, Nestle Avenue Elementary, Castle Heights Elementary, Darby Avenue Elementary, Dixie Canyon Avenue Elementary, Danube Avenue Elementary, Sherman Oaks Elementary, Harbor Teacher Preparation Academy, Franklin Avenue Elementary, Topeka Drive Elementary, Woodlake Avenue Elementary, Nobel Middle School, Andasol Avenue Elementary, Lemay Street Elementary, Stagg Street Elementary, Germain Street Elementary, Millikan Middle School, White Point Elementary, Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies, Sherman Oaks Center for Enriched Studies, Gardner Street Elementary, Emelita Street Elementary, Justice Street Elementary, Short Avenue Elementary, Lull Special Education Center, Brentwood Science Magnet Elementary, Calabash Street Elementary, Dearborn Street Elementary, Dahlia Heights Elementary, Revere Middle School, Calahan Street Elementary, Paseo del Rey Elementary, Clifford Street Elementary, Kim Elementary, High Tech High School, Riverside Drive Elementary, Cahuenga Elementary, Taper Avenue Elementary, Knollwood Elementary, Seventh Street Elementary, Elysian Heights Elementary, Rockdale Elementary, Halldale Elementary, Eagle Rock Elementary, Lomita Math/Science/Technology Magnet Elementary, Two Hundred Thirty-Second Place Elementary, Gledhill Street Elementary, Lockhurst Drive Elementary, Rosewood Avenue Elementary, Apperson Street Elementary, Burbank Boulevard Elementary, Cowan Avenue Elementary, Commonwealth Avenue Elementary, West Hollywood Elementary, Latona Avenue Elementary, Newcastle Elementary, Tarzana Elementary, Crestwood Street Elementary, Chandler Elementary, Lexington Avenue Primary Center, Palms Middle School, Chatsworth Park Elementary, Arroyo Seco Museum Science School, Hale Middle School, Castelar Street Elementary, Shirley Avenue Elementary,

CONGRATULATIONS...API GROWTH SCHOOLS (Continued)

Capistrano Avenue Elementary, Bravo Medical Magnet High School, Lorne Street Elementary, Rio Vista Elementary, Kentwood Elementary, Cantara Street Elementary, Vanalden Avenue Elementary, Sunland Elementary, Nora Sterry Elementary, Garvanza Elementary, Hollywood Primary Center, Dorris Place Elementary, One Hundred Eighty-Sixth Street Elementary, Point Fermin Elementary, Robert Frost Middle School, Van Deene Avenue Elementary, Portola Middle School, Fair Avenue Elementary, Garza Primary Center, Carson Street Elementary, Eshelman Avenue Elementary, Stonehurst Avenue Elementary, Harvard Elementary, Reseda Elementary, Holmes Middle School, Towne Avenue Elementary, Valley Alternative Magnet School, Wilton Place Elementary, Westport Heights Elementary, Fullbright Avenue Elementary, Mayall Street Elementary, Baldwin Hills Elementary, and Van Ness Avenue Elementary.

AALA also congratulates the hundreds of schools in the API 600 – 799 categories that are poised to achieve the schoolwide goal of 800 in the coming years. **To all AALA members in all schools, congratulations on a job well done!**

AALA RECEPTION A SUCCESSFUL EVENT!

AALA's annual reception to honor members, the Superintendent, and the Board was held on Wednesday, October 1, at The Center at Cathedral Plaza, and from all observations and comments, it was a very successful event. Three hundred (300) active and retired members enjoyed a delicious buffet of Italian, Southwestern, and Asian hors d'oeuvres while reconnecting with many of their friends and colleagues. During the evening, the guests were entertained by the Hamilton High School Jazz Combo under the direction of **Dan Taguchi**. **Mike O'Sullivan**, AALA President, presided over a brief program that included introductions of Board Members, the Superintendent, Local District Superintendents, and Senior Staff. Superintendent **David L. Brewer III** shared timely comments with those present and **Julie Korenstein** spoke briefly. **Mónica García** and **Yolie Flores Aguilar** were in attendance during the early part of the evening and had an opportunity to talk with many of the members present. Senator **Gloria Romero** was also in attendance. Capturing the events of the evening with his camera was **Gary Kranz**, **School Portraits by Kranz**.

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2008: The **Association of Mexican American Educators (AMAE)** will hold its 43rd Annual State Conference – "**TAKE BACK OUR FUTURE: Academic Achievement Strategies For Latino EL and SEL Students**" – at the USC Radisson Hotel, Los Angeles. Online registration is available at www.amae-events.com. For additional information call **Antonio Camacho** at 310.324.4454.

Letter to the Editor:

Los Angeles Daily News

Administrator Salaries

The Daily News has been heralding recent articles on the "bloated" LAUSD bureaucracy and the high salaries that administrators make compared to teachers. However, I'm a little confused as to what the data provided is actually intended to show.

First, I question the accuracy of the data that is based on the W2 forms for the 2007 calendar year. During this year, there were several errors in the District's new payroll system, BTS.

Secondly, one article noted the number of administrators making more than \$100,000. W2 forms from 2007 would, by definition, not reflect the downsizing done in central and local district offices during the 2007-2008 or 2008-2009 calendar years. Furthermore, W2 forms represent the total income including all extra assignment duties not just base salaries. For example, Saturday school and summer school are extra duty assignments. There is a big difference between school-site administrators who work extra assignments and earn a total income of slightly over \$100,000 and district administrators whose base salary is well over \$100,000.

Perhaps more accurate accounting of salaries could be obtained by determining how many positions are paid at each step of the master salary scale for administrators and the salary table for teachers. A better comparison of wages between different job classifications should be based on hourly wage not W2 forms or salaries.

Dr. Angel J. Barrett
Vice President, Elementary Department
Associated Administrators of Los Angeles

REMINDER...

**ADULT, EEC, ELEMENTARY, SECONDARY, SUPERVISORY
RETIREES FALL LUNCHEON**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2008
THE CENTER AT CATHEDRAL PLAZA**

11:30 A.M.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Minimum Qualifications: Candidates are responsible for making sure all the District requirements for administrative positions have been met. AALA is not responsible for errors in publication.

NOTE: Please do not contact AALA for information regarding administrative positions. Use the listed contact phone number, or contact LAUSD Human Resources Division at 213.241.6886 or via e-mail at http://certificated.lausd.k12.ca.us/admin_vacancies.

PRINCIPAL, SECONDARY

East Los Angeles Area High School #1 (5) MST 45, 1200 Plaza Del Sol, Los Angeles, CA 90033
This new high school will open in September 2009, on a traditional calendar. For information and application procedures contact **Lupe Paramo**, Director, Secondary School Services, at 323.224.3173. **Filing deadline is Monday, October 20, 2008.**

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, SECONDARY COUNSELING SERVICES (SCS)

East Los Angeles Area High School #1 (5) MST 40, 1200 Plaza Del Sol, Los Angeles, CA 90033
This new high school will open in September 2009, on a traditional calendar. For information and application procedures contact **Lupe Paramo**, Director, Secondary School Services, at 323.224.3173. **Filing deadline is Monday, October 20, 2008.**

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, SECONDARY

Westchester High School (iDesign) MST 40, 7400 W. Manchester Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90045
Westchester is a B Basis school entering its first year of comprehensive school reform within the LAUSD Innovative Division and is a network partner of Loyola Marymount University. For information and application procedures contact **Amy Orringer**, Liaison, iDesign Schools, at 213.505.4097 or amy.orringer@lausd.net. **Filing deadline is 5:00 p.m., Friday, October 17, 2008.**

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, ELEMENTARY INSTRUCTIONAL SPECIALIST (EIS)

Huntington Drive School (5) MST 37, 4435 N. Huntington Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90032
Huntington Drive is a B Basis school. For information and application procedures contact **Celia Ripke**, Director, Elementary School Services, at 323.224.3100. **Filing deadline is Wednesday, October 15, 2008.**

PROG. COORD., Neglected, Delinquent, or At-Risk Youth Program (Temp. Adv., MST 39, A Basis)

Pupil Services Branch, 333 S. Beaudry Ave., 29th Fl., Los Angeles, CA 90017 213.241.3844
Responsibilities include assisting with the development, implementation, and management of the Instructional and Transitional components. Requires 5 years of successful full-time certificated service. For information and application procedures contact **Hector Madrigal**, Director. **Filing deadline is Friday, October 17, 2008.**

POSITIONS AVAILABLE (Continued)

COORDINATOR, SAFETY & ATTENDANCE (MST 43, A Basis)

Local District 5, 2151 North Soto Street, 2nd Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90032 323.224.3100
 Responsibilities include assisting in providing operational leadership by guiding and coaching principals in the areas of school safety, school emergencies, and school safety plans. For information and application procedures contact **Carmen Schroeder**, Superintendent. **Filing deadline is 5:00 p.m., Friday, October 17, 2008.**

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED POSITION STILL AVAILABLE

Position	Location	Deadline	Contact
Asst. Prin., EIS	Carthay Center School	10/13/08	323.932.2019
Principal, Secondary	Westchester High School FILING EXTENDED TO	10/24/08	213.505.4097

**TWO FOUNDATIONS END FINANCING OF
 EDUCATION-AWARENESS DRIVE**

Ed in '08? About 16 months ago, two of philanthropy's strongest supporters of education -- the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** and the **Broad Foundation** -- pledged a total of up to \$60 million to make education reform a top issue in the 2008 presidential election. But now, after jointly contributing about \$24 million, the two foundations have stopped spending money on their nonpartisan Strong American Schools campaign (branded "Ed in '08"), the *Puget Sound Business Journal* reports. Although education has had a relatively low profile so far in the presidential campaign, spokespeople for both foundations say their efforts have been successful. But the newspaper quotes **Arnold Fege** of *Public Education Network* as saying: "For some reason in 2004, everyone wanted to be the education president. In 2008, nobody wants to be the education president." Fege, PEN's director of public engagement and advocacy, adds that in 2004, much of the public's attention was generated by the No Child Left Behind Act, while this year 38 states are cutting their spending on education. All the same, the link between education and the economy seems clear. "People are not saying that education is not important," observes the pollster **Mark Hibbits**, but "the issue of the day -- and the remainder of this presidential race -- is going to be dealing with finance and economic issues."

Read more at: <http://www.bizjournals.com/seattle/stories/2008/09/29/story1.html?b=1222660800^1706214&page=1>