

UPDATE

Week of March 2, 2009

ABSOLUTE POWER CORRUPTS ABSOLUTELY

In times of trial and challenge such as the current budget situation in LAUSD, our fragile democracy is susceptible to reliance on solutions that are expedient and not transparent. This appears to be what is currently happening in LAUSD as Superintendent **Ramon Cortines** wields his budgetary axe with little or no oversight or input by the elected Board of Education or the District's constituent groups.

One such example is the proposed elimination of the AP-EIS positions in elementary schools. This administrative position was developed in response to the *Chanda Smith Consent Decree* to meet the unique needs of special education students. Anyone who has served in this District for the past ten years knows that the issues that plagued special education have been greatly minimized due to the service and leadership of AP-EIS administrators.

Mr. Cortines has continually stressed the need for central office cuts and the maintenance of local school resources and personnel. How does the elimination of over 400 local school administrators who have proven their worth and their replacement by 200 specialists working out of central offices serve this goal? Could it be that the accountability oversight provided by these assistant principals is really what is being eliminated? UTLA has continually pushed for less oversight accountability for their teachers. In an elementary school with up to 950 students, there is only the principal to meet the accountability needs without an AP-EIS to assist him/her. Evaluation of personnel is critical for true accountability in a school.

What happened to the federal stimulus money that is coming to the District to support special education? Why is that money not being used to defray all special education expenses including the cost of the AP-EIS positions?

AALA was also greatly dismayed to hear the Superintendent use the excuse that the AP-EIS administrators were not fulfilling their role but were rather doing other duties as assigned. We would like to remind the Superintendent that the role of a school administrator is not cut and dried. There is a reason that the Board of Education, when it establishes the positions of administrators, includes in the job description "other duties as assigned." If this is not acceptable to the Superintendent, then he should request the Board of Education to change the job description, but don't blame the administrators for something that they didn't create. And, AALA would add that every duty at a school site is beneficial for all students. If training is needed, then the District leadership has the responsibility to provide it!

Simple, politically motivated solutions will not help solve this budget crisis, nor will autocratic responses. Lord Acton coined the phrase: "Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely." This has never been truer than at the present time, where the Board of Education is having its oversight role usurped by the Superintendent in the name of expediency. Where is the oversight, and where is the logic in the Superintendent's proposals? **And, Mr. Superintendent, don't preach accountability while undermining it.**

FOR PRINCIPALS & OTHER MANDATED REPORTERS

Once again, the annual April 1 deadline for the state-mandated Form 700 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) filing is fast approaching. Principals should have an opportunity to walk through the filings as part of the February or March principals' meetings in their local districts. Please help to ensure that other school site filers (e.g. Assistant Principals, Senior Financial Managers, and Financial Managers) are reminded of their filing obligation as well.

Filers who would still need to complete the requirement can watch the "Form 700 video" on the Ethics Office website at www.lausd.net/ethics <http://www.lausd.net/ethics>, which provides an online in-service that walks filers through the completion of the forms. Please remember that by law, faxed or electronic copies of the Form 700 cannot be accepted. You can also contact the Ethics Office at 213. 241.3330 with any questions.

"LEADING IN A TIME OF CHANGE"

All LAUSD secondary administrators are invited to attend the March 28, 2009, districtwide conference, "Leading in a Time of Change," at the magnificent new high school for the performing arts at 450 North Grand. The conference, sponsored by CSUN's Project Change Program and AALA, offers secondary administrators the opportunity to share best practices and reflect on how to sustain programs in a time of change.

Administrators will receive a \$250 stipend for a full-day attendance. Site administrators are encouraged to bring their administrative team. Sessions will offer a wide variety of practical tips for managing and leading. Sample sessions include:

- * Quick tips and strategies for building a master schedule for multiple small schools while meeting A-G requirements
- * Successful strategies for raising API scores
- * Graduation rate improvement through academic recovery
- * Creating a personalized small school environment
- * 27 ways to improve the achievement of the below basic student
- * Using data to engage faculties to improve instruction
- * Creating a college-going culture in middle school and beyond

Registration is now open and may be completed on-line in just a few minutes. The website is: <http://tinyurl.com/pcregistration>. (The previously published website in AALA's Update works for most browsers.) Registration will be conducted on a first-registered basis. Please plan to register no later than March 10.

There are a few slots left for presenters. Call for Presenters Applications are available at <http://www.aalausd.com/documents/Call%20for%20Presenters.pdf>.

We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to network and share best practices.

WEEK OF THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

AALA thanks Board President **Mónica García** and Board Members **Marguerite LaMotte** and **Richard Vladovic** for sponsoring the following resolution that was also supported by Board Members **Yoli Flores Aguilar**, **Marlene Canter**, **Tamar Galatzan**, and **Julie Korenstein**.

Whereas, The quality of our leadership teams lies at the very core of the Los Angeles Unified School District;

Whereas, Effective school administrators are passionate, lifelong learners who believe in the value of quality public education and in the capacity of every child to succeed;

Whereas, The title “school administrator” refers to many education leadership posts, including superintendents, assistant superintendents, principals, assistant principals, special education and adult education leaders, curriculum and assessment leaders, school business officials, classified educational leaders, and other District employees;

Whereas, Good school leaders partner with parents, teachers, and community members to promote ongoing student achievement and school success;

Whereas, The District’s school administrators wear many hats and spend long days working hard to ensure our students receive the best possible educational experience we can provide;

Whereas, The very best administrators embody the very leadership qualities we wish to inculcate in our students;

Whereas, Research shows great schools are led by great principals, and great districts are led by great superintendents; and

Whereas, The week of March 1 through 7, 2009, is California’s “Week of the School Administrator”; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District declares the first week of March as School Administrators Week and commends school administrators for their efforts to provide every student with the opportunity to learn and to succeed.

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2009 - The AEIOU (American Educators of Italian Origin United) Fortieth Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance will be held at Casa Italiana, 1051 North Broadway, Los Angeles, beginning at 6:00 p.m. For information and tickets contact **Dan Basalone** at 213.484.2226.

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2009 – Franklin High School presents its Fourth Annual Golf Classic at the Upland Hills Country Club, 1231 East 16th Street, Upland, CA at 1:30 p.m. ("Shot Gun" Start). Male and female golfers may participate. All proceeds go to benefit the Franklin High School Athletics Fund. For more information call **Jorge Garcia** at 323.550.2075 or e-mail jgarcia@lausd.net.

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOLS: Scholarship Opportunity

Nestle is providing scholarships to high school seniors attending school in Los Angeles County. Each applicant must have a minimum 3.00 cumulative GPA, must be accepted to enroll FULL TIME at a four-year university in the fall of 2009, and must have demonstrated community service and leadership. The process includes a Scholarship Application, a 500-700 word essay, a résumé or portfolio, 2 letters of recommendation and an official academic transcript. The awards are: \$5000 to first-place male and female winners and \$1000 to second-place winners. **Deadline for filing is Tuesday, March 11, 2009.** For more information or to submit applications, contact **Cheryll Cooks**, Los Angeles Urban League, 5414 Crenshaw Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90043, 323.292.8111, Extension 612. Applications are available online at www.laul.org/event.

PRINCIPAL FOR A DAY, MARCH 20, 2009

Be shadowed by a Los Angeles executive on Principal for a Day, March 20, 2009, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Join Pillar, a joint office of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and LAUSD, to teach our business and community leaders about the challenges and opportunities facing schools today and how you can help raise student achievement, improve public education, and create a better-prepared workforce. For more information, please visit www.pillarLA.com/pfad AND

<http://www.icebase.com/go2.shtml?FpeJTwh8fRFKrEEQ/7ad2f463347a62a4/e1f1>.

Contact Business-Education Partnership Coordinator **Rebecca Maescher** at 213.580.7553 or rmaescher@lachamber.com with questions.

**SCHOLARSHIP/COMMUNITY AWARD
APPLICATIONS DUE MARCH 20**

The due date for students in regular high schools, continuation high schools, and adult schools to submit their applications for the 2009 AALA Scholarships is rapidly approaching. All applications must be in the AALA office by Friday, March 20. Encourage eligible students to apply for these scholarship awards.

The due date for AALA members to submit nomination forms for the AALA Community Awards is also Friday, March 20. If you have not already nominated an individual or a group of individuals for one of these awards, please consider doing so now. You can mail or fax (213.484.0201) your nomination to the AALA office. Application for this nomination is also available on our website at www.aalausd.com under "**Communications.**"

Should you have questions or need additional information about either of these awards, contact the office at 213.484.2226.

REMINDER

ADULT/ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY/EEC/SUPERVISORY

RETIREES LUNCHEON

**The Center at Cathedral Plaza
Viewing Foyer**

**Wednesday, April 29, 2009
11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

IN MEMORIAM

CHARLES "BUD" CRAVENS – Former Principal at Odyssey and Whitman continuation high schools; former Assistant Principal at Fairfax and Taft high schools and Madison and Fulton middle schools. Retired on June 28, 1991, and passed away on February 14, 2009.

ACSA MEMBERSHIP EVENTS

Region 16 ACSA is announcing the following two events for new and current members. In both cases refreshments will be provided and the guest speakers will present their thoughts relating to the District and the nature of education...at the time of the meeting.

March 11, 2009 — 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 19800 S. Vermont Ave., Torrance
 Speakers: Dr. **Richard Vladovic**, Member, Board of Education
Linda Del Cueto, Superintendent, Local District 8
 Contact person: **Colleen Crowley** usccrowley@yahoo.com or 310.339.0721

April 22, 2009 — 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. at the University Club (Lambs Lounge) CSUN
 Speaker: Superintendent **Ray Cortines**
 Contact Person: **Brian Sida** bsida@lausd.net

Please plan to attend. With the changing sands of time, politics, funding, etc., it will be worth your time. In addition, it will provide a wonderful opportunity to network with your many friends.

And for a bottom line, now is an important time to become a member of the one state organization that supports administrators, supports public education, and takes an active role in impacting legislation, both at the federal and state levels.

LOOKING AT THE FOUR-DAY WEEK IN RURAL DISTRICTS

For five years, Oregon's Colton School District, like 40 others in the state, has held classes just four days a week. More schools are exploring this option in the economic downturn, according to *The Oregonian*, and the experience of Colton and other districts shows its effect on everything from athletics and after-school programs to homework and child care. District Superintendent **Linda Johnson** estimates Colton saves about \$100,000 annually from its \$6 million budget, mainly from reduced classified staff hours. Some districts eliminate after-school programs on Fridays, but others skip Mondays to make it easier for kids to participate in Friday sports and activities that involve other districts. The rhythm of school and homework has definitely changed, with less assigned on weeknights, since kids involved in sports or other after-school activities often don't get home until 8 p.m. Teachers compensate with more homework over the longer weekend, and they say lengthier classes give science and art students more time to finish labs or projects. Generally, families in smaller districts have found solutions to childcare.

Read more: http://www.oregonlive.com/education/index.ssf/2009/02/schools_study_coltons_fourday.html

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

Name	Date, Time	Location	Contact
Sharon Kaiser	Sunday, April 26, 2009 11:00 a.m.	Porter Valley Country Club 19216 Singing Hills Dr. Northridge	Trish Kenton 818.342.3123

2009 AALA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

- 1-2 CCAE Legislative Day - Sacramento
- 2 **Executive Board meeting**
- 15-16 CAROCP Legislative Day
- 20 AALA Scholarship/Community Award applications due
- 23 WEL Mentor Dinner at Kyoto Grand Hotel and Gardens (Carol Truscott honoree)
- 26 **Representative Assembly meeting**
- 28 AEIOU Dinner Dance – Casa Italiana
- 31 Selection of AALA Scholarship recipients – AALA Committee

April

- 1 AAPA Spring Social
- 2 Selection of AALA/Community Award recipients – AALA Committee
- 6-10 Spring Recess
- 8 Eve of Passover
- 9 Passover
- 13 **Executive Board meeting**
- 22 Administrative Professionals Day
- 24-25 CAUSA – Los Angeles – LAX Marriott Hotel
- 29 **AALA Retirees Luncheon at The Center at Cathedral Plaza**
- 30 CCAE State Conference (Host) – Pasadena Hilton Hotel

May

- 1 – 2 CCAE State Conference (Host) – Pasadena Hilton Hotel
- 2 CMAA Leadership Conference/Scholarship Luncheon at Millennium Biltmore Hotel
- 14 **Representative Assembly meeting**
- 16 WEL End-of-the-Year Brunch – Marina Del Rey Hotel
- 17 AJE Scholarship Brunch
- 20 AAPA Scholarship Dinner at Empress Pavilion Restaurant
- 21 **AALA Scholarship/Community Awards Banquet at Millennium Biltmore Hotel**
- 25 Memorial Day Holiday
- 28 ACSA-Region XVI Awards Banquet at Casa Italiana

June

- 1 **Executive Board Installation Dinner**
- 5 CCAE/CAROCP – Angeleno Chapter Student Scholarship Awards Dinner
- 6 COBA Black Child Conference/Scholarship Luncheon
- 22 Adult Division Year-End Luncheon at The Center at Cathedral Plaza

SCHOLARSHIP AND COMMUNITY AWARD SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

ALA members, active or retired, are needed to serve on the Scholarship Selection Committee and the Community Award Selection Committee. The dates for the selection meetings are as follows:

Scholarship - Tuesday, March 31, 2009 - 12:00 - 4:30 p.m. (lunch provided)

Community Awards - Thursday, April 2, 2009 - 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. (lunch provided)

If you are able to serve on either or both of these committees, please contact **Gema Pivaral** in the ALA office, 213.484.2226

LABOR HISTORY ESSAY COMPETITION

In honor of May Day, which celebrates the social and economic achievements of the labor movement throughout the United States and the world, California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) will host a Labor and Social Justice Fair on April 30, 2009, from 12:00 to 9:00 p.m. To encourage youth and community awareness of and rich traditions of unions in the Los Angeles area, the University has invited high school students, college students, and the community to participate in a Labor History Essay Contest. The essay contest asks that people write on the topic:

"Unions and/or workers' centers have been important to my family and my community because..."

Awards being offered include \$100 and an iPod Nano for first prize, \$75 for second prize, and \$50 for third. Applicants may contact their parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors, and friends to learn what labor union membership and participation may have meant to them. Essays should be approximately 350 words in length, and will be judged on the basis of compelling story, writing style, and significance of the topic. Winners will be announced at the Labor and Social Justice Fair.

Applicants should send their completed essays to Dr. **Vivian Price**, CSUDH, Department of Labor Studies, SCC 130, 1000 East Victoria Street, Carson, CA 90747. Essays must be postmarked no later than March 30, 2009. For more information, contact essay contest coordinator **Teyanna Williams** at 213.500.4780 or the Labor Studies Office at 310.243.3640 or e-mail idspace@csudh.edu.

ALA ELECTION

Self-nomination forms have been mailed to the home addresses of all **active** members. Return **DUE DATE** to the ALA Office is **Friday, March 20, 2009**. Nominations from the floor can be made at the Representative Assembly meeting on Thursday, March 26, 2009.