

UPDATE

Week of November 22, 2010

AAALA PAC NEWS: BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTIONS

AAALA's PAC Steering Committee met on November 15, 2010, to begin the process of identifying Board of Education candidates for potential endorsement. This election will have serious ramifications for LAUSD as a District and AALA members as leaders for the foreseeable future. Critical issues are at stake in this election, such as the continuance of the current level of health benefits, the health and safety of students, the parameters related to Public School Choice and the encroachment of charter schools, supported by the "Billionaires Boys Club." As previously explained in *Update* (week of October 4, 2010), the PAC Steering Committee researches candidates' qualifications, conducts interviews and makes recommendations to the PAC Council, which makes final decisions about endorsements and donations. The PAC Council will meet on January 27, 2011. The election will take place on March 8, and the run-off will be May 17.

Candidates will be provided AALA's core values (*Update*, week of October 4) in advance. During their respective interviews, they will be asked questions about their own principles, priorities and views about key educational issues. While AALA has no litmus test that candidates must meet to obtain our support, their attitudes toward our core values along with their interview responses will give the PAC Steering Committee valuable insights regarding how they are likely to pursue their responsibilities on the Board. As you are aware, four Board seats are up for election: Board Districts 1, 3, 5 and 7. At this time, 19 candidates have declared their intent to run and must submit their completed petitions by December 8, 2010. The last day to withdraw is December 13. The City of Los Angeles Office of the City Clerk lists the current candidates as follows:

District No. 1

Lynette A. Bigelow, Educator

Marguerite Poindexter LaMotte, Educator/School Board Member

Eric Lee, Civic Community Leader

District No. 3

Tamar Galatzan, Prosecutor/School Board Member

Louis Pugliese, Teacher Educator

Murphy Moore, Business Manager

William Charles McMahon, Electrical Engineer/Educator

Heather Hodge Kolodny, Teacher

Kevin M. Collins, Educational Consultant

Steven A. Webb, Analyst

District No. 5

Luis Sanchez, Educator/Parent

John Fernandez, Retired School Teacher

Roberto Jose Fonseca, Social Worker

Scott M. Folsom, Parent Advocate

Pilar Buelna, Parent/Education Advocate

Bennett Kayser, Teacher

AALA PAC NEWS: BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTIONS (Continued)

District No. 7

Richard A. Vladovic, School Board Member

Roye Love, Parent Education Activist

Jesus M. Escandon, Public Schools Advocate

THANK YOU, MR. CHANDLER, CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

AALA wishes to thank **Ronald Chandler**, Chief Information Officer, ITD, for his timely and professional response to secondary administrators' concerns, which were published in *Update* (week of October 25, 2010). The issues raised by secondary administrators focused on the lack of timely and courteous service provided by ITD staff and technical problems with ISIS. Following is Mr. Chandler's letter to AALA.

November 10, 2010

Dr. Judith Perez, President, Associated Administrators of Los Angeles

Re: Response to AALA newsletter article "ITD LEADERSHIP: WHERE IS THE SERVICE?"

Dear Dr. Perez:

I am writing to let you know that I read and appreciate the concerns raised in a recent Associated Administrators of Los Angeles (AALA) newsletter titled "ITD LEADERSHIP: WHERE IS THE SERVICE?" The Information Technology Division (ITD) is focused on providing quality customer service that enables LAUSD employees to do their jobs effectively, ultimately helping our students achieve. I would like to tell you about some of the work we have been doing related to AALA's concerns and invite you to further dialogue about how we can provide higher quality service to administrators and all LAUSD stakeholders.

In your recent newsletter, you mentioned that the "attendance not submitted" has not been functional since October 11, compromising schools' ability to have their data up to date in time for Norm Day. I looked into this and noted that there were indeed problems reported to our service desk about the functionality of reports on the Integrated Student Information Systems (ISIS) system. Thanks to these reports, the matter was quickly escalated to higher levels, researched, and resolved with the help of our technology partners (i.e., Oracle). Our ISIS team issued communications to help guide users through changes that were made during the process (see Attachment A*). There is clearly more we could do to make sure administrators are aware of changes with the system and can access the tools they need with minimal difficulty. Let's talk further about how we can do this.

Your newsletter also mentioned that the human resources (HR) program that shares "over" and "under" Norm Day information reported information only through October 6. We recognize that there is generally about a seven-day delay in transmitting data from ISIS to our HR systems due to regular business processes that need to take place (see Attachment B* for further details). A quick review of our records showed that the October 6 data were validated by Budget Services and loaded into HR systems by October 15; the October 11 data were loaded into HR by October 22. We are looking into ways to reduce the delay time so that the most current data possible can be accessible from HR systems. We welcome you to take part in conversations about this.

*Attachments A and B are not included in this *Update*.

THANK YOU MR. CHANDLER (Continued)

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, your newsletter indicated that administrators have experienced lengthy wait times and a “lack of sensitivity” from our IT Customer Support Center. Given our focus on providing quality customer service, I want you to know that I take such complaints very seriously and have followed up with our IT Customer Support Services leadership to make sure they are aware of the problem and are managing the situation effectively. During these challenging times, we are working hard and using resources wisely to provide the highest level of customer service we can. We have already initiated some important changes that will help us respond quickly and appropriately to customers’ needs and to gather feedback from our customers (such as suggestion boxes and customer satisfaction surveys) so that we can continually improve.

Improving the functionality of tools we build and providing efficient, effective, and courteous customer service are top priorities for ITD. I am confident that with your help we can greatly increase operational efficiency across our District, enabling administrators to further their work in improving our students’ potential for success. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time so that we may talk further about these matters. Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Ronald S. Chandler Chief Information Officer
cc: Ramon C. Cortines, Michelle King

AALA looks forward to continuing communications with Mr. Chandler and his efforts to deliver improved services to school administrators.

UTLA LEAFLETING AND BOARD DEMONSTRATION

We received notification after *Update* was published last week that many UTLA members are leafleting outside schools this week to protest LAUSD’s decision to save \$100 million in Federal Jobs Stimulus Funds for 2011-2012 instead of immediately restoring plant manager, clerical and UTLA-represented positions. As you know, bargaining unit members have the right to distribute literature off school grounds during nonwork time.

UTLA plans to protest employee layoffs at the Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, November 30, 2010, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. While AALA is not involved directly in these activities, we understand the frustration being expressed by UTLA members and classified unions regarding the District’s decisions to cut staffing levels. **We continue to be vocal in support of plant managers, office technicians, librarians, nurses, teachers, counselors—and particularly, AALA members such as assistant principals and nursing coordinators—who have been reduced in force.**

We will continue to advocate on behalf of all AALA members with the Board of Education and District Senior Staff to help them understand that administrators can be accountable for student safety and performance only if the District accepts accountability for providing adequate resources to do the job. Every plant manager or office tech who is cut leaves behind substantially more responsibilities for administrators. There are only so many hours in the day; something’s got to give.

WE ARE THANKFUL WHEN...

- A live human being answers the telephone at Beaudry.
- Telephone and e-mail messages are responded to within a week.
- District leaders are consistent in their decisions from one day to the next.
- District leaders admit their mistakes and pledge to improve.
- Senior staff members hire subordinates with teaching and administrative experience.
- Correspondence from Beaudry is proofread, corrected and approved before being sent to schools.
- Board members demonstrate respect for the knowledge, experience and wisdom of AALA members.
- Board members focus on student learning rather than politics, power or personal advancement.
- The media cover progress rather than emphasizing failure.
- The Mayor does his job and focuses his attention on the city of Los Angeles.
- The Mayor is out of town.
- There are enough supplies—paper, pencils, computers and toilet tissue—for a school to be a school.
- A partnership is a true partnership, rather than a partnership in name only.
- Students are curious, ask challenging questions and love learning.
- There are still 180 days of school instead of 175.
- Administrators, parents and teachers work together to improve student learning rather than bickering over governance or who controls a shrinking budget.
- Educators maintain their optimism in the face of disastrous deficits.
- AALA members remain standing, smile, and have time to address the needs of students.

AALA wishes LAUSD leadership a healthy and enjoyable Thanksgiving. We hope they will return with a renewed commitment to support the administrators who are keeping the District going on behalf of students and staff members during this time of crisis. **AALA welcomes their appreciation for the work of administrators who rarely receive positive recognition and who work long hours without adequate resources or compensation to serve the families of this District.**

SCHEDULED OMA MEETING

A meeting of the Organization of Management Administrators (OMA) for AALA members assigned to Beaudry and other District offices has been scheduled for Thursday, December 9, 2010, at 3:30 p.m. in the LAUSD Board Room. AALA wants to thank Chief of Staff **Michelle King** and Deputy Superintendent **Dr. John Deasy** for authorizing this meeting. AALA staff will be present, as well, to update members. Attendees will have an opportunity to interact with Senior Staff members. Please take advantage of this opportunity. This is the first of several meetings for this school year.

THE MYTH OF CHARTER SCHOOLS

By Diane Ravitch

Ordinarily, documentaries about education attract little attention, and seldom, if ever, reach neighborhood movie theaters. **Davis Guggenheim's** *Waiting for "Superman"* is different. It arrived in late September with the biggest publicity splash I have ever seen for a documentary. Not only was it the subject of major stories in *Time* and *New York*, but it was featured twice on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* and was the centerpiece of several days of programming by NBC, including an interview with President Obama.

Two other films expounding the same arguments—*The Lottery* and *The Cartel*—were released in the late spring, but they received far less attention than Guggenheim's film. His reputation as the director of the Academy Award-winning *An Inconvenient Truth*, about global warming, contributed to the anticipation surrounding *Waiting for "Superman,"* but the media frenzy suggested something more. Guggenheim presents the popularized version of an account of American public education that is promoted by some of the nation's most powerful figures and institutions.

The message of these films has become alarmingly familiar: American public education is a failed enterprise. The problem is not money. Public schools already spend too much. Test scores are low because there are so many bad teachers, whose jobs are protected by powerful unions. Students drop out because the schools fail them, but they could accomplish practically anything if they were saved from bad teachers. They would get higher test scores if schools could fire more bad teachers and pay more to good ones. The only hope for the future of our society, especially for poor black and Hispanic children, is escape from public schools, especially to charter schools, which are mostly funded by the government but controlled by private organizations, many of them operating to make a profit.

The Cartel maintains that we must not only create more charter schools, but provide vouchers so that children can flee incompetent public schools and attend private schools. There, we are led to believe, teachers will be caring and highly skilled (unlike the lazy dullards in public schools); the schools will have high expectations and test scores will soar; and all children will succeed academically, regardless of their circumstances. *The Lottery* echoes the main story line of *Waiting for "Superman"*: it is about children who are desperate to avoid the New York City public schools and eager to win a spot in a shiny new charter school in Harlem.

For many people, these arguments require a willing suspension of disbelief. Most Americans graduated from public schools, and most went from school to college or the workplace without thinking that their school had limited their life chances. There was a time—which now seems distant—when most people assumed that students' performance in school was largely determined by their own efforts and by the circumstances and support of their family, not by their teachers. There were good teachers and mediocre teachers, even bad teachers, but in the end, most public schools offered ample opportunity for education to those willing to pursue it. The annual Gallup poll about education shows that Americans are overwhelmingly dissatisfied with the quality of the nation's schools, but 77 percent of public school parents award their own child's public school a grade of A or B, the highest level of approval since the question was first asked in 1985.

To read the entire article go to the link below:

<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2010/nov/11/myth-charter-schools/>

The AALA office will be closed next week, November 22 – 26, 2010, due to furlough days and Thanksgiving holidays. The next issue of *Update* will not be published until the following week and will be dated December 6, 2010. To view LAUSD positions available and the respective flyers, please go to the AALA Website – www.aalausd.com.

SAVE THE DATE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2010 – The **ACSA-R Winter Luncheon** will be held at 11:30 a.m. at Taix Restaurant, 1911 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles. The cost is \$20. For information contact **Mike Perez** at 213.484.2226 or mperez@aala.us. For more information go to the following link:

<http://www.aalausd.com/Documents/ACSA-R%20Region%20XVI%20Winter%20Luncheon%20Flyer.pdf>

ACSA REGION XVI AWARDS INFORMATION

Each year, ACSA Region XVI recognizes outstanding administrators. The deadline for this year's nominees is November 30. Please click on the link below to see the attached nomination form and categories.

<http://www.aalausd.com/documents/ACSA%20%20Annual%20Award%20Categories%20NominationForm.doc>

IN CONTEXT

Though champions of charter schools often hold them up as incubators for new ideas, with innovations that can spread to regular public schools, thus far cooperative efforts are neither widespread nor deep, according to Education Week. The U.S. Department of Education spent \$6.7 million in fiscal 2009 on grants to states so that charters could disseminate what they've learned to other schools. It is now conducting a feasibility study on ways to support the spread of promising charter school practices. "We do realize that one of the promises of charter schools was they were going to be a source of innovation and a benefit not only for the children attending charter schools, but [for] all public schools. The collaboration is not as widespread as we would hope," said **Scott Pearson** of the Department of Education. Some skeptics contend that many "innovations" with which charters are credited, such as extended time for learning or small school size, originated in traditional public schools. "There's not a lot to share. Charter schools are a lot like [regular] public schools," said **Joan Devlin** of the American Federation of Teachers. However, some substantive collaborations have taken root in various states, several of which the article lists. One issue, say observers, is the context—i.e. district—in which charters operate. For innovations to spread and collaborations to flourish, other schools and their administrators must be receptive to change.

Read more:

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2010/11/10/11charter.h30.html?tkn=PRBF4Vmh7utoZxb%2BEUCevamJAj8USC0HHJZ0&cmp=clp-ecseclips>

**OPEN ENROLLMENT DEADLINE AND
NEW EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PLAN**

Open Enrollment Deadline

Since all plan changes and rollovers become final as of 11:59 p.m., November 22, 2010, AALA members, active and alumni (retirees), should review the following key points:

- Making Plan Changes - Active employees and retirees wishing to change benefits plans must do so by November 21.
- Continuing Your Current Plans – No action is needed if you are satisfied with your current 2010 plans and wish to continue them.
- Flexible Spending Accounts - Enrollment is not automatic. Employees who wish to reenroll in a flexible spending account **must reenroll** each year during Open Enrollment to be effective the following year. This does not apply to retirees.
- Adding Dependents - To add dependents, you must complete and submit a “Request for Change of Dependent Status form,” which is available at <http://benefits.lausd.net>. You cannot enroll them through the Web portal or the IVR telephone system.

New Employee Assistance Plan (EAP)

The Health Benefits Committee has contracted with MHN, a Health Net company, to provide EAP services effective 1/1/2011. Various programs will be available to assist employees and their dependents. You will receive more information from the Health Benefits Committee in the coming weeks.

**HAVE A PEACEFUL AND HEALTHY THANKSGIVING --
EAT, ENJOY AND BE HAPPY!**

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.

CLASSIFIED POSITIONS AVAILABLE

SENIOR POLICY ANALYST, MAYOR'S OFFICE OF EDUCATION

The Senior Policy Analyst will work with the Deputy Mayor of Education to carry out the Mayor's education policy agenda. Compensation will be negotiated within established annual salary range commensurate with demonstrated skills and work experience. Interested individuals should send a letter of interest and résumé to **Alysha-Stein Manes** at alysha.stein-manes@lacity.org.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE (Continued)

PROGRAM AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT ADVISOR

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) is seeking a highly qualified and motivated individual with extensive knowledge and considerable experience managing the entire life cycle of large-scale school reform initiatives. The individual chosen to fill this position will be part of the innovative team that will be setting strategic vision for the District's future. For information about this opportunity go to:

<http://lausdjobs.lausd.k12.ca.us/appv1/main> or http://lausdjobs.lausd.k12.ca.us/appv1/main/pdf/ppda_monique.pdf.

CERTIFICATED POSITIONS AVAILABLE

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 School-Based and Nonschool-Based positions and click on any position to view the specific flyer.

Position	Location	Deadline	Contact
Instr. Specialist	Markham MS	Until filled	employment@partnershipla.org
Principal, Elementary	Valley View ES	11/29/10	213.241.0132

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GRANT WRITER, PROGRAM/FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY UNIT, MST 40 (Temp. Adv.), B Basis, Division of Special Education For information and application procedures contact Sharon Jarrett, Director, Program/Fiscal Accountability Unit, at 213.241.6701. 	5:00 p.m. Fri., Nov. 19, 2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ COORDINATOR, SECONDARY SCHOOL UTILIZATION, MST 41 (Temp. Adv.), E Basis, School Management Services For information and application procedures contact Bruce Takeguma, Director, at 213.241.3344. 	5:00 p.m. Tue., Nov. 30, 2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ COORDINATOR, SPEECH AND LANGUAGE, MST 40, E Basis, Division of Special Education For information and application procedures contact Deborah Rubenacker, Director, Related Services Department, at 213.241.6200. 	12:00 p.m. Tue., Nov. 30, 2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LOCAL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT (Local Districts 3, 4, 6 and 8), Salary: \$155,239 - \$171,239/year. For information and application procedures contact Vivian Ekchian, Chief Human Resources Officer, at 213.241.6131 or 333 S. Beaudry Ave., 14th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017. 	Apply by Friday, December 17, 2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SPECIALIST, INTERVENTION SUPPORT, MST 38 (Temp. Adv.), E Basis, Student Integration Services For information and application procedures contact Estelle Lockett, Director, at 213.241.6532. 	Friday, Dec. 10, 2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SPECIALIST, MAGNET RECRUITMENT, MST 38 (Temp. Adv.), E Basis, Student Integration Services For information and application procedures contact Estelle Lockett, Director, at 213.241.6532. 	5:00 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10, 2010