

UPDATE

Week of March 21, 2011

LETTER TO SUPERINTENDENT CORTINES: PSC RECOMMENDATIONS

*On March 15, 2011, the LAUSD Board of Education held a special meeting to determine the outcome of Public School Choice (PSC) 2.0. **Superintendent Ramon C. Cortines** had submitted to the Board his recommendations for which applicant teams should operate the three focus schools and ten new school sites included in PSC 2.0, scheduled for Fall 2011 implementation. Early that morning, AALA President, **Dr. Judith Perez**, sent the following letter to Superintendent Cortines regarding his recommendations to the Board. Copies were also sent to Deputy **Superintendent John Deasy** and Board members.*

Dear Mr. Cortines:

As you are well aware, I served on the Superintendent's Panel for Public School Choice and reviewed all of the submitted plans for the past two years. On behalf of AALA, I wish to thank you for your thoughtful recommendations to the Board of Education regarding the Fall 2011 Public School Choice sites. While we do not agree with every single recommendation, it is clear that you read the plans thoroughly, reviewed the comments of both panels and carefully considered the results of the advisory votes. It is also apparent that you based your recommendations on student needs as opposed to political pressure or expediency. In particular, I wish to commend you for urging the Board to approve the following teams' plans:

- Local District 4/Echo Park Community Partners for Central Region Elementary School #14
- Local District 1 for Valley Region High School #4

Not only did both local districts develop comprehensive plans focusing on the needs of their respective communities, but also they fulfilled the vision of Public School Choice by engaging all stakeholders and a variety of community partners on behalf of students. We strongly believe that those best situated to address the challenges faced by public schools are the administrators, teachers, parents and students of the schools themselves, with meaningful support from the local districts.

We acknowledge that several local districts used highly innovative approaches. For example, Local District 4 developed plans for four pilot schools at the Taylor Yards site (Central Region High School #13) and worked collaboratively with an independent charter organization, the Alliance for College-Ready Public Schools, for the fifth small school located there. We applaud LD 4 for modeling a viable partnership. Local District 5 created a similar partnership with Synergy Academies for the Central Region High School #16 site.

LETTER TO THE SUPERINTENDENT (Continued)

Nevertheless, we are concerned that you recommended co-locations at some sites where the school and/or local district did not create their own organic partnership. For example, requiring Clay Middle School and Green Dot to share a single site may prove challenging to implement effectively. We wonder what efforts the District will make to support a positive working relationship between the two schools should the Board approve your recommendation.

In conclusion, we are hopeful that LAUSD Board members will have done what you did: study the plans and make their decisions based upon their quality and the needs of students. Board members' political considerations should have no place in making decisions about Public School Choice. Student needs and the improvement of LAUSD schools should be the top priorities.

Sincerely,

Dr. Judith Perez
President

The Board's decisions are available in LAUSD News Release #10/11-266, dated March 15, 2011. In notable cases, unfortunately, the Mayor's Board majority rejected the Superintendent's recommendations. For example, Central Region Elementary School #14 was turned over to Camino Nuevo Charter despite the fact that at least 600 neighborhood parents signed a petition in support of the LD 4/Echo Park Community Partners' plan. Clay Middle School was given entirely to Green Dot Charter instead of allowing Green Dot to partner with Clay's collaborative team, which wrote an Expanded School Based Management Model (ESBMM) plan.

On the other hand, the Board approved the Superintendent's recommendations for Valley Region High School #4, Central Region High School #13 and Central Region High School #16. We are particularly pleased that VRHS #4 will remain part of LD 1. Ultimately, the Board majority handed over seven PSC schools to charter operators. While the District is facing a projected \$408 million deficit for the 2011-2012 school year, AALA wonders what thought—if any—the Mayor's Board majority gave to the loss of tens of millions of additional LAUSD dollars caused by this give-away.

AALA thanks Board members Marguerite LaMotte and Steve Zimmer for advocating on behalf of LAUSD schools' high-quality plans. Ms. LaMotte stood alone in opposition to the Board's final vote. We commend her for her courage and foresight.

BOARD ELECTION NEWS

As of this date, **Bennett Kayser**, AALA-endorsed Board of Education candidate, appears to be in a runoff with **Luis Sanchez**, the candidate supported by **Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa** for the Board District 5 seat. Absentee and provisional ballots are still being tallied. Once the City Clerk completes tabulation of the remaining ballots, the final count will be published. If neither candidate has won 50% + one vote, the runoff will be held on May 17, 2011. We will keep you posted via *Update*.

HEALTH BENEFITS FAQ

Topic: Health Net Announces Security Breach.

Who is affected?

The security breach affects some LAUSD Health Net subscribers enrolled in the plan through September 9, 2009, including active employees and retirees in either the HMO or Seniority Plus plans. New enrollees after the September 9, 2009, date are NOT affected.

How did the security incident occur?

IBM, which is Health Net's vendor responsible for managing Health Net's IT infrastructure, notified Health Net that it could not locate several server disk drives containing member information. Health Net is conducting an internal investigation. The breach has also prompted investigation by the California Department of Managed Health Care and the State Insurance Commissioner.

What information may be compromised by a data breach?

The disk drives contain personal information, including names, addresses, health information, Social Security numbers and/or financial information.

What is Health Net doing about the security breach?

1. Notification letters - Health Net has begun sending out letters to members and dependents. If you are involved, anticipate receiving your letter within the next week or two. The letter will indicate whether your Social Security number or financial information was on the drives. If you have moved recently and have not notified Health Net, your letter may be returned undelivered.
2. Credit monitoring service – Two years of credit monitoring services are offered free of charge through Debix Identity Protection Services. Services also include fraud resolution, restoration of credit files, and \$1,000,000 of identity theft insurance.

What can I do now, pending arrival of my letter?

1. Contact Debix at **855.434.8081**. Their Customer Service representatives can give you information about your personal data on the lost disk drives.
2. Place a "fraud alert" on your credit file by calling any one of the credit bureaus at their toll-free telephone numbers. If you need assistance, Debix can help you. The numbers to call are:
 - Equifax – [877.478.7625](tel:877.478.7625), www.equifax.com
 - Experian – [888.397.3742](tel:888.397.3742), www.experian.com
 - TransUnion, Fraud Victim – [800.680.7289](tel:800.680.7289), www.transunion.com

How can I learn more about what happened?

Call Health Net for additional details about the security incident. Please note that Health Net representatives do not have access to the specific information contained on the drives. The numbers are:

- Member Services - HMO (actives and early retirees) - [800.654.9821](tel:800.654.9821)
- Member Services - Medicare Advantage (Seniority Plus) – [800.275.4737](tel:800.275.4737)

MEASURE L PASSES!

In case you missed the good news for education, AALA is pleased to inform you that Los Angeles voters overwhelmingly approved Measure L by 63% in last week's election. The passage of Measure L will ensure funding for the L.A. Public Library's 72 branches for the next four years, enabling the system to add back the sixth day of library service, most likely starting on July 1, 2011. Due to the city's dire financial straits, the L.A. Public Library had laid off approximately 330 staff members since last year. Measure L will provide adequate funds to allow the library to hire once again. AALA urges you to avail yourselves of the numerous services provided by our public library for students, community members and educators alike. It's good to have something positive to celebrate in these times.

STEPS FOR AALA MEMBERS TO ACCESS THEIR SENIORITY DATE

Human Resources has provided the following steps to access seniority and rank for current school-based administrators.

1. Log on to http://www.teachinla.com/admin_vacancies.
2. Under News and Information access the "click here" link.
3. Click on OPEN, and when prompted, enter your employee number and home zip code.

HUMAN RESOURCES RATIONALE FOR SENDING TWO MARCH 15 LETTERS

Certificated administrators recently received two identical March 15 notices, via First Class U.S. mail and certified mail. The District is required to notify certificated employees serving in administrative positions that they may be released/reassigned in the upcoming school year, and must send the notice by certified mail. The District also sends a courtesy copy through First Class U.S. mail so that employees do not have to be physically present to sign for the document or go to the post office to pick it up. While duplicate mailings do increase the costs associated with March 15 notices, the District wants to ensure that all administrators are fully aware of potential action involving their assignments.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FOSHAY ROBOTICS TEAM 597

Foshay Team 597 won one of the 19 Veteran Team Awards, The INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AWARD, which celebrates the team that progresses beyond safety fundamentals by using innovative ways to eliminate or protect against hazards. This award is sponsored by Underwriters Laboratories. In addition to practicing safety techniques and spreading information that was beneficial to all of the teams competing, Team 597 was publicly acknowledged for the work the students do in the community with **Tim Brown**, NFL All Pro and chair of Athletes and Entertainers For Kids (AEFK) and 911 for Kids Emergency Program, Bone Marrow Drive Awareness with Be the Match, and Marrow Miracles and Breast Cancer Awareness. The competition was held at NASA Kennedy Space Center and the University of Central Florida in Orlando, Florida.

ACADEMIC DECATHLON STATE RESULTS

The California Academic Decathlon competition just completed in Sacramento saw three LAUSD teams claim the top three places. Capturing first place with a score of 50,801 out of 60,000 was Granada Hills Charter High School, coached by **Matt Arnold, Nick Weber, and Spencer Wolf**. Following Granada Hills Charter in second place with a score of 49,889 was Marshall High School, coached by **Larry Welch**, and in third place with a score of 48,047 was El Camino Real High School, coached by **Stephanie Franklin**. In Super Quiz, Marshall High School placed first. The total individual medal count for the competing LAUSD students was 97. Of the nine (3 Honor, 3 Scholastic, and 3 Varsity) top-scoring students in the competition, eight were LAUSD students. Congratulations!

In addition to Granada Hills Charter, Marshall, and El Camino Real, there were eight other LAUSD teams in the state competition, and they are to be commended for their performances. Franklin High School, guided by **Sam Kullens**, was 6th; Palisades Charter High School, coached by **Ming Ha Ngo and Lisa Saxon**, was 7th; Taft High School, coached by **Arthur Berchin**, was 9th; Garfield High School, coached by **Lucy Romero and Kevin Murchie**, was 18th; Van Nuys High School, coached by **Angel Abreu**, was 22nd; San Fernando High School, coached by **Jeff Pierson**, was 30th; Canoga Park High School, coached by **Tom Armstrong**, was 38th; and Venice High School, coached by **David Howell**, was 39th. The administrative staffs, teachers, and school communities are to be commended for the fine performances of their schools.

The next challenge for Granada Hills Charter High School is the United States Academic Decathlon National Finals April 27 – 30 in Charlotte, North Carolina. Granada Hills Charter will be seeking its first national title. At the same time, Marshall High School will be competing in a national online competition, the second year for Marshall in this competition, which they won in 2010. We wish the teams' success in their next competitive endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ANTONIO CAMACHO

The Graduate School of Education and Psychology will celebrate the work of the Pepperdine University community in the field of Bilingual Education and recognize an alumnus for excellence in providing quality educational experiences for all students in California. This year, they will be honoring alumnus **Antonio José Camacho** (Principal of 135th Street School) for his commitment to diversity in education. Antonio has invited his colleagues and friends to attend the Fourth Annual Pepperdine CAFE Visionary Reception. The event will be held on Thursday, March 24, 2011, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., at the Renaissance Hotel – Long Beach, 111 East Ocean Blvd., Long Beach. RSVP by Friday, March 18, 2011. For more information, please call **Jermaine Pearson** at 310.568.5510. RSVP Link: <http://gsep.pepperdine.edu/news-events/events/cape/rsvp/>.

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

Once a year, the Los Angeles Association of School Psychologists (LAASP) honors psychologists who provide outstanding service and contribute to the lives of students, school staffs and parents. They are seeking help from Principals, APEISs, APSCSs, NPS Administrators, School Psychologists, Psychological Services Coordinators, and Psychological Services Specialists to nominate outstanding psychologists for this award. For additional information, answers to questions, or to secure nomination forms, contact **Breanna Demail** at 818.885.3643 or e-mail breanna.demail@lausd.net.

Reminders –

ATTENTION, REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

The next Representative Assembly meeting is scheduled for Thursday evening, March 24, 2011, at the AALA office. The meeting will commence with department caucuses at 4:30 p.m., to be followed immediately by the dinner and meeting at 5:30 p.m. A number of very important issues will be discussed.

- AALA's 2011-2012 Proposed Budget
- Update on AALA/LAUSD negotiations
- Health Benefits Committee (HBC) negotiations
- Self-nominated candidates and nominations from the floor for positions on the AALA Executive Board. (The nominee must either be present at the meeting, or have given prior written permission for his/her name to be placed in nomination.)
- PAC Council: Board District 5 Run-off election

We look forward to seeing you on March 24. Please remember to RSVP regarding your attendance by calling the AALA office at 213.484.2226 so that we may prepare adequately for dinner.

RETIRING ANYONE?

If you are planning to retire in the near future, AALA would appreciate it if you would call **Gema Pivaral** in the office (213.484.2226) or e-mail her at gpivaral@aala.us and let us know. We would like to provide you with a commemorative plaque and notify all your colleagues (via *Update*) of your intentions.

IN MEMORIAM

DR. ROY INGEBRIGTSEN – Former Director of Integration, Director of Instruction and Principal of Victory Boulevard School. He retired on September 1, 1986, and passed away on March 11, 2011. Services will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2011, 11:00 a.m., at Saint Mel Catholic Church, 20870 Ventura Boulevard, Woodland Hills, CA, 818.340.6020.

LEONARD GEORGE – Former Principal of Mann and Johnnie Cochran middle schools, Assistant Principal of Hamilton and Hollywood high schools, Mark Twain, Maclay and Markham middle schools and Assistant Principal, SCS, of Gompers Middle School and Los Angeles High School. He retired on October 1, 1997, and passed away on February 24, 2011.

FLOYD BROWN – Former Principal of Apperson Street School. He retired in June 1979, and passed away on March 3, 2011.

SAVE THE DATES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2011 - AALA is hosting a **Reception for Tom Torlakson**, California Superintendent of Public Instruction, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at The California Science Center, 700 Exposition Drive, Los Angeles (in Exposition Park). The educators' rate is a \$50 donation. We look forward to seeing many AALA members at the event to meet and support Mr. Torlakson. Should you have questions regarding the reception, please call the AALA office at 213.484.2226. RSVP to **Farrell** or **Nancy** at 323.465.9655 or nancydolanassociates@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2011 – AEIOU will hold its **41st Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance** at 6:00 p.m. at the Casa Italiana, 1051 North Broadway, Los Angeles. The cost is \$40. Checks for tickets may be sent to **Al Fasani** at 4981 Ariano Drive, Cypress, CA 90630. For any additional questions contact Al at choochoal@aol.com.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2011 – AALA **Spring Alumni Luncheon** will be held at the Stadium Club in Dodger Stadium, 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

LAUSD ADMINISTRATORS' CONFERENCE CANCELED

Dr. Judy Elliott, Chief Instructional Officer, has canceled the *1st Annual 21st Century LAUSD Leaders Administrator Conference*, scheduled for April 30, 2011. Many administrators had expressed concerns that the schools' budget window and timing of the conference made it impossible for them to participate. Dr. Elliott plans to reschedule the conference next fall.

AALA SCHOLARSHIP AND COMMUNITY AWARDS

BANQUET

MILLENNIUM BILTMORE HOTEL

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2011

5:30 – 8:30 P.M.

Commit to Never-Ending Improvement –

***"The greatest revolution of our generation
is the discovery that human beings,
by changing the inner attitudes of their minds,
can change the outer aspects of their lives."***

- William James

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.

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 questions about the selection process, go to www.lausdjobs.net.

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
Asst. Prin., SCS	Bravo Medical Magnet HS	04/01/11	323.224.3173

<p>▪ COORDINATOR, SPEECH AND LANGUAGE, MST 42, E Basis (plus Z Time), Division of Special Education For information and application procedures contact Deborah Rubenacker, Director, at 213.241.6200.</p>	<p>UNTIL FILLED</p>
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