

UPDATE

Week of April 11, 2011

FLASH!!! AALA BARGAINING BULLETIN

The Board of Education has authorized **Dr. John Deasy**, Superintendent-Elect, to negotiate with all LAUSD bargaining units a one-year bridge plan to restore at least 80% of the funding cuts to the 2011-2012 District budget, which would amount to approximately \$304 million. The Board plans to go public with this proposal by Tuesday, April 12, 2011.

Included in the plan are the following components and their projected savings:

- Twelve furlough days \$144 million
- A loan from the Health Benefits Fund reserve \$100 million
- Temporary underfunding of Workers Compensation and other central District budgets \$ 60 million

Dr. Deasy has informed AALA leadership that the District will relentlessly pursue state and federal revenue for the District starting immediately. He has pledged to work on returning Title I administrators to E Basis. Additionally, he has stated that the number of furlough days would be reduced if additional State funds become available to the District.

Under normal circumstances, negotiations are confidential. However, we are informing you of this breaking news because the District is going public with its proposal. Please know that the maintenance of health benefits and the restoration of AALA positions are our highest priorities.

Our negotiating team has not yet engaged in formal negotiations with LAUSD about this or other proposals. Obviously, no agreement has been reached. A bargaining session is scheduled for Monday, April 11, 2011, and it is anticipated that the District's bridge plan will be discussed. Many other issues important to AALA members also will be on the table.

As always, AALA members will have the opportunity to ratify any agreement reached by the negotiating team. We will keep you posted in *Update* as further information becomes available.

AALA ACTIVE MEMBERS – REMEMBER TO VOTE

Online voting for Vice Presidents and Directors is now taking place.

Your ballot arrived in an e-mail link from survey@aala.us with the subject line, *AALA Elections, xxxx Department*. Click on the link for your ballot. Voting deadline is Friday, April 15, and it only takes seconds to vote. Your vote is important!

A RESPECTED AALA ALUMNA ADDRESSES THE BOARD

*AALA thanks retired administrator **Doris Dillard** for sharing with us comments she made to the Board of Education on March 29, 2011.*

I have served the students of the Los Angeles Unified School District as a Teacher, Counselor, Assistant Head Counselor, Coordinator, Dean, Assistant Principal, Director in the Division of Instruction and Principal. **Superintendent Cortines** has tried to be an effective educational leader. The Board selected him to be the superintendent because of his knowledge, expertise, and exemplary credentials. Yes, credentials that "Your Mayor" felt valid enough for him to serve as "Your Mayor's" Education Czar.

But now, as evidenced at the March 15 Board Meeting, the majority of you disregarded his knowledge and expertise as an educational leader. You ignored his recommendations. Some of you voted against his recommendations because the percentage of parents who participated did not meet your standards, even though the Superintendent informed you that many of the students attending these schools were in foster care or homeless.

You gave away schools to "outside agencies" that the Superintendent indicated had not shown significant gains in student achievement under their leadership. You gave away schools that have not been built or opened. How do you know whether or not the students, who will attend these schools, yet to be built or opened, will demonstrate academic success?

It seems as if the majority of you are dedicated to "giving away" the District, school by school in some districts, to outside entities. You were elected to serve as Board Members of "The Los Angeles UNIFIED School District." Outside entities don't teach students; dedicated educators teach students! Partners and outside entities come and go. Board Members come and go. We cannot continue to subject our children to education by "the flavor of the day." **If these "outside entities" truly care about the education of all the peoples' children, then, their resources should be used to help improve schools from within rather than creating more external "fiefdoms."**

Your decisions on March 15 denied the very opportunities given to those schools recognized and applauded today in Board District 5. It appears that you no longer believe that dedicated school communities can be successful. Today, **Dr. Deasy** said, "transformation is going to come from within."

On March 15, in some Board Districts you shut down the very local school creativity you celebrated today. Los Angeles Unified School District is a "district in crisis" because the Los Angeles Unified School District is "a district of contradictions!"

ALERT TO ACTIVE AALA MEMBERS and ALUMNI

On Tuesday, April 26, 2011, at 1:00 p.m., the **William Johnston** school-naming will be held in the Board Room at Beaudry. The renaming is sponsored by Board of Education Member **Richard Vladovic**. You are invited to attend.

HEALTH BENEFITS FAQ

TOPIC: Choosing Urgent Care or the Emergency Room

Where do I go when I need immediate medical care?

Go to the Emergency Room or call 911 if you experience a severe or life-threatening injury or medical symptom. Go to Urgent Care if your condition calls for immediate attention, but is NOT life threatening.

What are some examples of life-threatening symptoms?

- Emergency conditions include medical, maternity or psychiatric problems that would lead to loss of life, limb or eyesight. An emergency may also include the need for immediate help to treat severe pain or relieve suffering.
- Some specific symptoms include: chest pain or pressure which radiates to the arms, neck, back, shoulder, jaw, arm, or wrist; sudden onset of severe abdominal pain; severe shortness of breath; sudden decrease in or loss of consciousness; sudden inability to talk or to move one side of the body, or sudden slurred speech; severe, persistent bleeding that cannot be stopped; major injuries such as gunshot or stab wounds or severe injuries from a vehicle accident; for pregnant women only: "active labor," which means a labor when there is inadequate time for a safe transfer to a plan's hospital.

What are some examples of "serious" symptoms that do not require emergency room treatment?

Urgent care conditions are not life threatening and may include symptoms such as throat soreness, fever not higher than 104°, earache, backache, rash, sprained ankle or minor wounds.

Are both Urgent Care and the Emergency Room accessible 24 hours/7 days a week?

You are covered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for Emergency Care. Most Urgent Care facilities are not available 24/7. However, most have extended and weekend hours. Because of the high variability between medical plans and even within plans, members should look into how to access their Urgent Care facilities and keep the information readily available. This may entail calling an Advice Nurse, a special phone number, or a primary care physician.

Is there a difference in copayments for Urgent Care and Emergency Room services?

Yes, expect a higher copayment for Emergency Room treatment--\$50 to \$100 per visit. Urgent Care treatment generally ranges from \$5 to \$50. Check your plan's copayment costs at the Benefits Administration website at <http://benefits.lausd.com>. Copayments are waived if you are admitted to the hospital.

What should I do if I need Urgent Care or Emergency Room care and am far from my health plan facilities?

If you are outside of your plan's service area, the costs of emergency treatment at an out-of-network facility will be covered through your plan.

STATE BUDGET NEWS

Recently, **Governor Jerry Brown** declared budget discussions in Sacramento to be at an impasse. As of now, there is not going to be a June election as requested by Governor Brown. The Republicans have blocked the required 2/3 majority to go to the voters and ask to maintain the revenues and fees required to produce a budget. Governor Brown hoped to solve California's crisis with half cuts and half revenues. Now he will be forced to produce an all cuts budget before he makes what is called the *May Revise* of his January Budget presentation. Alternatively, the majority Democrats can try to cause the election to happen with a simple majority and see if the effort passes legal muster. Finally, Governor Brown, who pledged during the election not to pursue revenues without the people of California's support, has said he will begin plans to have a November ballot measure to restore the revenues that will end June 30. This means that local governments will have to make the projected cuts July 1 since the measure will not go to the voters until November 2011.

ADULT EDUCATION IN SACRAMENTO

*ALA wishes to thank **Mike Wada**, Executive Board Member, for providing this information.*

Two years ago, the California economic crisis drove the implementation of categorical flexibility in order to provide latitude for Districts to stay fiscally solvent. Although adult education is a student based/attendance earning program, this funding was placed into Tier 3, which gives districts maximum flexibility for its use.

The California Department of Education estimates that 60% of the State's Adult Education funding has been shifted into School Districts' General Fund. This has resulted in dramatic reductions in many adult education programs, and in some cases, complete closures. Hundreds of thousands of adult students have lost access to programs that provide job training, high school diploma, English as a Second Language, parenting, and other courses that impact the students' ability both to obtain a livable wage job as well as help their children with their studies.

The California Council for Adult Education (CCAEE) currently sponsors AB 189 (Eng), which would create a framework within which stakeholders and a School Board can have a collaborative discussion regarding how to utilize resources. On March 30, AB 189 successfully passed out of the eleven member Assembly Education Committee by an 8-0 (7 Democrats, 1 Republican) vote. The remaining three Republicans either abstained or chose not to vote. The next step is Assembly Appropriations, currently scheduled for May.

If you would like to view the Committee proceedings, go to <http://www.calchannel.com/channel/viewVideo/2237>. Use the scroll bar to go to about the 12-minute mark. This will give you a very good idea re: How others view categorical programs, flexibility, etc.

SAVE THE DATES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2011 – **ALA Alumni Spring Luncheon** will be held at the Stadium Club, Dodger Stadium, 11:30 a.m. – 1:45 p.m. The featured speaker will be **Dr. John Deasy**, Superintendent-Elect, LAUSD.

MONDAY, MAY 9, 2011 - **Women in Educational Leadership Annual Mentor and Awards Dinner** will honor **Vivian Ekchian**, Chief Human Resources Officer, and **Tony Danza**, actor and star of the A&E series "Teach." For reservation and additional information, visit the WEL website at <http://www.w-e-l.org/> or contact WEL President **Dr. Janet Lew** at JLLewChu@aol.com.

FRIENDS OF AALA – FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN BEGINS

The recently established FRIENDS OF AALA, the 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation formed to raise funds for the benefit of the students and community of the Los Angeles Unified School District, has now launched its fundraising activities.

The Board of Directors is deeply committed to its mission of securing funds to help enhance AALA's budget so as to guarantee continuance of the outstanding student scholarship program now in its 29th year. Although these are difficult economic times for everyone, our students are being impacted the most, and they need our support to allow them to continue their education and become productive and involved citizens. All Active and Alumni members should have received their letters (Active via e-mail, Alumni by U.S. Mail) seeking support for this important activity. Letters have also been sent to private foundations, organizations, service clubs, etc., seeking support. Working together we can make a difference in the lives of LAUSD students.

The Board of Directors of FRIENDS OF AALA hopes that you will want to join us in this mission. Listed below are the names and e-mail addresses for the members of the Board. Please contact any of them with questions or concerns.

President:	Dr. Eve Sherman	evesher@aol.com
Vice President	Dr. Angie Stockwell	laangierifa@sbcglobal.com
Secretary:	Jane Pollock	jhpol@pacbell.net
Treasurer:	Neal Kleiner	nealb1051@aol.com
Members:	Dr. Judith Perez	jperez@lausd.net
	Dan Isaacs	disaacs@aala.us
	Carol Truscott	karol28@roadrunner.com

Donations for the scholarship fund in memory of **Zelda Fisher**, former Assistant Principal, EIS, of West Vernon Avenue School, are to be made to Friends of AALA and so marked on the donor form, which was included in the letter sent to all AALA active and retired members. A scholarship will be presented in her honor.

IN MEMORIAM

JESSE O. KENDRICK, JR. – Former Principal of Purche Avenue, Ambler Avenue and West Athens schools. He retired on August 5, 1992, and passed away on April 3, 2011. Jesse was also a retired Major in the United States Army Reserve. Services will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2011, 11:00 a.m., at Green Hills Memorial Chapel, 27501 South Western Avenue, Rancho Palos Verdes.

MICHAEL GUILLEMET – Former Coordinator, Pupil Services and Attendance, Specialized Unit. He retired on July 1, 2009, and passed away on April 1, 2011.

DR. ROBERT SEIM – Former Assistant Principal, SCS, of El Sereno and Stevenson middle schools. He retired on June 26, 1982, and passed away on March 19, 2011.

ROBERTA FUJITANI – Former Temp. Advisor, Instructional Media Services. She retired on July 1, 2009, and passed away on April 1, 2011. Services are on Saturday, April 9, 2011, at Rose Hills Memorial Park, Hillside Chapel, Gate 17, 3888 Workman Mill Rd., Whittier. Family requests CASUAL ATTIRE, NO FLOWERS. Donations may be made in her memory to the American Cancer Society or the Diabetes Society.

LEGAL BRIEF

So You're Going To Be A Witness – Tips To Help You Prepare

You may feel anxious or nervous about testifying in court before a judge, lawyers and a jury. The purpose of this document is to give you some information to make the experience more comfortable for you.

PREPARING YOURSELF TO TESTIFY

Before appearing in court, go over the facts of the case in your mind. Try to recall as clearly as you can exactly what occurred and the chronology of events. Make sure you understand how to get to the courthouse and what time you should arrive. Talk to the lawyer who has asked you to testify about when and where in the courthouse you should meet him or her. On the day you testify, wear what you would wear to an important business meeting.

WHEN YOU TESTIFY

You will testify by responding to questions asked by lawyers. First, the lawyer for the party that asked you to testify will ask you questions. This is called “Direct Examination.” The questions asked on Direct Examination have you talk about the facts you know. After Direct Examination, the lawyer for the opposing party will ask you questions. This is called “Cross Examination.” The questions asked on Cross Examination will test the story you told during Direct Examination. These questions see if you were able to adequately observe the facts and test your credibility. The questions asked by both lawyers will have one purpose – to bring out the truth about the facts you know.

RULES TO FOLLOW WHEN TESTIFYING

When you are on the witness stand, the first rule is to tell the truth. You will be given an oath to remind you, but be prepared to tell your story simply and honestly. Since your job is to tell the truth, you should not worry about helping or hurting either party in the case. Avoid expressing your opinion about who should win or lose the case – that is the job of the jury. As a witness, your sole duty is to tell it like you saw it. Nothing more, nothing less.

- 1. Stick to the facts.* Testify only to what you personally know. Tell only what you saw or know, not what you think happened, what you heard someone else say took place, or what you think will help or hurt one side. No matter how skillful a lawyer is in cross-examination, you won't be confused or embarrassed if you stick to the facts.
- 2. Speak slowly and clearly.* There is nothing more unpleasant to a court, jury and lawyers than to have a witness who refuses to speak slowly and clearly enough to be understood and heard. Being slow spoken and deliberate in your answers provides you time to think and helps ensure you will not be diverted or forced into dangerous territory. Speaking loudly and clearly indicates you are confident and certain about what you are saying.
- 3. Remain calm.* You will come across better and more credibly if you remain calm and do not become defensive, hostile or argumentative. If you lose your self-control, you will be much easier to trip up on cross-examination.
- 4. Never guess at the meaning of a question.* If you don't understand a question, ask that it be explained. If you don't understand the question, don't try to answer it. If you do, you may confuse the court, the jury and the attorneys. You may also be on the stand because the lawyers must go back and correct any misinformation given.
- 5. Answer all questions directly.* Give no more information than is asked. It is the lawyer's job to get your story by asking questions. Answer the question you are asked and don't volunteer additional information.
- 6. If you don't know, admit it.* Some witnesses think they should have an answer to every question asked. No witness knows all the facts. If you can't answer a question, say so. Don't testify to something you don't know.

LEGAL BRIEF (Continued)

7. *Don't try to memorize your story.* Tell your story to the best of your ability. You shouldn't try to memorize your story. Your answers will sound rehearsed, and if questions are asked out of order, you could become confused.

8. *Allow the attorney to finish speaking before you answer.* You will notice that a court reporter will be seated near you. The court reporter records everything said in the courtroom and can record only one person at a time.

This LAUSD Legal Brief is for information only and does not constitute legal advice. Please contact the Office of the General Counsel to determine how this information may apply to your school's specific facts and circumstances.

CONGRATULATIONS: FOSHAY ROBOTICS TEAM 597

Principal **Yvonne Edwards** and Lead Mentor **Darryl Newhouse** are proud to report that Foshay Learning Center Robotics Team 597 will represent LAUSD and the City of Los Angeles at the 2011 For Inspiration and Recognition in Science and Technology (*FIRST*) Robotics Championship in St. Louis Missouri, April 27 – 30, 2011. Sixty-three teams competed, and Foshay Team 597 won the following awards (the most) at the Los Angeles Regional:

Website Award: Recognizes excellence in student-designed, built, and managed *FIRST* team websites. Check it out at <http://www.team597.net/>.

Recognition for **Industrial Safety Award** sponsored by Underwriters Laboratories: Celebrates the team that progresses beyond safety fundamentals by using innovative ways to eliminate or protect against hazards.

Engineering Inspiration Award (Qualified the Foshay Team to participate in the Nationals): Celebrates outstanding success in advancing respect and appreciation for engineering within a team's school and community.

FIRST Dean's List Finalist Award: This award celebrates a student's outstanding leadership and effectiveness in advancing respect and appreciation for engineering and engineers, both within the school and in the community. *FIRST* Dean's List Finalists will compete at the Championship for the *FIRST* Dean's List. **Louis Gavidia**, a 12th grade student at Foshay, is a finalist. His hobby is "discovering the universe." He says, "I wish to major in astrophysics for my passion is science, and I have always been fascinated by physical science. I want to attend UC Berkeley or USC. My favorite food to eat is tacos. Best TV show to watch is 'The Universe.' Remember science is more than a body of knowledge, it's a way of thinking!!!"

CARSON HS STUDENTS WIN HONORABLE MENTION

In March, a team of Carson High School students received honorable mention in the ExploraVision science competition. As an honorable mention recipient, this team, comprised of **Daisy Lopez**, **Ayrius Brown**, and **Jose Valdez**, placed in the top 10% of the thousands of teams from the United States and Canada who participated in the competition. ExploraVision is a science competition in which students must tap into not only their knowledge of science and technology but also their creativity in order to describe an innovative, future technology. The Carson High team envisioned a future technology to prevent the often-devastating consequences of automobile accidents. Their invention, named F.R.E.D. (which stands for Force Field Redirection Emitter Device), relies on electromagnetic force fields to absorb the destructive forces of an auto accident; thus significantly reducing the impact on human lives. As the team described in their research and description of F.R.E.D., we have seen force fields (often depicted as protective bubbles) used in futuristic movies and cartoons for decades protecting people, space ships and superheroes. Twenty years from now, these innovative Carson High students envision a world in which force fields can protect everyone in the event of an automobile accident.

LAUSD BOARD RUN-OFF

The run-off election for Board District 5 will take place on May 17, 2011. AALA is on record in support of **Bennett Kayser** for this seat. If you live in District 5, please vote, and encourage your neighbors to vote. The results of the election will have a major impact on LAUSD for many years. **Pete Martinez, Vince Villagran** and **Henry Ronquillo**, three outstanding AALA Alumni administrators, have endorsed Bennett Kayser. To obtain a vote by mail ballot, go to <https://lavote.net/SECURED/AV/Default.cfm?election=%23%23LXM%0A>. Complete the information on this form. This application must be received by the election official no later than Midnight on [May 10, 2011](#).

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.

CERTIFICATED POSITIONS AVAILABLE

PRINCIPAL, SECONDARY

Taft HS (1) MST 45, 5461 Winnetka Avenue, Woodland Hills, CA 91364

Taft is a D Basis school. For information and application procedures contact **George Bartleson**, Principal Leader, at 818.654.3615. **Filing deadline is Friday, April 22, 2011.**

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL, SMALL SCHOOL, MST 40, (Temp. Adv.)

Central Region HS #16 (5), 300 East 53rd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90011 (**2 Positions**)

Central Region HS #16 is a D Basis school.

Social Justice School: **Fine Arts Academy - Filing deadline is Friday, April 15, 2011.**

Social Justice School: **Global Issues Academy - Filing deadline is Friday, April 15, 2011.**

For information and application procedures contact **Raul Correa**, Principal Leader, at 323.224.3100.

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
Principal, Secondary Small School	South Region Learning Complex #2 Site Operations Coordinator	05/06/11	323.242.1492
Principal, Secondary Small School	SAGE Academy at Belmont HS	04/11/11	213.241.0135
Principal, Secondary Small School	Mendez Learning Center School of Math & Science	04/11/11	employment@partnershipla.org