

## UPDATE

Week of August 24, 2009

### "PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE" RESOLUTION COMMENTS TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, AUGUST 25, 2009

Good afternoon, Madam President, Members of the Board of Education, and Superintendent Cortines. My name is Judith Perez. I am President of Associated Administrators of Los Angeles.

Principals, assistant principals and other AALA members believe that every child, every student in the LAUSD deserves the best possible education. **Despite the negative rhetoric you have been hearing, we know that there are many excellent schools in our District, schools that have dramatically improved student achievement over the past 10 years.** They're not just on the Westside or in the Valley: They are everywhere, in every single one of your districts.

**What do these excellent schools have in common?** The five most important elements are the leadership of a strong principal; an outstanding teacher in every classroom; a safe, clean, attractive learning environment; adequate resources; and parent involvement in education, at home and at school.

Excellent schools promote collaboration among stakeholders for the benefit of students. Excellent schools expect a lot of students. They invite parents to be actively involved. They reach out for community support. They are demanding and don't give up.

At the heart of educational excellence is a lot of hard work and sustained effort over time. Yes, it takes time. There is no magic bullet, no quick fix, no secret sauce. Excellent schools are accountable for their results.

**Board Members, we demand that you be accountable for your actions today. Maintain the oversight function you have been granted as trustees of this District. Do not deregulate education by handing off your responsibility to untested, independent entities that are not accountable for their results. Focus with us on the needs of students—not political expediency or political ambition.**

**We strongly believe that our negotiated contract with LAUSD supports District-wide accountability and student achievement. Our members devote their professional careers to public education. Remember: We are administrators, but**

**PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE RESOLUTION (Continued)**

**We are also parents, grandparents and community members. We are voters who care deeply about the future of our city. And we will remember what you decide today.**

**Wednesday Morning Reflections on the Vote**

The amended resolution passed by a vote of 6 to 1. Board Member **Marguerite LaMotte** cast the single dissenting vote. We commend Ms. LaMotte for courageously standing up for her principles, although she was subjected to tremendous pressure on every side to give in. Her "no" vote inspires us to continue doing what's right on behalf of all LAUSD students.

AALA did have significant input in the resolution's final version. Notably, we pushed for Superintendent Cortines to be in charge of this initiative. We insisted that AALA be at the table at every stage of planning and implementation. The Superintendent gave public assurances that we will be at the table.

Unfortunately, we did not win the key sentence we fought so hard for, which stated, "All plans must include adherence to existing District collective bargaining agreements." However, the amendment submitted by Board Member **Nury Martinez** at the meeting buys us time to regroup and strategize. Her amendment provides for formation of a Workforce Stability Task Force "to work collaboratively with all stakeholders to develop guidelines and a process for the District to apply when evaluating operational plans from external operators for schools not already subject to binding legal and contractual collective bargaining obligations and to submit the recommendation of said task force to the Board for approval by September 30, 2009." We will keep you informed as this work progresses.

**Footnote:**

**We wish to commend former Board of Education Members Jackie Goldberg and Rita Walters for expressing points of view consistent with AALA's stated position at the Board meeting on Tuesday, August 25, 2009.**

**AALA SURVEY: RESULTS ARE IN!**

We received a total of 1,032 AALA members' responses to our survey, "Winning the Tools to Improve Our Schools." Thank you for sharing your views! We are in the process of analyzing the responses and will summarize the results in an upcoming issue of our Update. Our next step will be to prepare the proposals for contract negotiations according to your priorities.

## HAS THE LOCAL DISTRICT MORPHED INTO A MOM AND POP STORE?

Some Board Members are contemplating "selling off" new schools to charter school operators and other entities. While that Districtwide battle has taken time and considerable District resources, a Local District Superintendent has chosen to depart from support for school-based administrators who have followed the District promotional examination procedures. Let us become more specific. On June 15, 2009, the District posted the vacancy for the principal of Northridge Academy. The application period closed on June 29, 2009. Six applicants from the Secondary Principal Eligibility List applied. No one from the six was selected. In somewhat of a parallel posting, the vacancy for the Woodland Hills Academy was initiated on June 16, 2009, and closed on July 6, 2009. There were seven candidates from that same list who applied. No one from the list was selected. Instead, the Local District Superintendent utilized Administrative Regulation 4214 to appoint administrators (neither of whom was on the Secondary Principal Eligibility List) to each of the aforementioned sites.

The key element of Administrative Regulation 4214 provides for approval of an administrator if "The Superintendent or designee finds that the particular position requires an incumbent with special personal or professional qualifications, not a part of the class description for the regular class, and recommends a direct appointment...." AALA staff and membership would like to know the special qualifications possessed by both of these individuals. As AALA members, we neither question these individuals integrity nor their professionalism. However, we do have several questions for the Local District Superintendent and her supervisors:

- Has the District discarded the promotional examination process?
- Has cronyism replaced the merit system?
- Is there no sensitivity to the professionals on the eligibility list who have demonstrated their skill sets by being successful on the District's authorized examination and by meeting all other District criteria?
- What kind of message does this send to all AALA members who wish to seek promotional appointments?
- Does Superintendent Cortines care about the morale of middle managers?
- Symbolically, does it mean you have to know someone to gain a promotional appointment?
- **If the recommended appointees have super-human qualities, why didn't the Local District Superintendent communicate with AALA?**

**Board Members and Senior Staff, these are the questions being asked by the middle managers that provide the leadership at District school sites on a daily basis.**

**Finally, who in the District has the responsibility for evaluating the performance of Local District superintendents?**

## HEALTH BENEFITS FAQ\*

### *Topic: Reaching Age 65? How Medicare Affects Your Health Benefits*

#### **How does Medicare affect retiree benefits? What about dependents that reach age 65?**

1. Retirees and their dependents--spouses/domestic partners--at age 65 must enroll in Medicare Part A and Part B to maintain District health benefits.
  - Generally, Part A provides coverage for hospitalization and Part B provides coverage for outpatient care. There is a monthly cost for both Parts A and B; however, Part A coverage is provided at no cost to those who have paid Medicare tax for at least 40 calendar quarters, or those who may be eligible based on the spouse's payment of Medicare tax.
  - Medicare retirees must remain enrolled in Medicare Part B and Part A (unless required to contribute to Part A and are not eligible to be reimbursed by CalSTRS).
  - **Failure to enroll in Medicare, as required, will result in loss of District-sponsored medical and prescription benefits.** However, once Medicare Part B and Part A are effective, benefits will be restored effective the first date of the following month when the District receives the Medicare information. Lack of Medicare coverage will not affect dental or vision benefits.
2. Members should not enroll in any Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (PDP), also known as Medicare Part D. Your health plan will automatically enroll you in its Medicare PDP.
  - Per federal law, **if you join an individual Medicare PDP, your LAUSD prescription drug plan, as well as your current medical plan, will be canceled.**
  - The LAUSD prescription drug plan is at least as good as the standard Medicare Part D benefit for most Medicare eligible participants.
3. For more information, you may call Medicare directly at 1.800.MEDICARE (1.800.633.4227) or at 1.877.486.2048 (TTY) for the hearing impaired. You may also visit the Medicare website at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

For other questions, you may e-mail the AALA office at [gpivaral@aala.us](mailto:gpivaral@aala.us).

#### **Next Update: Cost of Health Benefits—How are they managed?**

\*Question responses have been supplied by the District. While some lengthier responses may have been shortened, the key information remains the same.

## RACE TO THE TOP: MORE OF THE SAME?

In an opinion piece, the editors of *The Wall Street Journal* assert that the recently announced Race to the Top Fund could be more than just another reform. It could, they write, be a fundamental challenge to "the public school establishment," who can no longer say "that lack of money is its big problem." They point to the fact that Race to the Top follows an additional \$100 billion in education stimulus funding, itself on top of routine education spending, \$667 billion for K-12 education in the 2008-09 school year. So the reformist rhetoric of Race to the Top "sounds great" to the authors, but whether the administration can successfully face down entrenched interests remains to be seen. If it is simply a fact of throwing more money at the system, in the authors' view, the plan will fail. For decades, they write, the country has been trying to "spend its way to educational excellence," doubling per-pupil outlays in real terms, and tripling federal funding. Despite this, reading scores on national standardized tests have remained "relatively flat," with scores for blacks and Hispanics improved but lagging far behind white students in test scores and graduation rates.

Read more: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204886304574308442726348678.html>

## RACE TO THE TOP BRINGS MORE, NOT LESS, EMPHASIS ON TESTING

In a surprising twist to many in education, the Obama administration under Secretary of Education **Arne Duncan** has made the role of standardized testing more significant, rather than less, according to *The New York Times*. During his campaign for the presidency, Mr. Obama frequently called for an overhaul of NCLB, which many interpreted to mean a reduced federal role and less reliance on standardized testing. But proposed rules for the \$4.3 billion Race to the Top grants require proof that states are fostering innovation, improving achievement, raising standards, recruiting effective teachers, turning around failed schools, and building data systems. The metric for these: test scores. Before a state can apply for Race to the Top funds, it must have no "barriers to linking data on student achievement or student growth to teachers and principals for the purpose of teacher and principal evaluation," the rules say. While some education leaders have strongly criticized fund rules, the two national teacher unions have not formally commented, though they've opposed using test scores for evaluations in the past. Several states, including Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, and Tennessee, have reconfigured education laws to align with the administration's take on charter schools and merit pay, the better to compete for Race to the Top money.

Read more: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/17/education/17educ.html?pagewanted=2>

Related:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5h9UAdVT4nGfrS4rc0UzXyItAPwjwD9A4PAV80>

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Dr. Terry Campa**, former principal of O'Melveny School and former assistant principal of Alexandria School, Politi School and Sheridan School. She retired February 7, 2005, and passed away August 22, 2009. Services are scheduled as follows: Viewing will be this Friday, August 28, 2009, from 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (Rosary will be at 6:00 p.m.) at: Mission Hills Catholic Mortuary, 11160 Stranwood Avenue, Mission Hills, CA (818) 361-7387. The funeral will be on Saturday, August 29, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. at St. John Baptist De La Salle Catholic Church, 16555 Chatsworth, Granada Hills (corner of Chatsworth and Havenhurst) 818.363.2535.

**Leonard Britton**, who served as LAUSD Superintendent from 1987-1990, died at the age of 78 on August 9, 2009. Before assuming the LAUSD position of Superintendent, Britton had been the Superintendent of Dade County in Miami, Florida. Britton worked as a consultant until declining health prompted him into retirement. He brought the concept of School-Based Management to LAUSD. Donations may be made in his name to Good Samaritan Hospital.

**RETIREMENT CELEBRATIONS**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date, Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Elois McGehee	Saturday, Sept. 12, 2009 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	DoubleTree Hotel 2800 Via Cabrillo Marina San Pedro	Susan Price 310.354.3460 Connie Moore 323.755.8543
Richard Burrows	Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Sheraton Universal 333 Universal Hollywood Dr. Universal City	Robin Lithgow Connie Covert 213.241.6413
Carol Truscott	Saturday, Sept. 26, 2009 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Beverly Hilton Hotel Stardust Room 9876 Wilshire Blvd. Beverly Hills	Norma Berryman 323.242.1315 Faye Banton 310.631.7522

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:**

**"In the first place God made idiots. This was for practice. Then He made School Boards."**

*-- Mark Twain*

## DISTRICT RESPONSE TO AALA'S REQUEST: MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT

The mileage rate change to the IRS standard rate for District Represented, AALA and Unit E employees will appear on the impacted employees' October payments. The change is retroactive to July 1, 2008, and the retroactive payment will be included as well with the October pay. The first impacted payrolls will be the semi-monthly payroll dated October 23, 2009; classified payroll will be October 31, 2009; and certificated payroll will be November 5, 2009.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Facilities Services Division is here to support administrators in achieving an optimal school atmosphere. Making use of the three tools outlined below will help you make the most of the resources the Division provides for your campus:

- 1) **Your Complex Project Manager (CPM):** There might not be a facilities “easy button” or magic wand, but we’d like to introduce you to the next best thing: your CPM. Your CPM is your expert when it comes to all things facilities related. Leaky faucet? Graffiti removal? Got a community group that is interested in undertaking a facilities project and need to know those rules and regulations? Your CPM is there to help make it all happen. Just ask.
- 2) **Service Call Log Access:** Concerned your CPM might have forgotten number four on your “honey do” list, i.e., to call in missing ceiling tiles in the multipurpose room? You need to know when that call has been made and when it is scheduled to be fixed. If you have service call log online access, you can find out in a matter of key strokes. Your CPM can set you up with access to the service call log online. Just ask your CPM for the “Request to be added to Principal’s Group” form. **Note:** *Your CPM should also have a written log of all tasks performed, service calls made, which is another way to ensure your concerns are being addressed.*
- 3) **M&O Service Guide for Administrators:** Don’t let Facilities Maintenance & Operations be a mystery. From typical service call response times and how calls are prioritized to what is and is not termed maintenance work, a wealth of information breaking down services and regulations is available at your fingertips at: <http://www.laschools.org/mo-service-guide>.

Stay tuned for more tips in getting the most from your Facilities Team. For more helpful information for administrators at your fingertips, please visit: <http://www.laschools.org/mo-service-guide>.

**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.

**PRINCIPAL, ELEMENTARY**

**HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (5) (MST 40)** 120 E. Avenue 35, Los Angeles, CA 90031  
 Hillside is an E Basis single-track calendar school K-5. For information and application procedures contact **Celia Ripke**, Director, School Support Services, 323.224.3172. **Filing deadline is Friday, September 11, 2009.**

**AMBASSADOR SCHOOL FOR GLOBAL LEADERSHIP (4) (MST 42)** 3201 W. 8<sup>th</sup> St., Los Angeles, 90010  
 The Ambassador School for Global Leadership (E Basis) is one of LAUSD's autonomous pilot schools in the Belmont Zone of Choice and will open in September of 2010. For information and application procedures contact **Edmundo Rodriguez**, Director, 213.241.0890. **Filing deadline is 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 11, 2009.**

**COORDINATOR, PERIODIC ASSESSMENTS (MST 40, E Basis)**

**Office of Data and Accountability**, 333 S. Beaudry Avenue, 21<sup>st</sup> Fl., Los Angeles, CA 90017 213.241.2460  
 Responsibilities include the implementation of the District's periodic assessment plan under the supervision of the Director, School Information Branch. Requires 8 years of full-time public school certificated experience with 2 years in a management position and ability to travel. *Out-of-District applicants may apply.* For information and application procedures contact **Cynthia Lim**, Executive Director. **Filing deadline is 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 11, 2009.**

**OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAM (MST 39, B Basis)**

**Beyond the Bell Branch**, 333 S. Beaudry Avenue, 29<sup>th</sup> Fl., Los Angeles, CA 90017 213.241-7900  
 Responsibilities include to develop, coordinate, supervise, and evaluate the planning, and management of Outdoor Education programs and facilities. Requires 5 years of full-time service in a certificated position(s) and experience and/or familiarity with the maintenance of specialized facilities. *Out-of-District applicants may apply.* For information and application procedures contact **Alvaro Cortes**, Assistant Superintendent. **Filing deadline is Friday, September 11, 2009.**

**DIRECTOR, SCHOOL INFORMATION BRANCH (MST 45, A Basis)**

**Office of Data and Accountability**, 333 S. Beaudry Avenue, 21<sup>st</sup> Fl., Los Angeles, CA 90017 213.241.2460.  
 Responsibilities include to develop and implement the policies and procedures of the School Information Branch and monitor its operation. Requires 8 years of full-time certificated experience with 2 years in a management position. *Out-of-District applicants may apply.* For information and application procedures contact **Cynthia Lim**, Executive Director. **Filing deadline is Friday, September 11, 2009.**

**PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED POSITIONS STILL AVAILABLE**

Position	Location	Deadline	Contact
Specialist, Least Restrictive Environment	Division of Special Education	9/2/09	323.932.2155
Coordinator, Parent Ombudsperson	Local District 5	9/4/09	323.224.3195
Director of Instruction and Operational Oversight	Charter Schools Division	UNTIL FILLED	212.241.2656