

UPDATE

Week of May 25, 2009

2008-2009 LAUSD REPORT CARD

At the end of each school year it is customary for AALA to issue an assessment regarding successes and failures of LAUSD from our point of view. As with all report cards, this one is designed to assist the recipients with food for thought in order to improve as a school district in meeting its core mission of student achievement. In addition, AALA stands ready to participate in any endeavor to develop strategies necessary to accomplish well thought out student achievement goals.

Office of the Superintendent – Needs Improvement

AALA realizes that the first year in any new endeavor is a learning year. However, due to the experience and expertise of the Superintendent and his staff, AALA expects more than what has been delivered. Line/staff protocols have not always been followed. This lack falls in the management dimension of delegation and appropriate follow-up. In addition, in the critical area of budget management, collaborative solutions with bargaining units have been lacking. AALA expects this mark to improve or the element of existing chaos will expand. AALA hopes that the Superintendent will approach current and future problems in the manner in which he supported the resolution of the health benefits negotiations. AALA gave Mr. Cortines good marks during his 20th Century Superintendency, and we hope to do the same eventually in the 21st Century.

Division of Special Education – Needs Improvement

While AALA has great respect for the individuals in the Division of Special Education and their commitment to the children and parents they serve, some decisions made with regard to the use of federal stimulus funds have been appalling. AALA sees the Division going backwards in terms of meeting Consent Decree goals rather than using the influx of new money to enhance the learning climate for all students being served. We hope that the federal court judge does not have to intercede as with the original consent decree.

Office of the Chief Financial Officer – Needs Improvement

AALA is very concerned that the information being provided to the Superintendent and the Board of Education may appear sound to the CFO from an accounting standpoint, but it does not meet the challenge of today's budget realities. Suggestions such as a parcel tax, increased use of stimulus money to meet the current year's crisis, and convening a collaborative working group to develop long range plans for solvency of the District have not been developed. The CFO in LAUSD needs to be more than an accountant; the person in that position needs to be creative and develop solutions that reduce layoffs and develop innovative ways to increase District resources. We need fewer worst-case scenarios, and more light at the end of the tunnel!

LAUSD REPORT CARD (Continued)

Office of the Chief Operating Officer – Satisfactory

AALA is pleased to note that the operations of the District have for the most part been run efficiently with little or no concerns expressed by our members. AALA is also pleased that the COO assisted in solving the health benefits negotiations problems. However, there is always room for improvement, especially in the resolution of the vacation cap issue. The COO's denial of uncapped vacation pay for retiring staff reverses his earlier position, and there is a need for him to carefully review vacation cap issues that are sensitive to the needs of conscientious employees and their earnings. AALA finds that the Office of Staff Relations needs to develop a greater leadership role in support of school based administrators; in addition, more timely and responsive negotiations with bargaining units would reflect more positively on behalf of all District constituents. With thousands of positions being cut, "operations" may become oxymoronic.

Office of the Chief Academic Officer – Needs Improvement

While AALA has considerable appreciation for the individuals in this office, we are greatly concerned about the lack of a coherent leadership and focus for instruction. Will there be resource people in the various curricular areas to support our school-based administrators and teachers? The Chief Academic Officer needs to provide and address a clear focus for instruction to staff, students and parents, pre-kindergarten through adult. AALA was also disturbed to learn that the CAO was contracting outside the District for professional development services at a time when layoffs are proposed for District employees in her units. The prior Superintendent and CAO used the mantra of "instruction, instruction, instruction" while the present Superintendent and CAO seem to be changing the academic mantra to "destruction, destruction, destruction!"

Division of Career and Continuing Education – Outstanding

For the most part, AALA has heard of few problems emanating from this Division. As a division that supports more students than all but three school districts in the United States, the work consistently done by the Division of Career and Continuing Education has been outstanding. However, we do have a concern that in our country with millions of Americans out of work we are not focusing more on the retraining of adults for other jobs.

Office of Human Resources – Outstanding

The work of this Office has been consistently outstanding all year even in the face of the potential layoffs. While there are always going to be concerns about processing issues, staff members in the Office of Human Resources have solved problems in a manner that is sensitive to the individual while following District policy to the letter. The Human Resources staff has excelled in communicating with AALA members.

LAUSD REPORT CARD (Continued)

Office of the Chief Facilities Officer – Satisfactory

New school construction has been the hallmark of this Office for many years, and the new schools coming on line have added to the learning and aesthetic environment in LAUSD. Also, the building trades have continued to serve our schools in a manner that contributes to the health and safety of all students. However, the continuing problem of using consultants in lieu of District employees has not been satisfactorily addressed. This concern must be addressed so that all District employees are treated in a fair manner, and District bond money is used in the most efficient way possible. By the way, where is the money that **Eli Broad** was supposed to donate to pay for the enhancements (including the “waterslide” tower) at the new performing arts high school at 450 N. Grand Avenue?

School Police Department – Outstanding

All AALA members are thankful for the professional service provided by all school police including sergeants, lieutenants, and senior management. Even though the Department has been continually short-handed, school police have continued to provide a safe school environment for students and staff in all schools and offices. We are also pleased with the cooperation that has been generated with city police departments and the county sheriff's department.

As with all school accountability report cards, this report is being published and shared with the community in a spirit of problem solving. AALA hopes that this constructive assessment from the perspective of AALA members will assist the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education to better meet the needs of all LAUSD constituent groups, especially our students, in school year 2009-2010.

**TIER II LEADERSHIP PROGRAM IN THAILAND
& Certificate in International Leadership**

Applications are now being accepted for interested AALA members to join a select group of school administrators for the highly rated and well-respected program Tier II in Thailand! The SUMMER program will run July 20 – 30 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. It was designed in collaboration with the University of California, Irvine's FastTrack Tier II Program, and will support candidates completing Tier II requirements. Share this information with a colleague. Spouses (significant others), family, and friends may also come and “vacation” while participants are working during the weekdays, and the program is able to assist in their travel arrangements, too.

The cost is \$3,560 (international program, Tier II tuition, flight, and hotel) or \$2,990 without Tier II. For information contact Dr. **Linda Orozco**, Founder & Director, Tier II in Thailand & Brazil, Leadership Innovation, at 562.368.6844 or e-mail Orozco@Leadership-Innovation.org or visit the website at <http://www.leadership-innovation.org/>.

JULIE KORENSTEIN'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

Julie Korenstein is retiring after 20 years of diligent service as a Member of the Board of Education. Help us say good-bye to an LAUSD legend. The celebration will take place on Sunday, June 14, 2009, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Porter Valley Country Club, 19219 Singing Hills Drive, Northridge. The cost is \$45 per person (includes champagne brunch and gift). Space is limited so please RSVP to korenstein.retirement@gmail.com.

If you would like to share a few words to thank Julie, or if you have any questions, please contact **Lisa Kendrick** at lisa.kendrick@lausd.net or 213.241.8137.

RETIREMENT CELEBRATIONS

Name	Date, Time	Location	Contact
Marylou Amato	Thursday, June 4, 2009 5:00 p.m.	Il Fornaio 24 West Union Street Pasadena	Yvonne LaMarre 323.224.3349
Arne Rubenstein	Sunday, August 30, 2009 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Universal Sheraton 333 Universal Hollywood Dr. Universal City	LaNelle Harvey lnh3456@lausd.net
Pat Colby	Saturday, June 13, 2009 12:00 Noon	Marina del Rey Hotel 13534 Bali Way Marina del Rey	Cheryl Bitar cbitar@lausd.net 310.577.4237
Terri Arnold	Saturday, June 13, 2009 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Ayers Hotel 14400 Hindry Avenue Hawthorne	sharon.sweet@lausd.net
Patricia McKenna Forkos	Thursday, June 25, 2009 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Acapulco Restaurant 6270 E. Pacific Coast Hwy. Long Beach	sharon.sweet@lausd.net terri.arnold@lausd.net
Carmen Schroeder	Sunday, June 7, 2009 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Almanson Court 700 S. Almanson St. Alhambra	Irma Medina 323.244.3190
Lee Fields-Robinson	Saturday, June 27, 2009 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Alpine Village Inn 833 W. Torrance Blvd. Torrance	Rosa Morris 951.368.4137 msblaq1@hotmail.com
Michael O'Sullivan	Saturday, June 6, 2009 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.	The Center at Cathedral Plaza 555 W. Temple Street Los Angeles	Gema Pivaral 213.484.2226 gpivaral@aala.us
Alan Good	Tuesday, June 16, 2009 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	LAUSD A-Level Cafeteria 333 S. Beaudry Ave. Los Angeles	Talina Munoz 213.241.2428

AALA SCHOLARSHIP/COMMUNITY AWARDS BANQUET A SUCCESSFUL EVENT!

The AALA Scholarship/Community Awards Banquet was held on Thursday, May 21, at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel with over 200 people in attendance. At the banquet, sixteen outstanding students from the Los Angeles Unified School District were presented scholarships valued at \$1,000 each, an AALA Scholarship Award Certificate, and a junior portfolio. Also, each student received a 16" x 20" framed portrait from **Gary Kranz**, School Portraits by Kranz, Inc. The portraits were on display throughout the evening.

The students honored at the banquet were the following: **Selene Ceja** (Jordan HS); **Aaron Feuer** (North Hollywood HS); **Eduardo Flores** (Wilson HS); **Hansanii Frazier** (Washington Preparatory HS); **Noel Grigsby Jr.** (Crenshaw HS); **Kevin Jiang** (Van Nuys HS); **Su Kang** (Palisades Charter HS); **Saaliha Khan** (Birmingham HS); **Karen Lok** (Lincoln HS); **Danny Pasillas** (Huntington Park HS); **Yana Pavlova** (Hollywood HS); **Neil Anjon Ray** (Reseda HS); **Kristina Stavros** (San Pedro HS); **Mercedes Hester** (Frida Kahlo HS); **Alan Cardona** (Evans CAS); and **Mariano Molina IV** (West Valley Occupational Center).

In addition, community volunteers, individuals and groups, were recognized for their service to the students in the District and presented with commemorative plaques from AALA. The following were the honorees: **Danita Aljuwani** (Sherman Oaks CES); **Curtis Eason** (Evans CAS); **Harry Landon** (Belmont HS); **Rayisha Martinez** (Foshay Learning Center); **Teri Osika** (North Hollywood HS); **George Pérez** (Elizabeth Learning Center); **Cochran Middle School Volunteers--Porfirio Martinez, Rosa Vallejo, Luz Coreas, Cruz Ortega, and Guadalupe Torres** (Cochran MS); and **Inner City Outings Committee, Los Angeles Sierra Club Avalon HS + other LAUSD schools**.

A special presentation was made to Board Member **Julie Korenstein** commending her and thanking her for her many years of service to LAUSD. She shared brief comments with the banquet guests. This year's AALA President's Award was given to **Dan Basalone**, AALA Administrator, for his exemplary leadership and service to AALA. Dan is retiring this year from his AALA position.

Superintendent **Ramon Cortines** was in attendance early in the evening to congratulate the scholarship students and community award recipients. Also in attendance were the eight Local District Superintendents: **Jean Brown**, District 1; **Alma Pena-Sanchez**, District 2; **Michelle King**, District 3; **Richard Alonzo**, District 4; **Carmen Schroeder**, District 5; **Martin Galindo**, District 6; **Carol Truscott**, District 7; and **Linda Del Cueto**, District 8.

The banquet was a very special event for everyone there, and we congratulate all of the honorees!

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2009 - Council of Black Administrators' (COBA) Thirty-third Annual Black Child Conference/Scholarship Luncheon will be held at the **Los Angeles Airport Radisson Hotel**, 6225 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles (corner of Century and Sepulveda) from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For additional information contact the COBA office at 323.296.2040 or coba5356@sbcglobal.net or www.lausd.k12.ca.us/orgs/coba.

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2009 – Gay and Lesbian Administrators & Allies (GALAA) will hold its 3rd Annual GALAA Scholarship Awards Ceremony, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. **The new location will be determined later.** For additional information go to www.galaaonline.org.

HOUSE COMMITTEE SEEKS TO ENCOURAGE NATIONAL STANDARDS

Seeking to remedy the variability in state standards that one witness testified is "off the charts," the House Education and Labor Committee convened a panel about helping states to develop common academic standards, reports the Alliance for Excellent Education. The witness, former governor of North Carolina **James B. Hunt, Jr.**, called for common standards that are "fewer, clearer, and higher," internationally benchmarked, and "based on evidence about the essential knowledge and skills that students need to be prepared for college and work." **Ken James**, president of the Council of Chief State School Officers, described state-led efforts to establish common standards, and **Randi Weingarten**, president of the American Federation of Teachers, detailed problems with the current system. She noted that textbooks try to "cover" the standards by having a "little bit of everything and a lot of nothing," and stressed that simply "getting standards right" was inadequate. Congress must also fix the "fundamentally flawed accountability system" in the No Child Left Behind Act. Rep. **Howard McKeon**, the committee's highest-ranking Republican, expressed support for the state-led movement, but said that the best thing Congress can do is "stay out of [states'] way."

Read more: http://www.all4ed.org/publication_material/straight_as/05042009#strength

IN MEMORIAM

YVONNE HOUSTON – Assistant Principal, Secondary, at Curtiss Middle School. Yvonne arrived at Curtiss in 1974 as a music teacher. She became Magnet Coordinator, then Assistant Principal. Yvonne passed away on May 25, 2009.

CARMEN DONIA – Former Principal at Canoga Park, Hamlin, and Sylvan Park schools, and former Vice Principal at Plainview and Telfair schools. She retired on June 30, 1987, and passed away on May 19, 2009.

WILLIAM STOKES – Former Principal at Belmont and San Pedro community adult schools. Retired in 1981 and passed away in early May 2009.

NEW AALA WEBSITE LINKS

AALA has added several new links to its website. There are three candidates (so far) for the State Superintendent of Public Instruction post that will be on the 2010 statewide ballot. **Larry Aceves, Gloria Romero, and Tom Torlakson** have declared their candidacy. Their websites have been included. In addition, we have added the Council of the Great City Schools (CGSC), Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), and National School Boards Association (NSBA). Access the AALA website at www.aalausd.com. On the menu bar, click on "LINKS" and you will find them.

A COMPREHENSIVE LOOK AT THE OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN IN THE U. S.

The Schott Foundation for Public Education has released a new 50-state report on the opportunity to learn in America. "Lost Opportunity" is a state-by-state analysis of student performance data reported by state departments of education that determines the opportunity to learn in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The Schott Foundation used resource models to identify the four core minimum resources that are necessary if a child -- regardless of race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status -- is to have a fair and substantive opportunity to learn: high-quality early childhood education; highly qualified teachers and instructors in grades K-12; college preparatory curricula that will prepare all youth for college, work, and community; and equitable instructional resources. As the nation observes the 55th anniversary of the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education U.S. Supreme Court* decision, the study shows that minority and low-income students have half the opportunity to learn in public schools than their white, non-Latino peers do. The report also gives a state-by-state comparison of both academic proficiency (percentage of students scoring at or above proficient on eighth grade NAEP reading measures) and equity (as measured by a tool created by the Schott Foundation, called the Opportunity to Learn Index).

See the report: <http://blackboysreport.org/otlwebsite/>

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.

DIRECTOR, ELEMENTARY (K-5) SCHOOL SERVICES (MST 45, A Basis)

Local District 2, 5200 Lankershim Blvd., Suite 240, North Hollywood, CA 91601 818.755.5425
 Responsibilities include assisting in the administration and supervision of K-5 schools. Requires 8 years of full-time public school certificated experience, with 3 years as an elementary principal. For information and application procedures contact **Alec Caballero**, Administrative Assistant. **Filing deadline is 4:00 p.m., Friday, June 5, 2009.**

DIRECTOR K-12, SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES (Temp. Adv., MST 45, A Basis) **3 POSITIONS**

Local District 7, 10616 S. Western Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90047 323.242.1300
 Responsibilities include assisting in the administration and supervision of a Family of Schools, K-12. Requires 8 years of full-time public school certificated experience, with 3 years as a successful principal. For information and application procedures contact **Carol Truscott**, Superintendent. **Filing deadline is 5:00 p.m., Friday, June 5, 2009.**

PRINCIPAL, ELEMENTARY

Carpenter Avenue School (2) MST 40, 3909 Carpenter Avenue, Studio City, CA 91604
 Carpenter is a D Basis school. For information and application procedures contact **Mercedes Velazquez**, Director, at 818.755.5428. **Filing deadline is Tuesday, June 9, 2009.**

Vermont Avenue School (7) MST 42, 1435 West 27th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90007
 Vermont is an E Basis school. For information and application procedures contact **Verteane Bereal**, Director, at 323.242.1300. **Filing deadline is Friday, June 12, 2009.**

PRINCIPAL, SMALL SCHOOLS – 5 POSITIONS

Esteban Torres High School (5) MST 40, 4211 Dozier Street, Los Angeles, CA 90063
 Esteban Torres is an E Basis school. For information and application procedures contact **Myra Fullerton**, Director, at 323.224.3173. **Filing deadline is Friday, June 5, 2009.**

PRINCIPAL, YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES UNLIMITED

Youth Opportunities Unlimited High School (7) MST 42, 915 W. Manchester Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90044
 Y. O. U. is an A Basis school. For information and application procedures contact **Russ Thompson**, Director, at 323.242.1300. **Filing deadline is Friday, June 5, 2009.**

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED POSITIONS STILL AVAILABLE

Position	Location	Deadline	Contact
Elementary Director, School Support Services	Local District 1	06/05/09	818.654.3611
Principal, Secondary	Fremont High School	06/05/09	323.242.1300
Principal, Secondary	Muir Middle School	06/05/09	323.242.1314