

## UPDATE

Week of September 29, 2008

### CONFLICTING VISIONS CREATE DYSFUNCTION

LAUSD has a plethora of riches when it comes to educational vision. It appears to AALA that there are various competing visions among individual Board of Education members. Partnerships are a primary vision, for example. Some Board Members view partnership agreements as the governance solution for our schools. Giving the authority for these schools to one or more outside entities unburdens the District from its responsibility. However, the partnership schools still belong to the District with union contracts in place and honored. Additional resources appear to be flowing into partnership schools from private sources at a time when the rest of the District is suffering through a State financial shortfall.

Another Board Member is leading the effort to create smaller schools within and among our current schools. New school construction has allowed the District to disperse students that were housed in year-round, overcrowded settings. However, many older schools on traditional schedules remain overcrowded. It will be both a resource and physical challenge to create smaller schools out of these campuses.

One key senior staff member is a proponent of decentralization. Getting decisionmaking closer to the schools is an admirable vision. Without a full understanding of what decentralization portends, however, unclear line-staff relationships ensue.

When you add the Superintendent's vision for same-sex schools, high-priority schools, as well as schools of choice, the District is faced with competing "innovative visions." On the one hand, innovation and creativity abound. **On the other hand, it could also appear to employees and the public that the competing visions, while well-intended, are an example of a dysfunctional District.** It could also mean that some are valued more than others.

AALA encourages the Superintendent, the Senior Deputy Superintendent, and the Board of Education to create and share an overarching vision and philosophy that can incorporate the various "innovative visions" and viewpoints in a transparent fashion. A District the size of LAUSD should not be a one-size-fits-all District. It is a District blessed with diversity. Until a vision and philosophy of creativity is articulated that incorporates all visions and viewpoints transparently, LAUSD will continue to be viewed as rudderless! AALA members in all schools and offices want to know how they fit into the whole of the District. They also wish to be treated fairly and with respect. **The newly "developed" report card, which the District is attempting to force "top down" without heeding appropriate input from principals, is a classic example of the District's current reactionary mode that reinforces the public perception of dysfunction.** While we have many visions for success, staff, parents, and students in every visionary setting should have a feeling of oneness and acceptance. Our many visions should be part of one overarching vision for the District, just like a football team with its offensive, defensive, and special teams, all working together as one. Mr. Superintendent, Mr. Senior Deputy Superintendent, and Board Members, STOP, LOOK, and LISTEN and bring this District together!

## LAUSD ADMINISTRATOR PUBLISHED IN DISTINGUISHED JOURNAL

Kudos to Ms. **Brenda Cortez**, Assistant Principal at Loren Miller School, Local District 7. Her article, "*Creating a University-Going Environment at the Elementary Level*," was recently in the journal "Principal Leadership." This journal comes from the National Association of Elementary Principals (NAESP).

## CALSTRS PENSION PROGRAM BUILT TO WITHSTAND MARKET FLUCTUATIONS

Recently, there have been some historic changes on Wall Street that may have raised concerns about CalSTRS investments and benefits.

The current Lehman Brothers and AIG difficulties do not have a negative impact on the \$155 billion CalSTRS portfolio, partly due to the limited amount invested in these companies, \$216 million. Also, the CalSTRS investment portfolio is strong and built to withstand any fluctuations in the financial markets.

### CalSTRS Investment Strengths

1. Diversified assets: U.S. stocks, international stocks, bonds, and other fixed income securities, real estate, and private equity invested throughout the globe
2. Patient, long-term investor who invests based on the long view
3. A professional investment staff that uses some of the best money managers in the world

### CalSTRS A Well-Funded Pension Plan

1. Over the last three years, CalSTRS achieved an average return of 9.72 percent, which exceeds the 8 percent average annual return needed to meet long-term benefit liabilities.
2. At 88 percent, CalSTRS' long-term funding status puts it among the soundest pension funds in the nation. A 2007 Pew Charitable Trusts report calls 80 percent "healthy."

CalSTRS pension benefits are safe from these market fluctuations as it is a Defined Benefit Program and the lifetime retirement benefits are guaranteed by law.

*Source:* CalSTRS

## YOUR NEW PAY STUB

If you have concerns about your new pay stub, there is help. Access the **LAUSD.net website**. Highlight **EMPLOYEES**. On the pull-down menu, click on "**Payroll Questions**." You will see the **Payroll Services Branch** website. On the left side of the website, click on "**New Pay Stub Center**." There you will find all you want to know about your new pay stub. If you still have concerns about the new pay stub, contact your timekeeper and/or the Service Center by e-mail at [employeeservices@lausd.net](mailto:employeeservices@lausd.net) or call 213.241.6670.

## NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM CALLS FOR REPEAL OF SOCIAL SECURITY OFFSETS

The 2008 Democratic National Platform includes language calling for the elimination of Social Security offsets. National Education Association (NEA) leaders and staff served on the platform committee and were able to push the committee to include in the platform language reading:

**"We will end the penalty within the current Social Security system for public service that exists in several states."**

Inclusion of this language in the platform is a major victory for NEA and all those pushing to repeal these unfair offsets. Ultimate victory in reaching the goal will depend on the election of a President and Congress committed to supporting public education and protecting retirement security for public employees.

NEA also submitted comments to the Republican drafting committee that included a call for GPO/WEP repeal.

You are urged to contact your Representatives in Congress. Tell them that those who have dedicated their lives to public service deserve better! Act now to repeal GPO/WEP.

*Source: EDUCATION INSIDER, September 12, 2008*

## SAVE THE DATE

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2008** – **Women in Educational Leadership (WEL)** will hold its Fall Social at the Kyoto Grand Hotel and Gardens, 120 S. Los Angeles Street, Los Angeles, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. The Honored Guest and Speaker will be **Michelle King**, Superintendent, Local District 3. Validated self-parking at the hotel is \$4 or self-pay parking is available at Second Street and Los Angeles Street. For additional information and reservations (by October 13) contact **Penny Sommers** at [psommers@collegeboard.org](mailto:psommers@collegeboard.org) or 323.463.3077.

## THOUSANDS IN OVER THEIR HEADS AS SCHOOLS PUSH ADVANCED MATH

What happens when you try to challenge more students by placing them in advanced eighth-grade math classes? "Unintended and damaging consequences," says the Brookings Institution in releasing a report by **Tom Loveless**, director of the think tank's Brown Center on Education Policy. In a hard look at the nationwide trend to teach algebra to eighth graders, USA Today notes, the Brookings study found that about 120,000 middle-schoolers have been struggling in advanced classes for which they were seriously unprepared. Based on data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress, Loveless estimates that among the lowest-scoring 10 percent of students, nearly 29 percent have been taking advanced math, despite having the math skills of a typical second grader. The idea may be to level the playing field among students, but Loveless thinks the practice is doing kids a disservice. "It's really counterfeit equity," he says. The report's title: "The Misplaced Math Student: Lost in Eighth-Grade Algebra."

Read more at [http://www.usatoday.com/news/education/2008-09-21-algebra\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/education/2008-09-21-algebra_N.htm)

Read the press release at [http://www.brookings.edu/reports/2008/0922\\_education\\_loveless.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/reports/2008/0922_education_loveless.aspx)

See the report at -

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2008/0922\\_education\\_loveless/0922\\_education\\_loveless.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2008/0922_education_loveless/0922_education_loveless.pdf)

## BIG JUMP FOUND IN SCHOOL FAILURES UNDER NCLB

The number of schools nationwide that are failing to meet achievement goals under the No Child Left Behind Act has grown by 50 percent since last year, according to a study by the Center on Education Policy. The report, "A Call to Restructure Restructuring," charges that the U.S. Department of Education has offered "little guidance on what to do about persistently struggling schools," which now number 3,500 across the country. According to the report, once a school enters restructuring, it rarely leaves that status, and adequate funding for school overhauls and qualified teaching to bolster achievement are often in short supply. As a law, NCLB is "like a first draft of a paper," says **Jack Jennings**, president of the center, "and we don't think it's developed very well."

Read more at

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2008/09/23/MN7N132L5U.DTL>

Link to the report at

[http://www.cep-dc.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=document\\_ext.showDocumentByID&nodeID=1&DocumentID=248](http://www.cep-dc.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=document_ext.showDocumentByID&nodeID=1&DocumentID=248)

## **UNIONS UNITED FOR HEALTHCARE**

Shop Stewards / Site Reps / Chapter Chairs From All 8 LAUSD Unions:

**Join the fight to protect our health benefits.  
Attend a special presentation for important  
information on our health benefits fight.**

**You Will Receive:**

- An update on negotiations from a Health Benefits Committee representative
- Details on the multi-union action plan to pressure LAUSD to fully fund benefits
- Materials (buttons and flyers) to support our actions

The 8 LAUSD unions negotiate jointly on health benefits and can now take action together. There is strength in numbers. Send the District a message that it must fully fund our health benefits for 2009!

**Attend the meeting closest to you!**

**Wednesday, October 15, 2008  
5:30 p.m.**

<p><b>Central Area Mtg:</b> Manual Arts HS 4131 S. Vermont Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90037</p>	<p><b>East Area Meeting:</b> Wilson HS 4500 Multnomah Street Los Angeles, CA 90032</p>	<p><b>Harbor Area Meeting:</b> White MS 22102 So. Figueroa Street Carson, CA 90745</p>	<p><b>North Area Meeting:</b> UTLA Building 3303 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90010</p>
<p><b>South Area Meeting:</b> Southeast MS 2560 Tweedy Blvd. South Gate, CA 90280</p>	<p><b>Valley East Area Mtg:</b> Roy Romer MS 6501 Laurel Canyon Blvd. No. Hollywood, CA 91606</p>	<p><b>Valley West Area Mtg:</b> Cleveland HS 8140 Vanalden Ave. Reseda, CA 91335</p>	<p><b>West Area Meeting:</b> Emerson MS 1650 Selby Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90024</p>

If you cannot attend, please send a designee.

**Sponsored by:**

SEIU, Local 99; Teamsters, Local 572; UTLA; AALA; CSEA; Trades; LASPA; Police Officers Supervisors Association

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

**STUDENT BODY TRUST FUNDS**

Previously, the District has allowed imprest funds and faculty/staff funds to be included as trust funds of a student body accounting record. A State Auditors' Report of a California School District has provided an approved definition of what is an allowable student body trust fund: "Trust accounts can only be established for clubs; a club must be composed entirely of students and must have an approved charter or constitution." Because of the Auditors' Report, an opinion was requested from the Office of the General Counsel.

The basic issue is "Can student body trust accounts be created for funds that are not raised by a student body organization and not spent pursuant to the rules established for expenditure of student body funds?"

The answer is "NO. All money received by the District must be paid into the County of Los Angeles treasury unless an exception exists. There is an exception for funds of a student body organization. The funds of a student body organization can be placed in accounts established at banks or other federally insured financial institutions." The opinion went on to include, "Accordingly, student body accounts should not be created for individuals, groups, instructional classes or programs that do not meet the definition of a student body organization." Therefore, **the only funds that can be placed in the student body account are funds raised BY STUDENTS, FOR STUDENTS.**

As a result of the General Counsel opinion and the State Audit, all schools should remove trust accounts from their student body accounting records that apply to individuals, groups, instructional classes or programs that do not meet the definition of a student body organization. This includes the imprest fund and faculty/staff funds.

The imprest fund should be in a separate checking account. All other funds that are for the use of the school should be processed as outlined in BULLETIN NO. C-66 (Rev.) dated January 8, 2002, Business Services Division. Please pay special attention to the administrator's responsibilities for maintaining detailed records as to the expenditure of funds as outlined in the bulletin. Also, remember that state law does not allow PTA to commingle funds, so a PTA cannot receive and hold funds for other groups for their outside purposes. All funds held in a PTA account become PTA assets and must be reported as such.

For assistance, contact Student Body Fiscal Services at 323.932.2020 or your Local District Fiscal Services office.

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**Minimum Qualifications:** Candidates are responsible for making sure all the District requirements for administrative positions have been met. AALA is not responsible for errors in publication.

**NOTE:** Please do not contact AALA for information regarding administrative positions. Use the listed contact phone number, or contact LAUSD Human Resources Division at 213.241.6886 or via e-mail at [http://certificated.lausd.k12.ca.us/admin\\_vacancies](http://certificated.lausd.k12.ca.us/admin_vacancies).

### *ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, SECONDARY COUNSELING SERVICES (SCS)*

**Lawrence Middle School (1) MST 39**, 10100 Variel Avenue, Chatsworth, CA 91311  
Lawrence is a B Basis school. For information and application procedures contact **Lynda Schwarz**, Director, School Support Services, at 818.654.3644. **Filing deadline is Wednesday, October 8, 2008.**

### *ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, ELEMENTARY INSTRUCTIONAL SPECIALIST (EIS)*

**Stoner Avenue School (3) MST 37**, 11735 Braddock Drive, Culver City, CA 90230  
Stoner is a B Basis school. For information and application procedures contact **Pamela Sasada**, Director, School Support Services, at 310.253.7100. **Filing deadline EXTENDED TO Friday, October 10, 2008.**

**Annalee Avenue School (8) MST 37**, 19410 South Annalee Avenue, Carson, CA 90746  
**Towne Avenue School (8) MST 37**, 18924 Towne Avenue, Carson, CA 90746  
This is a shared position. Both are B Basis schools. For information and application procedures contact **Valerie Moses**, Director, School Services, at 310.354.3400. **Filing deadline is Wednesday, October 8, 2008.**

**Cantara Street School (1) MST 37**, 17950 Cantara Street, Reseda, CA 91335  
Cantara is a B Basis school. For information and application procedures contact **Madelyne Coopersmith**, Director, School Support Services, at 818.654.3614. **Filing deadline is Wednesday, October 8, 2008.**

**Carthay Center School (4) MST 37**, 6351 West Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048  
Carthay Center is a B Basis school. For information and application procedures contact **Maureen Diekmann**, Director, School Services, at 323.932.2019. **Filing deadline is Monday, October 13, 2008.**

### PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED POSITIONS STILL AVAILABLE

Position	Location	Deadline	Contact
<b>Specialist, Least Restrictive Environment</b>	Support Unit- South	10/10/08	310.354.3431
<b>ROP Center Instructional Specialist</b>	Division of Adult & Career Educ.	10/08/08	213.241.3801

**TIER II IN BRAZIL – Spring 2009 Program**

This is the newest offering for Tier II by the University of California, Irvine (UCI), and Leadership Innovation. You can finish the entire Tier II requirement with this program and earn a Certificate in International Leadership, too. The top-rated and well-respected international program and completion of a Tier II Credential will be offered during Spring break of 2009. The program consists of April 4-12, 2009, in Brazil plus four online classes in February and March. For more information contact Dr. **Linda Orozco** at 949.413.5483 or [Orozco@Leadership-Innovation.org](mailto:Orozco@Leadership-Innovation.org). There is also information available at <http://leadership-innovation.org>. Applications are now being accepted

**NOTE:** *The following is an excerpt from a member regarding his experience in one of Dr. Orozco's programs.*

*...I first heard about the Tier II programs from a small blurb I had seen in the AALA Newsletter. The idea of fulfilling my Tier II requirements over a two-week period in Thailand had intrigued and excited me. Done in conjunction with UCI Extension, and now in its fifth year, the program focuses on international leadership and is headed by Dr. Orozco. Although quite rigorous, the program gave us a deep insight into a society, culture, and way of life far removed geographically and philosophically from the life we in America experience. When I reflect on this trip, there are several experiences that come to mind: the kindness of the people, the strong influence of their religious beliefs on their culture, the rigorousness of the program itself, and the rich and enlightening interactions with the other administrators as we all experienced this far away land together. I would highly recommend this program to others.*

Gustavo Reyes,  
Assistant Principal, Pacoima Middle School

**RETIREMENT CELEBRATION**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Harriet Watson	Saturday, October 18, 2008 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Maggiano's Restaurant 189 The Grove Drive Los Angeles	Charlotte Sewell 213.241.2018