

UPDATE

Week of May 26, 2008

WHAT IS THE LAUSD MANAGEMENT PHILOSOPHY?

In the May 14, 2008, edition of the *Los Angeles Times*, columnist **Steve Lopez** stated:

He's (David Brewer) just installed a CEO/COO management model. And, he's building infrastructure in a matrix system and implementing vertical as well as horizontal articulation.

ALA fails to understand the philosophy of management that is being articulated by the Superintendent. As we understand it, a CEO/COO management model implies that someone at the top of the management pyramid will be directing those below. This is classic line/staff articulation. However, vertical and horizontal articulation implies that a collaborative model is being developed. Therefore, AALA asks the question of the Superintendent, which model are you developing, collaborative or directive? Why can't we just communicate and **K.I.S.S.*?**

The lack of a coherent management philosophy underscores the problems facing LAUSD. Without a consistent and clearly defined and understood philosophy to guide the management of the District, chaos continues. At the present time, we have everything from top-down directives from local districts that are holdovers from former Superintendent **Roy Romer's** tenure to partnership agreements that basically waive all District policy control.

In addition, we now have an Innovation Division to support creative practices; therefore, implying that individual local school initiative and creativity are not encouraged. We also have an Accountability Division to make everyone more accountable even though accountability is part of every certificated and classified employee's evaluation. Why can't we just let faculties have time to reflect and improve their professional practice with appropriate evaluation and oversight?

All of this management confusion has enhanced the existing chaos in the District. Instruction of students has taken a back seat to self-preservation. In-depth discussions of curriculum and pedagogy have been replaced by bureaucratic confusion. Consultants come and go because no one at the top seems to have a clear understanding and the ability to implement what is needed for quality teaching and learning.

Mr. Superintendent, these layers of confusion need to cease. Tell AALA members clearly and succinctly if you want directive or collaborative management. **Consultants and additional central offices aren't required to do this, but educational leadership is needed. That is why a school district has a Superintendent.**

***Keep It Short and Simple**

**BOARD PRESENTATION BY PRESIDENT
MIKE O'SULLIVAN**

Note: The following Board Presentation was made to the LAUSD Board of Education on May 27, 2008, as comments during the discussion regarding the issue of the Partnership for Los Angeles Schools, the so-called Mayor's Partnership.

Good afternoon, Chairperson *García*, Honorable Board Members, Mr. Superintendent. I am Mike O'Sullivan, President of the Associated Administrators of Los Angeles, the Association that represents the nearly 2700 middle managers of this great District.

I appreciate the opportunity to address you today as you consider whether to approve this MOU between the District and the "Partnership for Los Angeles Schools." We consider this rather a momentous occasion because it marks the **first and only time** the Board has officially sanctioned any activities of the partnership or of the Innovation Division. Certainly, that was not the case when the procedures for constituent voting were devised, revised and subsequently conducted in an atmosphere of complete confusion. Be that it may, we are now at this crucial point in time.

As I have stated before, the Association does not oppose change, creative thinking, even entrepreneurial experimentation as long as the effort is focused on student needs and not on the various adult agendas which have come into play. That said, we have no real issue with this MOU because we have been assured by Mr. McNair, the Board's representative who drafted the language, **that ALL rights and privileges enjoyed by all AALA members will not be abridged by any actions of the Partners or any other outside agencies.** We can ask for nothing more.

We remain adamant that our administrators are assigned by the District, responsible to the District, and the connection with external partners does not change that dynamic. Not one syllable of the current AALA contract can be waived or negotiated away without our consent, and we expect the Board to continue to support that position.

I might suggest that the various staff members assigned to the Partnership Office go to our website, www.aalausd.com, and review the current contract so that there will be no confusion in the months ahead. We stand ready to meet with them at any time to address any common concerns.

Thank you for your attention.

AALA SCHOLARSHIP/COMMUNITY AWARDS BANQUET A SUCCESSFUL EVENT!

The AALA Scholarship/Community Awards Banquet was held on Thursday, May 22, at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel with approximately 250 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. The portraits were on display throughout the evening.

The students honored at the banquet were the following: **Shion An** (Palisades Charter HS); **Nai Qin Cai** (Marshall HS); **Amy Dao** (Wilson HS); **Destiny Johnson** (Locke HS); **Manpreet Kaur** (Kennedy HS); **John Anthony Madrigal** (Banning HS); **Cristina Nicoara** (El Camino Real HS); **Jacinda Nim** (Downtown Magnets HS); **Yvette Sanchez** (South Gate HS); **Susan Seav** (Bravo Medical Magnet HS); **Ai Takahashi** (Venice HS); **Harriet Torosyan** (Verdugo Hills HS); **Christian Zarate** (Sylmar HS); **Melisa Nahimana** (Central HS); **Aura Licea** (Evans CAS); and **Maria Lucy Rosello** (Kennedy-San Fernando CAS).

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: **Pam Barrere** (Woodlake Avenue School); **Frank Jenkins** (Tom Bradley Magnet School); **Jeff Marsh** (Van Gogh Street School); **Sheri Osborne** (Chatsworth HS); **Pamela Porter** (Abram Friedman Occupational Center); **Walter Renzi** (Charnock Road School); **Sr. Audrey Rushton** (Jefferson CAS/Education and Career Center); **Friends of Lockwood** (Lockwood Avenue School); and **HOPE Worldwide Los Angeles** (Wilmington MS).

This year's AALA President's Award was given to **Barbara** and Dr. **Clarence Shields**, Team HEAL Foundation, for their outstanding service to LAUSD inner-city athletes. A special award, **Dr. William Johnston Student Community Service Award**, was presented to **Frederick Scarf**, Birmingham High School, for taking action to improve the quality of life for health-impaired citizens. Frederick received a special plaque from AALA and a monetary award from Dr. Johnston (LAUSD Superintendent from 1971 - 1981). Dr. Johnston and his wife Oma were guests at the banquet, and Dr. Johnston assisted with the presentation. Accepting the award for Frederick, who was unable to attend, was **Robert Scarf**, his father, and **Marsha Coates**, Principal of Birmingham High School.

Board Members Dr. **Richard Vladovic** and **Yolie Flores Aguilar** were in attendance to congratulate the scholarship students and community award recipients. Superintendent **David L. Brewer III** was also present and spoke briefly to the guests at the beginning of the evening.

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

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.

ADMINISTRATOR, INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES, (Temp. Adv., MST 45, A Basis)

Local District 2, 5200 Lankershim Blvd., Suite 240, North Hollywood, CA 818.755.5300
Responsibilities include assisting in the administration of instructional support services for elementary, middle and senior high schools, and assisting in the development and implementation of policies, programs, and strategic planning. Requires 8 years of full-time certificated public school experience as a classroom teacher, with 3 years of experience as a school-site administrator. For information and application procedures contact **Maynae Lew**, Administrator, Instructional Services. **Filing deadline is 4:00 p.m., Friday, June 13, 2008.**

COORDINATOR, CHARTER SCHOOLS DIVISION (Temp. Adv., MST 41, A Basis)

Charter Schools Division, 333 S. Beaudry Ave., 20th Fl., Los Angeles, CA 90017 213.241.2665
Responsibilities include conducting oversight visits to Charter Schools to evaluate and verify adherence to provisions of the charter and assisting with technical support. Requires 8 years of successful certificated service, with 2 years of management experience. For information and application procedures contact **José Cole-Gutiérrez**, Executive Officer. **Filing deadline is Friday, June 13, 2008.**

UTAH ADDS A SECOND ONLINE HIGH SCHOOL

The Utah State Board of Education has approved the online charter Open High School of Utah, the second such school in the state, the Associated Press reports. It will matriculate 125 ninth graders statewide in the fall of 2009 and expand in future years. Utah's first online charter school, the Utah Virtual Academy, will open in August of this year for kindergarten through 11th grade, and already has a waitlist of 2,000 students.

Licensed teachers will be part of the school, and all materials and curricula at the Open High School will be available on the Internet. This will permit teachers in different states and even countries to potentially use the school. The classes are expected to appeal to rural students limited by offerings at their local school, as well as to home-schooled students.

http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2008/05/18/101850utonlinehighschool_ap.html

RETIREMENT CELEBRATIONS

Name	Date/Time	Location	Contact
Teresa Gonzalez	Thursday, June 12, 2008 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	El Cholo Restaurant 958 S. Fair Oaks Ave. South Pasadena	Debbie Thomas 323.644.7700
Marlene Apfelberg	Saturday, June 7, 2008 12:00 noon	Ca' del Sole 4100 Cahuenga Blvd., Toluca Lake	Jill Nieman 818.755.5414 Susie Shapiro 818.781.6091
Kathy Nishikawa	Saturday, June 14, 2008 11:30 a.m.	Simon's Banquet Ctr. 1050 Nagoya Way, Berth 80 - San Pedro	Arlene Nakamura 626.281-6548 Christine Nagami, 310.327.5592
Brenda Steppes	Wed., June 18, 2008 4:30 - 8:00 p.m.	Shanghai Red's 13813 Fiji Way Marina Del Rey	Ana Escobedo 626.975.2623 Grace Arnold, gracearnold@aol.com
Howard Marcovitch	Sunday, June 15, 2008 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Knollwood Country Club Granada Hills	Marie Ferry 818.773.4700

CONGRATULATIONS

Tamar Galatzan was honored by the Los Angeles City Schools Music Association, for her continuing support for the arts and specifically for advocating elementary school music. Her efforts on behalf of arts education for all students is greatly appreciated. AALA congratulates Ms. Galatzan for receiving this honor.

Former LAUSD School Board Member, **David Tokofsky**, was published in the June 2008 edition of the *American School Board Journal*. His article, titled "Food for Thought: Child Nutrition Programs Deserve the School Board's Time and Attention" brings attention to the critical role that student nutrition plays in the overall education program. He has posed thought provoking questions for school boards to address such as: "What is our wellness policy?; What is your food service budget?; and, Are you accountable?". As he concludes, "In short, it's food for thought." AALA congratulates David Tokofsky for being published in this prominent journal and for sharing his experience and insights regarding this critical operational issue in our schools.

AALA thanks The Go Green Team, **Ted Johnson, Leonard Walker, Steven Gregory**, the AALA Executive Board and the AALA staff, especially **Lorraine Bush and Jack Silas**, for launching the new AALA website. Their hard work and dedication to this task is allowing us to **GO GREEN**. Thanks also to the many members who have requested the *Update* electronically or view it on the website. Suggestions for improving the website are always appreciated.

**CONGRATULATIONS – 2008 ACSA REGION XVI
AWARD RECIPIENTS**

Local District Superintendent – **Linda Del Cueto**
Local District Administrator – **Jim Kodani**
Special Education Administrator – **Theresa Del Carmen Gonzalez**
High School Principal – **Ed Trimis**
Middle School Principal – **Kathy Gonnella**
Elementary School Principal – **Victoria Verches**
Adult School Principal – **Cynthia Toillet**
Option School Administrator – **Cecil McLinn**
High School Assistant Principal – **Yolia Gardea**
Middle School Assistant Principal – **Stephen Foster**
Elementary Assistant Principal, EIS – **Valencia Blue**
Secondary Assistant Principal, Secondary Student Service – **Tom Jones**
Secondary Assistant Principal, Secondary Counseling Service – **Debra Foree**
Adult Education Administrator – **Dr. Lanny Nelms**
Personnel/Human Relations Administrator – **Debi Ignani**
Valuing Diversity Award – **Moohay Choe**
Marcus Foster Memorial Award – **Roy Romer**
Thelma Barnes Award – **Earl Perkins**
Partners in Educational Excellence Award – **David Rattray, Unite L.A.**
Outstanding Media Coverage of Public Education – **Steve Lopez, L.A. Times**

**EVEN MORE WORK IN ALGEBRA NEEDED
IN CALIFORNIA**

Despite steps taken five years ago by California to shore up high school math classes and raise student proficiency, especially in algebra, community colleges in the state are seeing increased numbers of entering students deficient in algebra and even basic arithmetic, **Deb Kollars** of the *Sacramento Bee* reports. Algebra is crucial because it trains students to think critically, a skill that is the bedrock upon which many professions are built, including nursing, architecture, and most sciences.

Kollars cites the example of Sierra College in Rocklin, Calif., where 34 percent of the math classes taught are remedial-arithmetic, pre-algebra, or beginning algebra. Five years ago, before California's high school algebra graduating requirement was put into place, remedial classes accounted for only 28 percent of all classes. A similar trend is evident at Cosumnes River College, where remedial classes accounted for 43 percent of classes in 2003, but now total 52 percent of classes.

As a possible explanation, task forces have identified deficiencies in the way that fifth and sixth grade math is presently taught, leading to holes in student mathematical competence and proving shaky ground for advancement in student understanding in the later grades. To help, California's community college system this year also began a \$33 million-a-year Basic Skills initiative in math and English.

<http://www.sacbee.com/101/story/930410.html>

SAVE THE DATES

MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2008 – **Division of Adult and Career Education, Year-End Luncheon** will be held at the **Stadium Club at Dodger Stadium**, 1000 Elysian Park Avenue, Los Angeles, 11:30 a.m. For questions, contact **Gema Pivaral**, in the AALA Office, 213.484.2226.

FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2008 – **The California Association of Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (CAROCP), Angeleno Chapter**, will be holding its **Annual Spring Awards Banquet** at St. Anne's Conference Center, 155 North Occidental Drive, Los Angeles. The awards ceremony will be held from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m., and will be preceded by a social hour and an opportunity to take photos from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. For further information contact **Victor Gomez** at 213.765.2400.

IN MEMORIAM

TAMARA MANER – Assistant Principal, Elementary Instructional Specialist at Cimarron Avenue School, formerly AP, EIS at Century Park and Broadacres schools. She passed away on May 23, 2008. Funeral services will be on Monday, June 2, 2008, at Angelus Funeral Home, 3875 Crenshaw Blvd., Los Angeles, at 10:00 a.m.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS PAYMENT

This is a very exciting new program that we will explain using the **Q** and **A** format:

- Q. What is an Economic Stimulus Payment?
A. It is money that the federal government will send to taxpayers.
- Q. Where will the government get this money?
A. From taxpayers.
- Q. So the government is giving me back my own money?
A. Only a smidgen.
- Q. What is the purpose of this payment?
A. The plan is that you will use the money to purchase a High-Definition TV set, thus stimulating the economy.
- Q. But isn't that stimulating the economy of China?
A. Shut Up!

WEALTH CONCEPTS SEMINAR

We are pleased to invite all AALA members and 1 guest to attend a knowledge-filled Retirement & Tax Strategy Seminar to be held at AALA headquarters, 1910 W. Sunset Blvd., 3rd floor, Wednesday, June 11, 2008. This seminar session will begin at 5:30 p.m. and end at 7:30 p.m., a light dinner will be served.

This seminar will help you learn about several important objectives:

- How to FREE yourself from the tax trap the IRS has planned for your TSA, 403(B).
- Do you know the rest of the story? Why you may pay more in taxes with a TSA, 403(B) than you've saved.
- Learn the single best, most cost-effective yet amazingly underutilized strategy for protecting retirement account balances especially large ones.
- Modified or unmodified? Learn how to provide a monthly benefit to your survivors without reducing your STRS LIFETIME BENEFIT.
- How to use the power of the STRETCH IRA to keep the money in the family and away from Uncle Sam as long as possible.
- Why administrators beginning their careers need to consider an IRS Approved 7702 (a) Private Retirement Plan.
- How the new regulations and obligations under IRS code section 403(B) will impact you.
- Have a TSA, 403(B) account? Come learn of a NEW innovative product that provides a Guaranteed Lifetime Income, control and access to your money, protect your retirement savings and transfer as much of it as possible at death to your beneficiaries.

Special Guest Speaker: Circle of Wealth Team Member, **Karla Dennis**, Enrolled Agent CEO/President, Cohesive Tax & Accounting. Learn how to increase your summer take-home pay without working additional hours. Please schedule your participation by calling our office at 310-524-9588, or simply email us Antione@WealthConceptsOnline.com. Visit our website at www.WealthConceptsOnline.com, listen to our Audio Podcast Show, and take a test drive of our concepts.

PORTLAND EIGHTH GRADERS WILL TAKE A DEEPER LOOK AT OREGON'S RACIAL HISTORY

Portland Public Schools' eighth graders will take a more in-depth, less-sanitized look at the state's racial history this fall, according to the *Associated Press*. "Beyond the Oregon Trail: Oregon's Untold History" is one of four books included in a new curriculum that seeks to look at history at the same time that it engages students in a dialogue about race, teaching Oregonian history "beyond Lewis and Clark." Students will learn that three exclusion laws banned blacks from the territory before statehood in 1859; that in 1866, the state rejected the 14th Amendment to the Constitution granting citizenship to black Americans; and that Oregon didn't ratify the 15th Amendment, which gave blacks the right to vote, until 1959.

Joyce Harris, of the Maryland-based National Association for Multicultural Education, said curricula such as these help establish the notion that history does not come from any one source. "If we think of truth as being the sum of multiple perspectives, then we get a more accurate picture of history and a more accurate, equitable and just picture of today."

<http://www.kgw.com/sharedcontent/APStories/stories/D90O8PK80.html>