

## UPDATE

[www.aalausd.com](http://www.aalausd.com)

Week of February 20, 2012

### **SAVED BY THE BELL? (FOR THE MOMENT)**

Citing a projected deficit of \$557 million for the 2012-2013 school year, the LAUSD Board of Education and **Superintendent Deasy** were determined on Valentine's Day to eliminate essential programs and personnel including Early Childhood Education Centers, the School Readiness Language Development Program (SRLDP), adult education, elementary arts programs and afterschool Youth Services programs. Severe cuts were planned for the Options Program, Regional Occupational Centers, student transportation, nurses, librarians and library aides, school psychologists, All City Band and the Academic Decathlon. Counseling norms were to increase disastrously, as would class size.

AALA has continually and consistently advocated for the preservation of early childhood and adult education, arts and other programs through our communications with Board members, meetings with senior staff and articles published in *Update*. Our fundamental goal has been nothing less than to save public education in Los Angeles. We continue to insist that the reduction of administrators is a serious safety matter, putting students and staff members at risk. The elimination of or cuts to essential educational programs and services for students and positions for our members does permanent damage to individuals, our fragile economy and the future civic life of Southern California.

Since the District prepared its First Interim Budget in November 2011, AALA has been asking senior staff members for more detailed information so that we could recommend alternatives to these extreme proposals as we have done so effectively in the past two years. Unfortunately, this year the District only agreed to meet with us at the very last minute, the day before the February 14 Board meeting. At this meeting, they provided extremely general information and failed to answer many of our questions.

On the day of the Board meeting, hundreds of parents, educators, students and community members demonstrated in front of the Beaudry Building to express their anger about the disastrous budget cuts being proposed. Concerned individuals filled the Board room and scrambled to fill out speaker's cards. Dozens of them, along with well-known public officials, spoke eloquently on behalf of early childhood and adult education and the arts. Many of their personal stories dramatized how public education has transformed their lives and allowed them to achieve their dreams.

At the beginning of the meeting, Board Member **Steve Zimmer** proposed an amendment to postpone the adoption of the 2012-2013 Fiscal Stabilization Plan until March 13, 2012. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion, which stated in part:

*The Board of Education requests the Superintendent to report back to the Board within two weeks with options, alternatives and/or proposals as an alternative to complete elimination of adult education, early childhood education, arts education and cafeteria support services.*

*The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to assess whether the June 2012, November 2012, or March 2013 elections provide the optimum opportunity for a parcel tax to be approved and provide the resources for the LAUSD students, programs and employees. The Board further authorizes the Superintendent to prepare language for a June 2012 parcel tax so that the Board meets all calendar deadlines for approvals.*

## SAVED BY THE BELL (Continued)

**Mr. Zimmer** proposed another amendment, also unanimously approved by the Board, which delayed the issuance of March 15 letters until the last possible minute, March 8, “. . . to allow time for negotiations and new state budget information that may affect the District’s financial information.” The amendment further stated:

*The Board of Education directs the Superintendent to expedite negotiations with all bargaining units to develop and agree to plans of shared sacrifice and collaboration that will stabilize our school communities and mitigate the number of necessary lay-off notices. The Board urges all bargaining units to negotiate in good faith and with deliberate speed to meet the March 8 deadline so that together we can do everything possible to prevent the chaos and instability of mass lay-offs.*

While AALA has informed the Superintendent repeatedly that we are prepared to negotiate immediately regarding matters of compensation, evaluation and other contractual issues, we are still waiting for dates to be proposed. It is difficult to imagine how negotiations can be completed for all bargaining units within three weeks. Nevertheless, we expect answers to the following questions the District has failed, thus far, to answer:

- Why is the Board voting on the budget in March, two months before the Governor’s May Revision, when the amount of property tax revenue received by the State is clear?
- Why has the budget process been opaque this year?
- Which and how many AALA positions are recommended to be slashed?
- What effort is the District making to borrow money against its own deferrals?
- How much money in the Workers’ Compensation Reserve Fund (and other reserve funds) is more than the amount required by law? Why isn’t this money being used on a one-time basis to reduce the deficit?
- Why was there an increase of \$251 million in “other operating expenses” (contracts, utilities, rents and leases, travel expenses and instructional consultants) between last year and this year, when student enrollment has declined? How were these funds used?

## BARGAINING BULLETIN

**AALA’s Classified Unit, now called Unit M (identified classified managers)**: On February 14, 2012, the District sunshined Initial Bargaining Proposals for the first AALA Unit M contract. The third negotiation session is scheduled for February 21, and bargaining is progressing well.

**AALA’s Certificated Unit**: On February 14, 2012, the District sunshined Initial Bargaining Proposals on compensation and evaluation. No bargaining dates are scheduled yet.

**School Improvement Grant (SIG) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**: Earlier this month, AALA and the District signed an MOU on behalf of our members in Cohort I SIG schools. The MOU may be accessed via our website.

**The LAUSD-AALA Local School Stabilization and Empowerment Initiative of 2011 (LSSEI)**: Negotiations will commence on February 29, 2012.

## CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS

Superintendent **John Deasy** is asking all schools to use their professional development time on February 21, 2012, to conduct a training session utilizing elements of the recently received Child Abuse Awareness kit. While recognizing the impact this may have on your already overburdened schedule, AALA continues to support the need to protect our students and for staff members to fully understand the legal expectation to report any suspected case of child abuse immediately.

**HEALTH BENEFITS FAQ**

*Topic: Retired and Approaching Age 65? Medicare Enrollment is Needed to Retain Health Benefits*

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

Retirees and their dependents, spouses/domestic partners, at age 65 must enroll in Medicare Part A and Part B to maintain District health benefits.

- There is a monthly cost for both Part A (hospitalization) and Part B (outpatient care). However, Part A coverage is provided **premium free** to those who have paid Medicare taxes for at least 40 calendar quarters, or those who may be eligible based on the spouse's payment of Medicare taxes.
- Medicare retirees must remain enrolled in Medicare Part A and Part B (unless exempted by the District due to ineligibility for the CalSTRS Medicare Premium Payment Program).
- Failure to enroll in Medicare, as required, will result in loss of District-sponsored medical and prescription benefits. However, once Medicare Part A and Part B are effective, benefits will be reinstated as of the first day of the month following notification to the District of Medicare enrollment. Lack of Medicare coverage will not affect dental or vision benefits.

**What about prescription coverage for Medicare retirees? Why are retirees warned not to apply for Medicare Part D?**

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.

**My Medicare bill shows a Medicare Part D adjustment amount. Am I required to pay this amount?**

Yes, since this amount indicates you are enrolled in one of the District's Medicare Advantage plans—Kaiser Senior Advantage, Health Net Seniority Plus, or United Healthcare Group® Medicare Advantage HMO (formerly known as Secure Horizons).

This adjustment is payable because your Medicare Advantage plan includes Part D prescription coverage. The Part D adjustment targets higher income retirees with an adjusted gross income above \$85,000 per year. The 2012 adjustment amount is based on your 2010 income tax return.

**Why are Medicare retirees who are enrolled in Anthem Blue Cross EPO not required to pay the Part D adjustment?**

The prescription plan in the Anthem Blue Cross EPO plan is not a Medicare Advantage plan, therefore, not subject to the Part D adjustment amount.

*For information related to Medicare, call 1.800.MEDICARE (1.800.633.4227) or 1.877.486.2048 (TTY) for the hearing impaired. You may also visit the Medicare website at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).*

## **POLITICAL BLAME GAME OR TRUE BUDGET FLEXIBILITY?**

*ALA wishes to thank Dr. Vince Carbino, Adult School Principal, for preparing this article.*

### **The Political Blame Game:**

Recently, students from the Division of Adult and Career Education (DACE) scheduled an appointment to meet with representatives of LAUSD Board President **Mónica García**. They wanted to share their personal stories of how enrollment in DACE programs has assisted them. After a 45 minute wait, the students were able to meet with two representatives. The students wanted to be certain that the Board President would understand how devastating the elimination of the adult education program would be to thousands of adults of all ages. After sharing their stories, the students were basically advised that they should blame Sacramento and the Democratic leadership for cutting the education budget and that they should go and enroll in one of the public community colleges.

However, the reality is that the **state has not eliminated funding** for adult education. The School Board makes the decision how to expend the funds received from the state, not political leadership in Sacramento. In addition, attending a community college is not an option for many adults due to the cost which can range from \$36 - \$200 per unit depending on their status. Add to this, the cost of books and other materials, and community college enrollment no longer becomes feasible for most of the students who are served by DACE. To make matters worse, as of July 1, students without a high school diploma **will no longer be eligible for financial aid**.

### **True Budget Flexibility:**

Under the current budget, LAUSD spends about 2% of its annual budget on adult education, yet expends \$793 million, or 12.2%, on "Other Business Expenses" that can include contracts, instructional consultants, leases and travel expenses. Another \$191 million is spent on "Miscellaneous Items." Reducing either of these categories by \$163 million and allocating it to the Division of Adult and Career Education could sustain the programs that improve the educational attainment and socioeconomic status of hundreds of thousands of adults in Los Angeles.

## **ADULT SCHOOL—A LOOK AT HISTORY**

*ALA thanks Ben Avila, Adult School Assistant Principal, for contributing this story.*

Adult education in California has a proud history of being responsive to community, state and national needs. Beginning in 1856, the first adult school was started in a church basement to serve immigrants from Ireland, Italy and China. In 1886, Los Angeles opened its first adult literacy and citizenship class. As the years passed, adult education programs grew from primarily serving immigrants to addressing the lack of literacy and vocational skills among adults. From 1940-1945, over one million adults received training in areas such as manufacturing, civil defense, clerical occupations, airplane maintenance and truck driving to support the war effort. Post-war programs focused on parent education, citizenship, basic education and vocational programs. By 1950, the enrollment in adult education classes had exceeded one million. As the years progressed, the program grew and has offered millions of adults the opportunity to improve their lives through education and specialized training.

In 1990, First Lady **Barbara Bush** recognized Garfield Community Adult School for its Family Literacy Program, and in 1993, the U.S. Secretary of Education awarded LAUSD with a commendation for outstanding adult education and family literacy programs. Evans Community Adult School is known in almost every country in the world for its ESL program, which offers classes 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. The adult program qualified and tested over 80,000 potential U.S. citizens during one five-year period. Fast forward to 2007, and we saw over 406,000 students enrolled in adult education classes throughout the District, including over ten percent of LAUSD high school students who were obtaining credits toward their graduation. Due to budget cuts, that number has decreased significantly; however, the mission has remained the same, even now, as the Division struggles

to exist. The rich history of adult education in California and Los Angeles tells the story of exemplary service to the community, educating millions of adults.

## CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Congratulations to John R. Wooden Continuation High School, its principal, **Jason Garrison**, its staff and students for being recognized as a 2012 Model Continuation High School by **Tom Torlakson**, State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Wooden High School was one of twenty-five schools recognized for its model status. To be eligible, schools had to be accredited and demonstrate exemplary program effectiveness in school management, curriculum, instructional strategies, educational climate and guidance and counseling. In addition, parents, students and community members were required to submit written statements in support of the school. Another great job being done by an Options School.

## AALA SCHOLARSHIPS—INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE!

By now, seniors in traditional high schools and options schools and adults, completing their high school requirements, in our community adult schools should know about the AALA Scholarship Program and the wonderful opportunity it presents to them to secure funds to support their educational pursuits in college. Applications were e-mailed to school-site administrators and are available on the AALA website [www.aalausd.com](http://www.aalausd.com). We encourage all administrators to spread the word about this excellent scholarship opportunity. As we read in the newspapers, the fees to attend college continue to increase. An AALA Scholarship could help cover some of these increases for our students.

This year a minimum of sixteen (16) scholarships will be awarded, twelve (12) for traditional high school seniors and two (2) each for options and adult school students (pending applicant pool). AALA's program is one of the few that specifically designates scholarships for options and adult students. Among the sixteen (16) scholarships awarded, we are pleased to include the following named scholarships:

- **Dr. William J. Johnston Leadership Scholarship**—Established by AALA in 2011 to honor an outstanding retired superintendent.
- **Jack H. Silas Social Justice Scholarship**—Established by AALA in 2012 to honor an outstanding retired administrator and AALA staff member.
- **Zelda Fisher Memorial Scholarship**—Established in 2011 by Ms. Fisher's friends and colleagues at West Vernon Avenue School where she served as an Assistant Principal, EIS.

These, along with the other scholarships, will be presented at the AALA Scholarship and Community Awards Banquet on Wednesday, May 23, 2012, at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel. We hope that you will calendar the date and join us at this celebratory event. Should you have questions regarding the scholarship program, please contact **Gema Pivaral** in the AALA office at 213.484.2226 or [gpivaral@aala.us](mailto:gpivaral@aala.us).

## COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER AWARD NOMINATION FORMS

By now, adults, completing their high school diploma requirements, in community adult schools and seniors in traditional high schools and options schools should know about the AALA Scholarship Program and the wonderful opportunity it presents to them to secure funds to support their educational pursuits in college. The deadline for submission is **Wednesday, March 7, 2012**, and the form can be accessed on the AALA website, <http://www.aala.us/aala-initiatives/community-recognition/>. The one-page form may be submitted online or it may be downloaded, completed and mailed (1910 W. Sunset Blvd., Suite 850, Los Angeles 90026) or faxed (213.484.0201) to AALA. A selection committee will review all nomination forms received, and the selected recipients will be honored at the Scholarship and Community Awards Banquet on **Wednesday, May 23, 2012**, at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel. Should you have any questions regarding the community awards, please contact **Gema Pivaral** in the AALA office at 213.484.2226 or [gpivaral@aala.us](mailto:gpivaral@aala.us).

## ACADEMIC DECATHLON ACCOLADES

Congratulations to Granada Hills Charter High School's Academic Decathlon team for capturing the 2012 LAUSD Academic Decathlon title. The team, coached by **Matt Arnold, Spencer Wolf** and **Nick Weber**, scored a total of 51,913 points out of a possible 60,000 to emerge victorious. Marshall High School, coached by **Larry Welch**, finished second with 49,648 points. El Camino Real Charter High School, guided by **Stephanie Franklin**, was third in the competition with 48,642 points. In the Super Quiz, Granada Hills Charter also placed first, Franklin High School, coached by **Sam Kullens**, was second, and Marshall was third. The administrative teams from each of these schools are also to be commended.

Again this year, there were two top-scoring students in the Super Quiz, **Alex Moreno** of Franklin, and **Julia Wall** of Granada Hills Charter, who were winners of the **Larry McCormick Memorial Award**. The award, which is sponsored by AALA, was established to honor **Larry McCormick** for his strong support of the Academic Decathlon. He served for twelve years as the quizmaster. **Steve Quon**, representing **Dr. Judith Perez**, and **Kitty McCormick**, Larry McCormick's daughter, presented the plaques and scholarships to **Alex** and **Julia** at the Awards Ceremony. **Sean Wejebe**, Granada Hills Charter High School, was the top-scoring student in the competition with a score of 9,199 points out of a possible 10,000 points.

The California Academic Decathlon competition in Sacramento on March 15 – 18 will be Granada Hills Charter's next challenge. Also invited to compete at the state finals by virtue of their high scores in the LAUSD competition are Marshall; El Camino Real Charter; Franklin; Taft, coached by **Arthur Berchin**; Van Nuys, coached by **Angel Abreu**; Palisades Charter, coached by **Minh Ha Ngo** and **Lisa Saxon**; Hamilton, coached by **Tom Metro**; Garfield, coached by **Lucy Romero** and **Kevin Murchie**; Bell, coached by **Heather Wilson** and **Matthew Moreno**; Los Angeles, coached by **Richard Cunningham**; San Pedro, coached by **Catherine Figuracion**; and Francis Polytechnic, coached by **Brian Block**. We are proud of all the teams' accomplishments, and we wish them good luck in the state finals! Congratulations to Principals **Daniel Harrison**, Marshall; **Dave Fehete**, El Camino Real Charter; **Delia Estrada**, Taft; **Dr. Judith Vanderbok**, Van Nuys; **Dr. Pamela Maege**, Palisades Charter; **Gary Garcia**, Hamilton; **Jose Huerta**, Garfield; **Frank Vasquez**, Bell; **Elena Anthony**, Los Angeles; **Jeanette Stevens**, San Pedro; and **Ari Bennett**, Francis Polytechnic, for the fine performances of their teams.

**Heather Wilson**, Bell, and **Stephanie Franklin**, El Camino Real Charter, were honored as Coaches of the Year, an award sponsored by DemiDec Resources. Reseda High School, coached by **Scott Mercer**, was named the Districtwide Most Improved Team. Congratulations to Principal **Michael Summe** for this fine accomplishment.

## AALA WELCOMES JERI DURHAM

AALA is delighted to announce that **Jeri Durham**, retired Director of Operations and secondary principal, has joined the staff as Editor of *Update*. Jeri brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the position, including an in-depth understanding of CalSTRS guidelines and current retirement concerns. She will be able to write regularly in *Update* about these and related matters and will be available to answer AALA members' individual questions. Additionally, her extensive experience in operations will prove most helpful to our members. Welcome, Jeri!

## JOIN STATE SUPERINTENDENT TOM TORLAKSON

AALA is pleased to invite you to join **Tom Torlakson**, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, on Thursday, February 23, 2012, from 5:30 – 7 p.m. at Lucy's El Adobe, 5536 Melrose, LA 90038, for an evening of lively conversation and networking, while fundraising to help retire his campaign debt. Admission is \$100 and will include drinks and appetizers.

### Explore AALA's Website at [www.aalausd.com](http://www.aalausd.com) – Meet AALA's Professional Staff

Are you aware of the professional staff members who work with AALA President **Dr. Judith Perez**? They work part-time both in the AALA office and as representatives in the field. Many are recently retired administrators and all are here to provide the services that members need, including advocacy for administrators, contract advice and counsel, professional connections, health and retirement information and much more. They are **Michelle Bennett, Jeri Durham, Dan Isaacs, Charlotte Lerchenmuller, Jack Moscowitz, Mike O'Sullivan, Sylvia Perea, Mike Perez, Jane Pollock, Steve Quon, David Tokofsky and Lillian Utsumi**. You can see them on AALA's website.

## WANT TO EARN A PH.D. THAT WORKS AROUND YOUR SCHEDULE?

The School of Educational Studies at Claremont Graduate University invites you to join us for an informational session for *Prospective Urban Leadership Program Ph.D. Students*:

Saturday, February 25, 2012  
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Michael T. Johnston Board Room  
Claremont Graduate University  
150 N. Dartmouth Avenue, Claremont, CA 91711

- Preview the program's unique format designed to meet the needs of current and future leaders in public education.
- Talk to the Dean of the School of Educational Studies, the UL Co-Directors **Carl Cohn** and **Susan Paik**, as well as current faculty, staff and students.
- Learn about the **only weekend Ph.D. Cohort Program** at a selective private-research university.
- Hear from current students and faculty on how to prepare a successful application.

Please RSVP by 2/21/12 to the Urban Leadership Program at [uleducation.rsvp@cgu.edu](mailto:uleducation.rsvp@cgu.edu). Guests and colleagues are welcome to attend. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be provided. For more information e-mail us at [uleducation.info@cgu.edu](mailto:uleducation.info@cgu.edu), call 909.607.3416 or visit <http://www.cgu.edu/urbanleadership>.

## IN MEMORIAM

**DR. RAMIRO GARCIA** – Former Assistant Superintendent of the Office of Bilingual/ESL Instruction. Ramiro retired from the District on August 30, 1989, and passed away on February 8, 2012.

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**Minimum Qualifications:** Candidates are responsible for making sure all the District requirements have been met. Please do not contact AALA for information regarding positions; use the contact phone number provided in the announcement. To view the following positions, go to [http://certificated.lausd.k12.ca.us/admin\\_vacancies](http://certificated.lausd.k12.ca.us/admin_vacancies). Select School-Based or Non-School-Based positions and click on any position to view the specific flyer.

### **CERTIFICATED POSITIONS**

***Local Instructional Area Superintendent***

**Local Educational Service Center (5 positions), \$139,200 - \$153,525, E Basis.** For information and application procedures call 213.241.6886. **Filing deadline is Friday, February 24, 2012.**

***Coordinator, Educational Systems***

**Office of Data and Accountability, MST 40G, Temporary Advisor, E Basis.** For information and application procedures contact **Grace Pang Bovy, Director**, at 213.241.2450. **Filing deadline is Monday, February 27, 2012.**

***Local Area Administrator of Operations***

**Local Educational Service Center (5 positions), MST 49G, Temporary Advisor, E Basis.** For information and application procedures call 213.241.6886. **Filing deadline is Wednesday, February 29, 2012.**

### **PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED POSITIONS**

POSITION	LOCATION	CONTACT	DEADLINE
<i>INSPECTOR GENERAL</i> Classified Senior Management Position	Administrative Offices Beaudry Building	213.241.5549 <a href="mailto:Katie.wong@lausd.net">Katie.wong@lausd.net</a> <a href="mailto:Anna.forsberg@lausd.net">Anna.forsberg@lausd.net</a>	Until filled
<i>INSTRUCTIONAL DIRECTOR, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</i> - 23 positions, MST 45G, E Basis	Local Educational Service Center	Administrative Assignments 213.241.6886	5:00 p.m. Friday February 24, 2012
<i>INSTRUCTIONAL DIRECTOR, MIDDLE SCHOOL</i> - 10 positions, MST 45G, E Basis	Local Educational Service Center	Administrative Assignments 213.241.6886	5:00 p.m. Friday February 24, 2012
<i>INSTRUCTIONAL DIRECTOR, HIGH SCHOOL</i> - 14 positions, MST 45G, E Basis	Local Educational Service Center	Administrative Assignments 213.241.6886	5:00 p.m. Friday February 24, 2012