

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND EDUCATIONAL EQUITY COMMITTEE
333 South Beaudry Avenue – 1st Floor Board Room
1:00 p.m., Thursday, January 8, 2009

Committee Members

Marguerite Poindexter LaMotte, Chairperson
Marlene Canter
Yolie Flores Aguilar

External Representatives

Judith Perez, Ed.D., AALA Representative
Julie Washington, Elementary
Vice-President, UTLA Representative
Gregg Solkovits, Secondary
Vice-President, UTLA Representative
Steven Frankel, Ed.D., President
Steven Frankel, Inc.
Francisco Torrero, Parent Collaborative
David Tokofsky

District Staff

Judy Elliott, Ph.D., Chief Academic Officer
Vivian Ekchian, Interim Chief Human Resources Officer
Liza Scruggs, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent
Instructional Support Services
Jerry Thornton, Inspector General

Board Secretariat Contact

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The meeting convened at 1:10 p.m.

OPENING REMARKS

Chairperson LaMotte highlighted the items to be discussed during the meeting, and introduced the Committee Members present.

RECOGNITION OF THE TRANSPORTATION CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION PERSONNEL

Chairperson LaMotte presented Certificates of Recognition to the District's Transportation Charitable Association Committee for their participation in the Christmas Adopt a School Event on December 18, 2008, at Virginia Road Elementary School, on December 18, 2008. She indicated that the spirit of Christmas was reflected in the outstanding work done by Santa and his helpers, "people from the District giving back to the community and to boys and girls". She highlighted that the Transportation Charitable Association staff brings the Christmas spirit of giving and sharing. The transportation staff distributed food bags for the needy families and toys to all boys and girls in the school. She said that this event was so significant, and the festivities so special that Board District 1 wanted to acknowledge each member for their outstanding work. Chairperson LaMotte showed a video clip, produced by KLCS, capturing the spirit of the day at Virginia Road Elementary School. Ms. Odessa Taylor, Principal, Virginia Road Elementary, expressed her appreciation for the special opportunity and experience during this exciting time. She thanked the Transportation Charitable Association Committee for making this holiday season a special event for the school, families, and children.

Mr. Enrique Boull't thanked the Committee for recognizing his staff for the rewarding and outstanding work they have been doing for 17 years. Ms. Armida Navarro, Parent Resource Liaison, Customer Service, Transportation Branch, and coordinator of this event, stated that her committee has visited

numerous schools across the District and served approximately 20,000 children, throughout the years. Their goal is to bring the Holiday spirit to the children and their families. Chairperson LaMotte presented two special awards to: 1) Virginia Road Elementary School, and 2) Transportation Charitable Association Committee. In addition, she presented a Certificate of Recognition to each member:

Mr. Enrique Boull't
Mr. David Palmer
Ms. Armida Navarro
Mr. Salvador Beltran,
Acting Santa Claus

Ms. Mildred Alecio
Ms. Priscilla Achucarro
Ms. Sheri Armstrong
Ms. Monica Chairez

Ms. Shirley Duran
Ms. Clarence Hutchison
Mr. David Lee
Mr. Brett Van Liew

Chairperson LaMotte made a special announcement regarding the 2009-2010 Magnet School Choices Application; and invited Ms. Sharon Curry, Assistant Superintendent, Student Integration Services, to briefly discuss this item. Ms. Curry encouraged parents to submit the 2009-2010 Choices application by Friday, January 9, 2009. The applications must be received in the District's Student Integration Services (Magnet) Office by 5 p.m. Additional information can be obtained in the brochure or at <http://echoices.lausd.net>.

PERIOD-BY-PERIOD ATTENDANCE REPORTING PROCESS

Cynthia Lim introduced the item and the staff making the presentation, Mr. Dan Cruz, Director, Student Information Systems, Ms. Vicki Gonzales, Coordinator, Student Information Systems, and Ms. Maria Luz Marquez, Pupil Services and Attendance Coordinator, Local District 5. Their presentation included a brief overview of the automated period-by-period attendance procedure, monitoring reports, and attendance practices and policy implications.

Mr. Cruz provided a brief overview and history, and noted that the District will be developing and implementing a comprehensive strategic planning model that utilizes research, data and outcome based goals to improve the District's attendance rate to 96% by 2013. He stated that researchers have identified several key indicators of students who most likely will drop out:

- Poor grades in core subjects, low attendance, and failure to be promoted to the next grade.
- More than half of sixth graders who attended school less than 80% of the time, received a low final grade from teachers in behavior, and fail either Math or English.
- Eighth-graders who missed five weeks of school or fail Math or English have at least a 75% chance of dropping out of high school.

Mr. Cruz indicated that period-by-period attendance reporting is intended to improve accountability for each student's attendance, and to ensure the accuracy of the District's actual attendance numbers. Ms. Gonzales briefly explained the attendance and monitoring process. Ms. Marquez discussed the best communication practices, and the repercussions for not submitting attendance correctly; such as, audit, sanctions by the state due to over-stated ADA, not keeping accurate attendance records, not sending mandated notifications to parents, and an inability to identify and provide services to students with attendance problems. Ms. Gonzales and Ms. Marquez showed and discussed the different forms and reports that the new system produces.

Ms. Lim responded to questions and concerns from Committee Members.

SPEAKERS:

Mr. Tom Carter, private citizen, expressed his concerns regarding students attendance and presented some suggestions.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

