

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
2:00 p.m., Thursday, November 13, 2008

Committee Members

Marguerite Poindexter LaMotte, Chairperson
Marlene Canter
Yolie Flores Aguilar

External Representatives

Judith Perez, 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

Noemi Fernandez
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The meeting convened at 2:15 p.m.

OPENING REMARKS

Chair Marguerite LaMotte made brief remarks and introduced the item to be discussed during this meeting.

IMPLEMENTING CULTURALLY RELEVANT AND RESPONSIVE EDUCATION (CRRE)
DISTRICT-WIDE

Dr. Judy Elliott, Chief Academic Officer, and Dr. Noma LeMoine, Director, Language Acquisition Branch, Office of Academic English Mastery and Proficiency Plus, provided an update on the implementation of Culturally Relevant and Responsive Education (CRRE) in the District. Dr. Elliott gave a brief background of this initiative and future plans to improve the implementation process. Dr. LeMoine focused her presentation on actions taken by Local District and school administrators to implement this initiative, such as:

- Developing learning communities around CRRE; setting up collaborative learning groups; implementing “Study Groups”; analyzing data and looking closely at disparities between student groups; and inviting experts to conduct seminars and collaborative learning.
- Developing CRRE Learning Environments at school sites; providing additional instruction and learning time for students who need it in order to meet the standards; and designing and conducting site-based professional development.

- Developing CRRE Learning Environments at school sites; creating learning communities and engaging educators in collaborative learning; and giving classroom application to theory through lesson design, lesson study, peer coaching and collaborative learning.
- Embedding CRRE into core content instruction.
- Embedding CRRE into core content instruction and strategies in Math concept lessons; requiring schools to develop professional development plans that integrate CRRE; and providing training for coordinators and coaches on CRRE.

Dr. LeMoine presented two guest speakers, Ms. Cerise Cavers, Principal, Crescent Heights Elementary, and Mr. William Lam, Magnet Coordinator, Crescent Heights Elementary, who shared their experiences in terms of embedding this pedagogy in a systemic way to increase students' achievement. Mr. Lam shared his experience and how he incorporates the CRRE strategies into the classrooms and into the GSAT, Great Student Achievement Teams, an on-going and focused professional development model. Ms. Cavers and Mr. Lam believe that their school's API rose from approximately 700 points in 2007-2008 to about 800 this school year due to this on-going professional development, which uses the CRRE pedagogy to help teachers and students.

In closing, Dr. Elliott listed a few goals to improve the implementation of CRRE across the District, such as:

- Improving all stakeholders' knowledge and understanding of CRRE as an "Access Methodology."
- Provide more targeted professional development for teachers on how to embed the CRRE strategies into the content instruction.
- Integrate more culturally relevant literature into core instruction.

Dr. LeMoine pointed out that her office will:

- Utilize KLCS to provide a salary point course on CRRE on how to utilize this pedagogy in core instruction and to highlight best practices.
- Advertise the CRRE Clearinghouse on the Academic English Mastery/Proficiency Plus Web site.
- Disseminate and follow-up on the use of the CRRE Video Series at school site professional development sessions.
- Continue discussions with Local District leadership relative to embedding CRRE.
- Continue to develop CRRE support tools and assist Local Districts in the utilization of the CRRE Toolkits:
 - Strategies Reference and Resource Manual for Embedding CRRE
 - CRRE Video Series
 - CRRE Criteria for Lesson Planning
 - CRRE Literature Titles
 - Professional Development Modules for embedding CRRE into Core Content Instruction.

Dr. Elliott and Dr. LeMoine responded to questions and concerns from Committee Members.

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The meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.
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AGENDA

1. Opening Remarks
Marguerite LaMotte, Chairperson 5 min.
2. Implementing Culturally Relevant
and Responsive Education District-wide
Dr. Judy Elliott 40 min.
Chief Academic Officer

Dr. Noma LeMoine, Director
Academic English Mastery & Proficiency Plus

3. Speakers – Persons who wish to address this committee may sign-up at this meeting.

4. Adjournment

The Committee may consider and act upon motions, Board Reports, or other business referred to it by the Board of Education or Committee of the Whole, with respect to any properly posted matter at a meeting immediately preceding this committee meeting, where the time between that meeting and this committee meeting is less than 72 hours. Members of the public are encouraged to review the order of business or agenda for the meeting of the Board of Education or Committee of the Whole. "For more information, go to <http://www.laschoolboard.org>, Curriculum and Instruction Committee."

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Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Board of Education, including those submitted after the initial distribution of materials, are available for public inspection at the Security Desk on the first floor of the Administrative Headquarters, at the meeting, and at: <http://beta.laschoolboard.org/node/115>