

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, December 11, 2008

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

Noemi Fernandez
Tel: 213-241-7002
Email: noemi.fernandez@lausd.net

The meeting convened at 1:10 p.m.

OPENING REMARKS

Chairperson Marguerite LaMotte made brief opening remarks and introduced Ms. Sharon Curry, Assistant Superintendent, Student Integration Services.

Choices Informational Faire

Ms. Curry made a brief presentation on the annual Choices Informational Faire; which this year took place on November 1, 2008. The faire provides information to parents and students about the different integration programs offered by the District; such as, Magnet; Public School Choice (PSC); High Gifted/High Ability, Highly Gifted; Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS) Programs; and Permits with Transportation (PWT). Ms. Curry showed a short video clip depicting the activities at the faire. She noted that the 2009-2010 Choices brochure was sent out to all District parents. The brochure is also available at all school sites. She announced that the 2009-2010 Choices application deadline is Friday, January 9, 2009, and must be postmarked or 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>.

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

Committee Members made several recommendations regarding the Magnet and the Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS) Programs:

1. *Provide a series of tours to see the different programs, and provide appointments for parents who are unable to visit Magnet schools on the scheduled tour days.*

2. *Provide the Committee a strategic plan as it relates to Magnet Schools to meet the high demand of this program.*
3. *Provide school representatives instructions on the enrollment process for the Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS) Program.*

Chairperson LaMotte asked Ms. Curry to prepare a follow up report addressing the above requests and the Committee's concerns.

SPEAKERS

Mr. Bill Ring, Parent Collaborative, asked the Committee to include the Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS) Program in the annual Choices Faire.

UPDATE: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE PROFICIENT ON THE CALIFORNIA STANDARDS TEST (CST)

Dr. Randy Ross, Board of Education, Director of Educational Policy, provided a follow up presentation regarding the definition of Proficiency as it relates to the California Standards Test (CST). He noted that there is a lot of data and information on this area. He summarized the data and presented a few charts, by subject and grade level, showing the number of questions on the California Standards Test (CST); the range of numerical scores that define Proficiency; and the minimum number and percent of questions a student needs to get correct in order to score Proficient. He stated that the number of California Standards Test (CST) items ranges from a minimum of 60 to a maximum of 75 multiple-choice items. Students must score at least 350 points in order to be designated Proficient; the number and percent of items students must get correct in order to score Proficient vary by subject and grade level. Dr. Ross highlighted the importance of using the assessment data to promote student achievement. He recommended:

- Monitoring students' achievement;
- Providing appropriate individualized support based on the data available; and
- Communicating with parents and guardians, and developing and implementing joint plans to support student achievement;
- Identifying and acting on the schools and classrooms strengths and weaknesses; and
- Assessing the cost-effectiveness and the impact of the District's initiatives on the student well being and the schooling outcomes.

Mr. Ross responded to questions and concerns from Committee Members.

Chairperson LaMotte indicated that she will request a follow up report on the Committee's concerns; such as, the level of Proficiency at schools, particularly in the high priority schools, and the strategic plans to provide extra resources to those schools. Dr. Scruggs suggested including the various intervention activities for English Learners and Standard English Learners occurring after and within a school day.

SPEAKERS

Ms. Yolanda Beckles, parent, raised questions regarding proficiency; and the effectiveness in terms of implementing the District's strategies for parental and community involvement, and the communication with parents of gifted children. In response to Ms. Beckles concerns, *Chairperson LaMotte noted that her concerns will be addressed in a future presentation.*

EXTERNAL MONITORING REPORT

Dr. Floraline Stevens, Floraline I. Stevens and Associates, provided an in-depth update on the External Monitoring Report #15:

- Part I, Implementation of Tenet 4 by Elementary School Staff; Parent Engagement and Involvement in School-Related activities; and
- Part II, Parents of Grade 5 Students. Survey report regarding the implementation of Tenet 4's action steps. The goals of the action steps are to increase parent engagement and advocacy for all students and to desire strategies to use parents' cultural knowledge and language in ways schools function to benefit their children. The school-related activities in the action steps center around two major issues: 1) effective school-parent communication, and 2) provision of training for parents to assist their children.

Dr. Stevens presented a summary of the findings, implications, and recommendations:

- Large number of parents have no knowledge about the Action Plan; specifically, Tenet 4's action steps. She recommended making accessible to all parents the Action Plan, and present the information in the Action Plan at all parent groups, and encourage discussion about the action steps and the expected outcomes.
- Two-thirds of parents reported a willingness to help at their child's school and one-half were available to help. The recommendation presented indicates that principals should make parent engagement and involvement a major objective. Principals and teachers should continuously work towards involving parents.
- Parents expressed concerns about the academic achievement of African American students. Many parents cited concerns about the lack of equity for all students, unconcerned, non-caring teachers and other staff, and a lack of respect by staff for parents and students. The survey shows that there are teachers who lack the skills to positively engage and excite African American students about learning and the scheduling of parent meetings. Dr. Stevens recommended that professional development for teachers should emphasize higher performance expectations for all African American students, and it should include strategies that would help make student learning more engaging and enjoyable. Principals should plan parent meetings at days and times more convenient for parents to attend, and they should investigate ways to better involve and engage parents.

Dr. Stevens responded to questions and concerns from Committee Members.

Dr. Judith Perez, AALA Representative, asked the Committee to provide a plan to identify schools where there is parent involvement on a continuous basis; find out about their successful practices; and share this information across the District. In response to Committee Members concerns and recommendations, Chairperson LaMotte recommended a follow up report in a future meeting.

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The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.
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AGENDA

1. Opening Remarks
Marguerite LaMotte, Chairperson 5 min.
2. Choices Informational Faire
Sharon Curry, Assistant Superintendent 15 min.
Student Integration Services
3. What Does It Mean to be Proficient
on the California Standards Test?
Dr. Randy Ross 30 min.
Board of Education Director
of Educational Policy
4. External Monitoring Report
Dr. Floraline I. Stevens 30 min.
Floraline I. Stevens and Associates
5. Speakers – Persons who wish to address this committee may sign-up at this meeting.
6. 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."

Requests for disability related modifications or accommodations should be made 24 hours prior to the meeting to the Board Secretariat at 333 S. Beau dry Ave., 24th Floor, Los Angeles, CA, 90017 or by calling (213) 241-7002 or toll free (877) 772-6273.

If you or your organization is seeking to influence a purchasing, policy, site selection or any other LAUSD decision, registration may be required under the District's Lobbying Disclosure Code. Please visit www.lausd.net/ethics <<http://www.lausd.net/ethics>> to determine if you need to register or call the LAUSD Ethics Office at: 213-241-3330.

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>