

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 Baudry Avenue – 1st Floor Board Room

1:00 p.m., Thursday, April 16, 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
Randy Ross, Ph.D., Board of Education, Director of
Educational Policy
Jerry Thornton, Inspector General

Board Secretariat Contact

Noemi Fernandez
Tel: 213-241-7002

The meeting convened at 1:12 p.m.

OPENING REMARKS

Chair LaMotte made brief opening remarks and introduced the first item to be discussed.

RECOGNIZING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE THROUGH THE ACADEMIC ENGLISH MASTERY PROGRAM (AEMP)

Dr. Carole Cobb, Program Coordinator, Office of the Academic English Mastery Program (AEMP) and Proficiency Plus, provided a brief background and overview of the program, which has become a national model. She noted that the purpose of her presentation is to showcase the Academic English Mastery Program (AEMP) improving schools, recipients of the 2008-2009 award presented at the 18th Annual Academic English Mastery Program (AEMP) Weekend Professional Development Conference:

- Local District 1 - Nevada Elementary School.
- Local District 3 - 54th Street Elementary School and Crescent Heights Elementary School.
- Local District 7 - Danny Bakewell Primary Center, Bright Elementary School, and 122nd Street Elementary School.
- Local District 8 - Leapwood Avenue Elementary School, Amestoy Elementary School, and Cimarron Avenue Elementary School.

Dr. Cobb related the success of the Academic English Mastery Program (AEMP) model by inviting representatives from these schools to share concepts and strategies they incorporated into their classrooms

instruction to help students to be more successful. The following individuals shared their experiences and support for this program, Ms. Madeleine Gygli, Assistant Principal, 122nd Street Elementary School; Ms. Tawanna Harrison, teacher, 122nd Street Elementary School; Ms. Terri Zurnamer, teacher, 122nd Street Elementary School; Ms. Regina Myles, teacher, Cimarron Avenue Elementary School; Ms. Tanya Dennis, teacher, Cimarron Avenue Elementary School; Ms. Monica Ivey, parent, Cimarron Avenue Elementary School; and Ms. Chadra Steward, teacher, Leapwood Elementary School.

Dr. Cobb concluded her presentation by indicating that this program will be substantially reduced next year. All Proficient Plus Specialist positions will be eliminated; which will make it difficult for her staff to continue providing adequate training to schools. In addition, she announced that Dr. Noma LeMoine, will be leaving the District soon. She acknowledged and thanked Dr. LeMoine for the support and outstanding work she has done for this program.

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

Committee Members discussed this item at length and expressed concerns regarding the potential decline in quality due to the cuts in this program. *Chair LaMotte requested an analysis of all educational research based programs to be eliminated or reduced.* She also recognized Dr. LeMoine for her hard work, efforts, and contribution to this program and to the District.

SPEAKERS

Mr. Tut Hayes, a member of the community, commented on this subject.

2007-2008 EVALUATION RESULTS OF SMALLER LEARNING COMMUNITIES (SLCS) (USDE COHORTS V AND VI SCHOOLS)

Ms. Jan Davis, Director, High School Programs, provided a brief history and background of Smaller Learning Communities, and prefaced update of the United States Department of Education (USDE) grant for Small Learning Communities, Cohorts V and VI. She introduced Mr. Michael Butler, Public Works, Inc, an external evaluator as required under federal guidelines for this program. He provided a condensed update of the evaluation conducted by his organization for 2007-2008 school year. The details of findings, results, and recommendations are contained in the Summary Report prepared by Public Works.

Mr. Butler noted that the 2007-2008 evaluation of Cohorts V and VI covered 19 high schools; including Lincoln, Canoga Park, Huntington Park, Marshall, Bell, Locke, and Polytechnic. They are median demographic improvement schools, with each having approximately 3,297 students; 76% Hispanic or Latino, 27% English Learners, 11% Special Education; and 68% receive free or reduced price meals. He stated that the executive summary discusses in-depth the evaluation methods, key findings, results, recommendations, Small Learning Communities participation, key accomplishments, challenges, and outcomes. Mr. Butler provided and reviewed several comparison charts depicting data of student outcomes, as it relates to Small Learning Communities, for a three-year period, 2005 to 2008. The charts compare four groups of schools; Cohort V, Cohort VI, Cohort III, Cohort IV, and other District high schools not funded by USDE grants.

The data show results for CST English Language Arts (ELA) and CST Math of below basic, far below basic, and basic students; and 10th Grade CAHSEE ELA and Math pass rates; and Pupil Attendance (9th-

12th Grades). Mr. Butler highlighted that the Small Learning Communities enrollment has increased exponentially and have become more demographically representative at school-wide aggregate level.

In addition, Mr. Butler indicated that surveys were conducted to obtain quantitative student outcome and school performance measures; the surveys include all 10th and 12th grade students, school staff, follow-up survey of 12th graders three to four months after graduation, and annual site visit to evaluate SLC implementation in relation to the eight District attributes embedded in the Board Resolution passed in 2005-2006. He indicated that staff resistance to change is one of the major barriers to SLC implementation. He outlined a few of the recommendations for Local Districts, such as:

- Continue to monitor and provide oversight of school master schedules.
- Assist schools in the alignment of school improvement plans.
- Minimize site administrative turnover.
- Assist schools in designing professional development. And
- Support schools in use of data, disaggregated by SLC.

He recommended that central offices define the extent of allowable school autonomy in instruction; provide incentives for schools once approved by SLC Committee or based on SLC progress and accomplishments; ensure that SLCs are staffed with highly qualified teachers in all core academic areas; and provide leadership training for SLC lead teachers, counselors, and Assistant Principals.

Dr. Davis and Mr. Butler responded to questions and concerns from Committee Members.

In response to Committee Members concerns regarding budget reductions, Mr. Butler responded that the program will be greatly affected when the extra preparation time for lead teachers is reduced, teachers are moved, and Assistant Principals removed. Committee Members discussed at length the budget reductions of programs such as SLCs.

SPEAKERS

Mr. Tut Hayes, a member of the community, commented on this subject and industrial education.

Mr. Bill Ring, Parent Collaborative, supported the work done by Mr. Butler and the program. He commented on the lack of multiple pathways for students, and no International Baccalaureate pathways in his child's school.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

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AGENDA

1. Opening Remarks Marguerite LaMotte, Chairperson 5 min.
2. Recognizing Academic Excellence Through the Academic English Mastery Program Dr. Carole Cobb Program Coordinator Office of the Academic English Mastery Program/Proficiency Plus 30 min.
3. Smaller Learning Communities Evaluation, 2007-08 Results (USDE Cohort 5 and Cohort 6 Schools) Dr. Shelley Weston Assistant Superintendent Secondary Instruction Michael Butler, Public Works Inc. 30 min.
4. Speakers – Persons who wish to address this committee may sign-up at this meeting.
5. 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: