

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

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

333 S. Beaudry Avenue, Board Room  
1:00 p.m., Thursday, September 18, 2008

Board Members Present

Tamar Galatzan, Chairperson  
Marlene Canter  
Yolie Flores Aguilar  
Julie Korenstein

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The meeting convened at 1:11 p.m.  
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OPENING REMARKS

Chairperson Galatzan presented the first item for discussion.

WEIGHTED STUDENT FORMULA PRESENTATION

Dr. William Ouchi, UCLA, Anderson School of Management, Professor, provided a presentation of the Secret of Total Student Load (TSL). The presentation was based on Dr. Ouchi's research of 8 school districts that have implemented decentralization: Boston, Chicago, Houston, New York City, Oakland, San Francisco, Seattle, and St. Paul School Districts.

Dr. Ouchi discussed the 4 Pillars established in every one of the 8 districts visited: (1) School Choice, which creates competition and requires low performing schools to improve, and allows families to find schools that cater to their specific needs; (2) School Empowered with the 4 Freedoms, which are Budget Control, Staffing Pattern, Curriculum, and Schedule; (3) A System of Accountability, measured by state test results and No Child Left Behind status, district test results, high school graduation rates, management reviews, satisfaction surveys, and school choice; and (4) Weighted Student Formula, which improves equity, creates budget transparency, and builds constituency for school empowerment.

Dr. Ouchi focused on the decentralization of the New York City (NYC) School District, which is more comparable in size to the LAUSD than the others. He stated that NYC schools control their own budget, staffing, curriculum and schedule. The NYC School District provides accountability, choice system for families, fair student funding, and selection and training of principals. Dr. Ouchi stated that the NYC Leadership Academy has provided support in preparing educators for success.

Dr. Ouchi concluded by stating that big districts need small schools, the Four Pillars and Four Freedoms need to be aligned, the central offices must be reorganized, Site Based Management corrupts accountability, principal training and coaching is essential, and continuity of governance is the big issue.

SPEAKER:

Ms. Joyce Dillard expressed her views on this item.

PER PUPIL FUNDING PRESENTATION

This item was postponed to the October 30, 2008, Governance Committee Meeting.

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The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.  
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Notes by: Janet Saavedra  
Office of the Board Secretariat