

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, February 12, 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

Chair LaMotte made brief remarks regarding the Academic Decathlon. She noted that Dr. Robert Peterson, former Orange County Superintendent of Schools, created the Academic Decathlon in Orange County in 1968. In addition, she acknowledged the dedication, hard work, and commitment level of principals, coaches, and every one involved in the District's Academic Decathlon. Chair LaMotte introduced Dr. Shelley Weston, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Support Services, who provided a brief update on the Academic Decathlon.

RECONGNITON – ACADEMIC DECATHLON

Dr. Weston acknowledged the spirit and hard work of students, parents, community, coaches, and teachers participating or supporting the Academic Decathlon. She extended her appreciation to Mr. Cliff Ker, Coordinator, Academic Decathlon. Mr. Ker provided a brief history and background of the District's participation in the Academic Decathlon, and highlighted that the District's teams have won ten National Championships since 1987. He noted that Mr. David Tokofsky, External Representative, was the first coach in the District of a National Championship Decathlon winner. Mr. Ker stated that the District has 64 teams competing in the largest regional competition in the nation.

Mr. Ker introduced three coaches of Academic Decathlon teams: Mr. Armstrong, Canoga High School; Mr. Larry Welch, John Marshall High School; and Mr. Channel, Manual Arts High School. He also introduced three former District graduates and former members of the Academic Decathlon teams, who shared their experiences and how this program helped them: Mr. Cesar Cortez, graduate from Fremont

High School and of UCLA; Ms. Kyara McGee, graduate from Sylmar High School; and Mr. Benjamin Farahmand, graduate of El Camino Real High School.

Committee Members congratulated the students and acknowledged their commitment and hard work.

Board Member Canter suggested Mr. Ker writing a letter to President Obama regarding the District's Academic Decathlon.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM (IBP) AND THE DISTRICT'S INTERESTED SCHOOLS GROUP (ISG)

Dr. Liza Scruggs, Assistant Superintendent Instructional Support Services, made a lengthy presentation regarding the International Baccalaureate Programs (IB), and schools interested in becoming part of the program; which are formed into an Interested Schools Group (ISG). In addition, she noted the benefits of the program and provided an update of the implementation timeline. The attributes of the program include rigorous curriculum and assessments, international education, focus on developing the skills of learning, global issues, and intercultural understanding and respect. These elements help students to be globally prepared. The International Baccalaureate (IB) consists of three programs: the Primary Years Program; the Middle Years Program; and the Diploma Program. The components of the International Baccalaureate (IB) include a written curriculum; professional development for teachers; school support, and program evaluation. Dr. Scruggs noted that there are approximately 2500 schools and 132 countries using this program and the headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland. The District has fifteen schools participating in the Interested School Group. She introduced several guest speakers whose schools are currently participating in the program, to share their experiences, goals, and objectives.

- Ms. Candie Childress, Principal, Gardena Early Education
- Ms. Pam Martin, Principal, Community Magnet Charter School
- Ms. Guadalupe Arellano, Site Coordinator, El Sereno Middle School
- Dr. Annick Draghi, Principal, Downtown Magnet Middle School
- Mr. Salvador Velasco, Principal, Eagle Rock Jr./Sr. High School
- Ms. Delia Estrada, Assistant Principal, Eagle Rock Jr./Sr. High School

Dr. Scruggs responded to questions and concerns from Committee Members. In response to a question raised by Dr. Judith Perez, External Representative, Dr. Scruggs noted that funding is a concern, but the District is looking into this issue. She mentioned that Superintendent Ray Cortines supports the program.

SPEAKERS

Mr. Bill Ring, Parent Collaborative, and Ms. Yolanda Beckles, parent, supported the IB Program. Mr. Ring asked the Committee to provide a pathway for programs like these to students in Local District 3, and inform parents.

ALGEBRA IN THE DISTRICT

Ms. Shelley Weston, Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Instruction, briefly outlined this presentation and introduced Ms. Jeanne Ramos, Director, Secondary Mathematics, and Mr. Andrew Jenkins, Coordinator, Elementary Mathematics. Ms. Ramos and Mr. Jenkins provided an overview of the mathematical and algebraic teaching concept, which ensures continued improvement on student achievement and increases preparedness for Algebra I to students from Kindergarten to Grade 8. The Professional Development component focuses on a balanced curriculum that supports the teaching of mathematics skills, conceptual understanding, and problem solving. The concept will enable teachers to provide all students, including English Learners (EL), access to core mathematics instruction using

instructional conversations, development of academic vocabulary, graphic organizers, visual tools, and cooperative learning.

Ms. Weston, Ms. Ramos, and Mr. Jenkins responded to questions and concerns from Committee Members. *Chair LaMotte invited Ms. Weston, Ms. Ramos, and Mr. Jenkins to bring back this item to a future meeting.*

SPEAKERS

Ms. Zella Knight, Parent Representative, supported this program. In addition, she addressed the Committee regarding the Black History Resolution in reference to assessment and monitoring.

The adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

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