

Los Angeles Unified School District  
**DISTRICT 8**  
**Local District Parent Community Advisory Council (LDPCAC)**  
**MINUTES**

August 26, 2009  
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Maggie Houston, Glenda Mark, Carlos Prinzen, Maria Ramirez, Paul Robak, Maryanne Manalang, Jane Tokubo, Paz Velazquez,  
Staff Present: Linda Del Cueto, Dona Stevens, Michael Romero, Valerie Moses, Shannon Lee, Juan Flecha, Susan Dominguez, Roger Finstad, Karen Saunders, Emily Kuwahara, Hattie McFrazier  
Guest: Robert Lopez, Principal from Banning High School

**PART I**

**Welcome/Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m. by Vice Chairman Carlos Prinzen.

**Superintendent's Report**

Mrs. Del Cueto introduced High School Director Juan Flecha (previously principal at Jefferson and Eagle Rock High School) and Robert Lopez, Principal from Banning High School. She explained the change in LDPCAC meeting dates to Wednesdays due to the change in Supt. Cortines' meetings to Thursdays. Tuesdays are set aside for Professional Development Days and Mondays and Fridays are traditionally "not good days" to meet. Wednesdays turned out to be the best days when the LDPCAC could meet.

Mrs. Del Cueto reported that test scores for Local District 8 have improved overall. The API scores are being delayed until mid-September and a full report will be done then. Principals have all been instructed to discuss and review individual school data with all stakeholders.

Supt. Cortines held his opening meeting today with all administrators in LAUSD. His key points were:

- "We're all in this together" – having to partner with parents, bargaining units, community agencies and other stakeholders to improve student achievement
- We must move "beyond slogans" in our effort to help kids (i.e. "Read by 9")
- A tough road ahead was acknowledged for our District

The School Choice Resolution was approved yesterday, allowing charter schools and individual groups to present plans for newly opening schools and Program Improvement (PI) 3 through 5 schools. The plans must be approved by the Superintendent and must be inclusive of all students (ie students with disabilities, English Learners) and address high academic achievement, parental involvement, safety, and governance.

Gardena High School was complimented for hosting a community meeting last week to discuss the process for opening new schools in our Local District. 120 people attended this meeting along with the Local District 8 staff. Mr. Cortines was present to listen to the concerns of the community, not to conduct the meeting. Local District 8 will be opening two schools in 2011 (K-8 Wilmington Span School and New Carson High) and one school in 2012 (San Pedro annex).

Sellery Special Education Center will now be a Career Transition Center for 90 high school students up until age 22. This program is grant funded and will focus on business, culinary arts, and horticulture.

Mrs. Del Cueto will provide a list of the Program Improvement School at our next meeting and review more details from the recent state testing results. New 2009-10 calendars were distributed to members of the council.

### **Instruction**

Dr. Dona Stevens reviewed the new positions in Local District 8. Our RtI (Response to Instruction and Intervention) Coordinator is Ron Tanimura, the PreK-12 Counseling Coordinator is Rebecca Fitzpatrick, and the Dropout Prevention and Attendance Coordinator is Mira Pranata. Jolene Hori and Rosa Britt are RtI experts; Paul Valanis and Chris Mason are ELD (English Language Development) – Access to Core experts. We will have one more RtI expert and a Safe and Healthy Schools Facilitator to be hired. Patricia Korn is our new Parent Liaison.

We are in the process of ensuring that all schools are compliant with the Williams legislation. We must certify that all schools have sufficient textbooks for their students in all core areas. Some of our schools will be visited by LACOE (Los Angeles County Office of Education) to verify that students have the texts.

Although we do not have a direct line/staff reporting structure for APEISs, coaches and coordinators, we are still committed to provide professional development and support for them.

Local District 8 will be hosting School Site Council Training on October 20<sup>th</sup> at Island Elementary. Every school will send a team to be trained.

### **Director Reports**

Valerie Moses reported that 156<sup>th</sup> Elementary School was featured in The Education Trust West's report *Achievement in California 2009: Persistent Challenges and Paths Forward*. The school was included as a prime example to show that all students – including students of color and low income can achieve at high levels.

Mike Romero reported that the Columbia Writing Project presented a full week of professional development for over 100 teachers in 8 elementary schools. We will be tracking the data to measure gains in writing skills.

Shannon Lee reported that Community Day Schools (CDS) have been placed on Harte MS and White MS campuses. She is working closely with the high school director to ensure effective articulation between all the middle and high schools, with an emphasis on math, especially Algebra 1.

Juan Flecha also commented on the importance of the articulation between the middle and high schools. He reported that both Carson HS and Washington Prep HS received API scores this year. We are pleased that Carson HS is bringing the International Baccalaureate (IB) program to the school. Banning HS sponsored a very successful Health Fair.

### **Special Education**

Emily Kuwahara reported that the Special Education unit is reorganizing into families. Megan Hastings and Dr. Christopher Eaton will be coordinating/supervising the APEISs (Assistant Principal, Elementary Instructional Specialist)

### **Budget**

Susan Dominguez reported that the Gifted and CAHSEE allocations have been received at schools. The June 30<sup>th</sup> balances rolled over. The budget adjustment system is open so that schools are able to make adjustments at the site.

### **Facilities**

Roger Finstad reported that Washington Prep is getting an upgrade of their baseball field. The football field upgrade is funded by Board Member LaMotte.

### **Organization Facilitator**

Jane Tokubo has agreed to attend the Organization Facilitator meetings once a month. Miss De La Rosa also attends. There are 14 Healthy Start sites in Local District 8.

### **Calendar**

The dates were set for the upcoming LDPCAC and Council of Council meetings. There may be a conflict on the November 3<sup>rd</sup> date. Dona will check.

### **New Business**

Carlos Prinzen introduced Banning principal, Robert Lopez. He thanked him for his hard work at Banning and his support for parent involvement. Mr. Lopez reiterated the importance of staff and parents working together.

It was requested that a student representative attend the LDPCAC meetings.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Jane Tokubo made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2009 meeting with corrections. The motion was seconded by Paul Robak. The motion passed.

Maggie Houston moved that the meeting be adjourned. Paz Velasquez seconded the motion. The meeting was approved at 5:12 p.m.