

UPDATE

Week of July 26, 2010

WHY WAS THE PRINCIPAL TRANSFERRED?

When District senior staff decides a principal should be transferred or reassigned, it is usually based upon one of the following reasons:

- A capable and experienced principal has earned a promotional opportunity.
- The principal has sought a transfer based upon the desire for a new experience after serving successfully for five or more years at the site.
- The test scores at a school site have failed to reflect improvement over a period of years.
- The principal has made serious errors in judgment, which may have negatively impacted students and or staff.
- The principal has engaged in, supported or ignored behavior, which is ultimately determined to be criminal in nature.
- District leadership has been unable to withstand political pressure from bargaining units or Board members that may reflect exaggerated or fictional concerns.

Here are the facts: Approximately one week ago, **Suzanne Blake**, Principal of Central Los Angeles High School #9, the School of Visual & Performing Arts, was called to a meeting by recently hired Local District 4 Superintendent **Dr. Dale Vigil** and was told that she was being replaced. Mrs. Blake was given no reason for her transfer. Prior to the meeting with Dr. Vigil on June 28, 2010, Superintendent **Ramon Cortines** had advised Mrs. Blake that she would remain at Central Los Angeles High School #9. Mrs. Blake was quoted in *The Daily News* on Thursday, July 15, 2010, "I have not been told why I am not able to stay. This seems to me to be a backroom deal," she said.

A brief review of Mrs. Blake's tenure at Central Los Angeles High School #9 includes the following:

- Superintendent Cortines hired her only three months prior to the opening of the new school, a considerably shorter time frame than is normal.
- Central Los Angeles High School #9 students had extraordinarily positive results in CAHSEE Math and English/Language Arts with passing rates of 80% and 90%, respectively.
- Students won numerous awards throughout the school year.
- The school achieved a maximum accreditation for a new site.
- The vast majority of staff, students and parents were extremely supportive of her leadership.
- The school had an outstanding culminating student performance in June 2010.

Since Mrs. Blake completed a very successful opening year as Principal of Central Los Angeles High School #9, one can only wonder why Dr. Vigil and Superintendent Cortines transferred her. In a period of fiscal crisis and an obvious need for stability, the wonderment surrounding this transfer has an unpleasant aroma about it! While AALA has no proof of any involvement of Board of Education Members in this personnel matter, we are still looking for a sensible rationale. To date there is none to be found.

WHY WAS THE PRINCIPAL TRANSFERRED? (Continued)

Has Board Members' policy-making role blurred into the day-to-day operations of the school district, which is normally the responsibility of the Superintendent and his staff?

AALA strongly recommends the rescinding of Mrs. Blake's transfer. Note: While AALA has chosen to severely critique the District's action in this matter, we are in no way disparaging the assignment of her replacement, who is also a fine professional.

ASSOCIATED ADMINISTRATORS OF LOS ANGELES 2010-2011 MASTER CALENDAR

<u>July</u>		
Thursday	29	E Basis Begins
<u>August</u>		
Tuesday	10	D Basis Begins
Monday	16	First Day of Instruction – Selected Schools – LD 1, 2, 5
Tuesday	17	B Basis Begins
Tuesday	24	K Basis Begins
Tuesday	24	Organization Presidents Breakfast Meeting – Taix's
Wednesday	25	Superintendent's Annual Meeting for Administrators – Hollywood HS
Friday	27	Furlough Day – Track A
Monday	30	First Day of Instruction – Track A
Tuesday	31	Administrative Groups Breakfast Meeting – AALA Office
<u>September</u>		
Friday	3	Admission Day Observance
Monday	6	Labor Day
Tuesday	7	Unassigned Day – Single-Track Schools
Wednesday	8	Furlough Day – Single-Track Schools
Wednesday	8	Eve of Rosh Hashanah
Thurs./Fri.	9/10	Rosh Hashanah
Thursday	9	Unassigned Day – Single-Track Schools
Friday	10	Furlough Day – Single-Track Schools
Monday	13	First Day of Instruction – Single-Track Schools
Friday	17	Eve of Yom Kippur
Saturday	18	Yom Kippur
Monday	20	Executive Board Meeting
Wednesday	22	COBA Opening Meeting
Wednesday	29	AALA Fall Reception – The Center at Cathedral Plaza
<u>October</u>		
Thursday	14	Representative Assembly
Fri./Sat	15/16	CAUSA Conference – Burlingame (hosted by San Francisco)
Wednesday	20	Alumni Luncheon – The Center at Cathedral Plaza
Friday	22	Furlough Day – Track B
Monday	25	Furlough Day – Track C

Associated Administrators of Los Angeles

MASTER CALENDAR (Continued)

November		
Wednesday	11	Veterans Day
Monday	15	<i>Executive Board Meeting</i>
Mon – Wed.	22 – 24	Furlough Days– Single-Track Schools, Tracks A and B
Thurs./Fri.	25/26	Thanksgiving Holiday
December		
Wed. – Fri.	1-3	AALA Scholarship Applications to Schools
Monday	20	Winter Recess Begins – Single-Track Schools (to 1/7/11)
Thursday	23	Winter Recess Begins – Three-Track Schools (to 12/31/10)
Thursday	23	Furlough Day – Track A
Friday	24	Christmas Eve
Saturday	25	Christmas
January		
Saturday	1	New Year's Day
Monday	3	Second Semester Begins – Tracks B and C
Monday	10	<i>Executive Board Meeting</i>
Monday	17	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday Observed
Tues. – Fri.	18 – 21	Mail Community Award Applications to Members
Thursday	27	Representative Assembly
Saturday	29	Academic Decathlon – Speech/Interview/Essay Events – Roybal Learning Center
February		
Saturday	5	Academic Decathlon – Objective Tests/Super Quiz – Roybal Learning Center
Friday	11	Academic Decathlon Awards Ceremony – Hollywood HS
Monday	14	Second Semester Begins – Single-Track Schools
Monday	21	Presidents' Day
Tues.- Fri.	22 – 25	Furlough Days – Track C
Monday	28	<i>Executive Board Meeting</i>
March		
Friday	4	Furlough Day – Track A
Monday	7	Second Semester Begins – Track A
Monday	7	AALA Scholarship applications due
Friday	18	AALA Community Award applications due
Tuesday	22	Selection of AALA Scholarship recipients – AALA Committee
Thursday	24	Representative Assembly
Thursday	31	Selection of AALA Community Award recipients – AALA Committee
April		
Friday	1	Unassigned Day, Cesar E. Chavez Day Observed
Monday	11	<i>Executive Board Meeting</i>
Monday	18	Eve of Passover
Tue./Wed.	19-20	Passover
Mon. – Fri.	18 – 22	Spring Recess – Single-Track Schools
Friday	22	Good Friday
Sunday	24	Easter
Wednesday	27	Administrative Professionals Day

MASTER CALENDAR (Continued)

May		
Tuesday	3	Last Day of Instruction – Track C
Tues./Wed.	3/4	Furlough Days – Track B
Wednesday	4	Furlough Day – Track C
Thursday	5	ACSA, Region XVI, Awards Banquet – Casa Italiana
Thursday	12	Representative Assembly
Wednesday	18	AAPA Scholarship Awards Banquet – Empress Pavilion
Wednesday	25	Scholarship/Community Awards Banquet – Millennium Biltmore Hotel
Monday	30	Memorial Day Observed
June		
Saturday	4	COBA Black Child Conference/Scholarship Luncheon – Airport Radisson Hotel
Monday	6	Executive Board Installation Dinner
Friday	24	Last Day of Instruction – Single-Track Schools
Mon./Tues.	27/28	Furlough Days – Single-Track Schools
Thursday	30	Last Day of Instruction – Tracks A and B

PRIORITIES FOR AALA MEMBERS WHEN ASSUMING THE LEADERSHIP OF A SCHOOL

In an effort to assist newly assigned principals, AALA suggests key priorities for you to address as soon as time permits. Some initial fiscal matters needing attention include:

- Requesting a District audit of the Imprest Account
- Reviewing Student Body account, budget and recent financial statements
- Arranging for bank signature cards through administrative assistant/financial manager

Early attention to these items will help you avoid future concerns that could be raised by staff members, parents or District supervisors. Financial matters are always of critical importance.

Another area of immediate need is to review certificated personnel information, which includes:

- Obtaining a roster of personnel
- Conducting a review of the matrix or master program
- Ascertaining staff vacancies which need to be filled
- Learning about the staff's informal sociograms
- Determining supplemental assignments and responsibilities of teaching staff
- Reviewing teacher preferences for courses to be taught and special assignments desired
- Conducting a careful review of staff credentials to insure teachers are properly assigned to teach the subjects for which they have certification

The aforementioned information is by no means all-inclusive. AALA will continue to share additional suggestions that may be of assistance to our membership. Feel free to inform us of topics you would like us to address in future issues of the *Update*.

GETTING STUDENTS TO BE TRULY "COLLEGE- and CAREER-READY"

The tension between high standards and high graduation rates seems obvious, writes **Thomas Toch** in *The Washington Monthly*. Raise standards, and fewer will graduate. But is this so? Given current mediocre standards, Toch feels that with more effective and engaging schools and teachers, American students might well meet higher standards and graduate in greater numbers. Moreover, while it no longer guarantees a middle-class life, a high school diploma is an essential passport to entering or remaining in the middle class. Currently, only 75 percent of students who enter high school graduate, and, of those who do, less than half are ready to take college courses without remediation. Toch posits that if states were to impose the administration's standard for what a high school diploma should represent—college- and career-ready—then "the dropout rate would soar to politically untenable heights." This prospect has undermined earlier efforts to raise standards. What holds the most promise, Toch suggests, are the early-warning systems in place in a number of districts across the country that identify struggling students and assign them tutors and mentors, and closely monitor attendances and grades. If these are combined with a culture of high expectations in previously lagging high schools, where teachers and students believe in the importance of high standards and share a commitment to reaching them, much can be accomplished, as evidenced by the gains in graduation rates in New York City, Toch says.

Read more: <http://www.washingtonmonthly.com/features/2010/1007.toch2.html>

IN MEMORIAM

ZELDA FISHER – Assistant Principal, EIS, at West Vernon Avenue, 28th Street, and Alexandria Avenue schools, passed away on July 18, 2010. Services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, July 26, 2010, at New Philadelphia AME Church, 19100 S. Susana Road, Rancho Dominguez, CA, 310.537.8777. Viewing will be 2:00-5:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 25, 2010, at Inglewood Mortuary, 1206 Centinela Avenue, Inglewood, CA.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK...

**"I don't give them hell
I just tell the truth and
They think it is hell."**

—*Harry S Truman*

acsa academies

Superintendents Academy

ACSA's intensive seven-week academy for superintendents offers an excellent forum for new or aspiring superintendents to develop the fundamental skills needed to effectively lead a California school district. Presentations and discussion sessions are conducted by an experienced faculty of superintendents who blend management theory with practical applications and examples. This academy has been designed to the standards for CCTC's Professional Clear Administrative Services Credential non-university programs.

The ACSA Superintendents Academy is widely regarded as the "fast track" into the superintendency. It helps you avoid the pitfalls, learn practical tips from seasoned superintendents and build a resource network of colleagues.

The academy offers 70 hours of instruction over seven weekend sessions, Friday evenings, 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.* The extensive course syllabus and materials provided to each participant are an exceptional resource for ongoing reference.

***Please note that Saturday hours for this academy may vary.**

Location:

Plummer Elementary School, 9340 Noble Street, North Hills, CA 91343

Dates:

September 24-25, 2010	February 25-26
October 22-23	March 25-26
November 19-20	April 29-30
January 28-29, 2011	

Director:

Carol Truscott

Enrollment is limited to the first 30 registrants.

For more information, call ACSA's Educational Services department at 650.692.4300 or 800.608.ACSA.

Registration materials are available at acsa's web site: www.acsa.org

Registration Information (Program No. 256)

ACSA Members.....\$ 1,155

Non members\$ 2,310

Name _____

Badge name _____

Position/title _____

District/office name _____

District/office address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Work phone _____ fax # _____

Cell _____

Email address _____

Home address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Preferred contact address home work

method of payment: (check one)

Registrations received without payment cannot be processed.

Check # _____ Purchase order # _____

MasterCard/VISA card # _____ Expiration date _____

Signature _____

Make checks and purchase orders payable to:

ACSA Foundation for Educational Administration

Be sure to complete this registration form, and mail or fax with payment to:

ACSA Foundation for Educational Administration

1575 Bayshore Highway

Burlingame, CA 94010

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2010 – Team HEAL (Helping to Enrich Athletes Lives) presents its 6th Annual **Afternoon of Jazz**, 2:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the Wilshire Country Club, 301 N. Rossmore Avenue, Los Angeles. The 2010 honorees are **James Worthy** (Laker Great, NBA Hall of Famer, Analyst for CBS 2 "Sports Central") and **Marques Johnson** (First recipient of the **John Wooden** Collegiate Player of the Year Award, NBA Great, Fox Sports Analyst, Crenshaw High Graduate). Team HEAL Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit, has provided full-time Certified Athletic Trainers to treat and rehabilitate injured student athletes. They currently provide services to Banning, Carson, Crenshaw, and Manual Arts high schools. For information, contact **Barbara Shields** at 310.645.8347 or teamheal@ca.rr.com.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Minimum Qualifications: Candidates are responsible for making sure all the District requirements have been met. Do not contact AALA for information regarding positions. Use the listed contact phone number.

The following positions are available to view in their entirety by going to the AALA Website, <http://www.aalausd.com>. By clicking on "positions available" to the left of the screen, you can select School-Based and Nonschool-Based positions and click on any position to view the specific flyer.

PRINCIPAL, SECONDARY

Markham Middle School (PLAS), MST 44 (Plus Stipend), 1650 E. 104th St., Los Angeles, CA 90002
Markham is an E Basis school with a compensation range of \$116,420-\$141,461. For information and application procedure contact **Stephen Cockrell** at employment@partnershipla.org. **Filing deadline is Friday, July 30, 2010, or Until Filled.**

Westchester High School (3) MST 45, 7400 West Manchester Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90045
Westchester is an E Basis school. For information and application procedures contact **Kavin Dotson**, Principal Leader, at 310.253.7100. **Filing deadline is Friday, August 6, 2010.**

Position	Location	Deadline	Contact
Principal, Elementary	Wilbur Avenue School	07/30/10	818.654.3626
Principal, Secondary	Wilmington MS	07/28/10	310.354.3400
Extended/Required Lrng. Academy Admin.	Huntington Park HS	07/29/10	323.278.3954
Principal, Elementary	South Region School #1	Until filled	323.242.1315
Principal, Elementary	South Region School #2	Until filled	323.242.1315
Principal, Small School (K-5 Grade)	Central Region School #18	Until filled	Stephen Cockrell employment@partnershipla.org
Principal, Elementary	Griffith Joyner School	Until filled	Stephen Cockrell employment@partnershipla.org

POSITIONS AVAILABLE (Continued)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ COORDINATOR, AMERICAN RECOVERY and REINVESTMENT ACT and THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY, PHYSICAL THERAPY and OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAMS, MST 40 (Temp. Adv.), B Basis, Division of Special Education. For information and application procedures contact Deborah Rubenacker, Director, Related Services Department, at 213.241.6200. 	12:00 p.m. Mon., Aug. 2, 2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SPECIALIST, INSTRUCTION, K-12 (2 POSITIONS), MST 39 (Temp. Adv.), B Basis, Division of Special Education. For information and application procedures contact Don Macintosh, Administrative Coordinator, Special Education Instruction, at 310.354.3431. 	5:00 p.m. Mon., Aug. 2, 2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SPECIALIST, SPECIAL EDUCATION, MST 38 (Temp. Adv.), B Basis, Division of Special Education. For information and application procedures contact Bette Medina, Administrative Coordinator, Support Unit Central West, at 323.421.2950. 	5:00 p.m. Wed., Aug. 4, 2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SPECIALIST, INNOVATIVE IEP TRANSLATION SERVICE MODELS, MST 39 (Temp. Adv.), B Basis, Division of Special Education. For information and application procedures contact Veronica Smith, Director, MCD Monitoring/Policies and Procedures at 213.241.5438. 	5:00 p.m. Mon., Aug. 2, 2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ COORDINATOR, INSTRUCTIONAL LIAISON, K-12, MST 42 (Temp. Adv.), B Basis, Division of Special Education. For information and application procedures contact Nancy Franklin, Director LRE/PD, at 213.241.6701. 	5:00 p.m. Tue., Aug. 3, 2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SPECIALIST, SPECIAL EDUCATION (3 POSITIONS), MST 38 (Temp. Adv.), B Basis, Division of Special Education. ▪ For information and application procedures contact Sharon Jarrett, Director, Fiscal and Program Accountability, at 213.241.6701. 	5:00 p.m. Tue., Aug. 3, 2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SPECIALIST, SPECIAL EDUCATION (4 POSITIONS), MST 38 (Temp. Adv.), B Basis, Division of Special Education. For information and application procedures contact Diane Kloosterman, Administrative Coordinator, Special Education Operations, at 323.421.2950. 	5:00 p.m. Tue., Aug. 3, 2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ COORDINATOR, Local District Pre-K–2 SCHOOL COUNSELING, MST 41 (Temp. Adv.), E Basis, Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and School Support. Openings in Local Districts 1, 5, 6, and 7 only. For information and application procedures contact Graciela Gonzalez at 213.241.5333 or graciela.gonzalez@lausd.net. 	5:00 p.m. Fri., Aug. 6, 2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ADMINISTRATOR, INSTRUCTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL OVERSIGHT, MST 45, B Basis, Charter Schools Division. For information and application procedures contact Aaron Eairleywine, Central Business Advisor, at 213.241.5516. 	UNTIL FILLED