The Board of Education of the City of Los Angeles, acting as the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District, met in a special session on Tuesday, February 1, 2011, at the Los Angeles City Board of Education Administrative Offices, Board Room, 333 South Beaudry Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

President Mónica García called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

The following Board Members were present: Ms. Tamar Galatzan, Ms. Marguerite P. LaMotte, Ms. Nury Martinez, Mr. Steven Zimmer and President Mónica García. Ms. Flores was absent. Dr. Vladovic arrived at 3:14 p.m.

Deputy Superintendent, Dr. John Deasy was present.

Ms. Martinez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

President García read the following statement:

This constitutes a public hearing on the listed charter petitions below, and a maximum of 12 individuals who wish to address the Board on these items will be heard. Those who wish to speak to these petitions should pull a speaker form from the slots located on the pillar in the rear of the Board Room. Speakers will be heard in numerical order as indicated on the speaker form.

Aspire Inskeep, South Region Elementary School No. 6
Aspire Juanita Tate Academy, South Region Elementary School No. 6
Aspire Slauson Academy, South Region Elementary School No. 6
Business & Leadership Academy Charter, Valley Region High School No. 5
Camino Nuevo Charter Academy No. 4, Central Region Elementary School No. 14
Mattie Academy of Change, South Region High School No. 4
Northeast Los Angeles, Central Region High School No. 13
Northeast Valley, Valley Region High School No. 5
Scholars Pathway
Valley Region High School No. 4, (Granada Hills Hospital Site)
Mr. José Cole-Gutiérrez, Director of Charter Schools, Innovation and Charter Schools Division, stated the number of students Business & Leadership Academy Charter, Valley Region High School No. 5 proposes to serve is corrected to 400 in grade levels 9-12. Also, the number of students that Camino Nuevo Charter Academy No. 4, Central Region Elementary School No. 14, proposes to serve is corrected to 638.

In response to a question by Ms. LaMotte regarding the charter school process, Mr. Cole-Gutiérrez gave a brief summary of the charter school authorizing process.

The following speaker addressed the Board on the public hearing items:

Ms. Yolanda Beckels, Parent

On request by President García, Dr. Deasy gave a brief summary of the Public School Choice process that will go before the Board in March 2011.

Speakers to the public hearing items continued:

Mr. Francisco Torrero, Parent
Ms. Juanita Arevalo, Parent
Mr. David Tokofsky, Associated Administrators of Los Angeles (AALA)

President García read the following statement:

The Board will be taking action on the charter petitions at a subsequent meeting. Petitions denied may be submitted directly to the Los Angeles County Office of Education or directly to the State for action.

There was discussion among Board Members regarding the charter school process and public hearings.

CONSENT ITEMS

NEW BUSINESS FOR ACTION:

Items for action below assigned by the Board at the meeting to be adopted by a single vote.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 162 – 10/11
Charter for Extera Public School

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 166 – 10/11
Charter for Synergy Quantum Academy

Dr. Vladovic moved that the reports be adopted. Ms. Martinez seconded the motion.

The following speakers addressed the Board on these items:

Mr. David Tokofsky, AALA
Ms. Carmen Zavala, Parent
Ms. Ana, Parent
The reports were adopted by general consent. Ms. Flores was absent.

NEW BUSINESS FOR ACTION CONTINUED

President Garcia read the following statement:

Before action is taken on Board of Education Reports No. 163, 164, 165 and 185-10/11, a public hearing must be held.

This constitutes a public hearing on the reports, and a maximum of 12 individuals who wish to address the Board on these items will be heard. Those who wish to speak to these reports should pull a speaker form from the slots located on the pillar in the rear of the Board Room. Speakers will be heard in numerical order as indicated on the speaker form.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 163 – 10/11
Renewal of the Charter for Bright Start Secondary Academy

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 164 – 10/11
Renewal of the Charter for Multicultural Learning Center

Mr. Zimmer moved that the reports be adopted. Ms. LaMotte seconded the motion.

The following speakers addressed the Board on the reports:

Ms. Virginia Rios, Parent
Ms. Juanita Arevalo, Parent
Ms. Sharon Weir, Principal, New West Charter Middle School
Ms. Toby Bornstein, Founder and Executive Director, Multicultural Learning Center
Ms. Gail Nather, Program Director, Multicultural Learning Center
Ms. Janelle Ruly, attorney representing New West Charter School
Mr. David Tokofsky, AALA
Mr. Bill Ring, Founding Family Member, New West Charter School
Ms. Ana, Parent

President Garcia read the following statement:

The Board will be taking action on the reports. Petitions denied may be submitted directly to the Los Angeles County Office of Education or directly to the State for action.

Mr. Zimmer moved to amend Report No. 163 – 10/11 to have an October hearing to determine if special education goals have been met, and to amend Report No. 164 – 10/11 to have an October hearing to determine if Academic Performance Index goals have been met and whether the school is able to end Program Improvement status. Ms. LaMotte accepted the amendments as friendly amendments.

Mr. Cole-Gutiérrez, Dr. Deasy and Mr. Parker Hudnut, Executive Director, Innovation and Charter Schools Division responded to questions and comments raised by the Board regarding the percentages of English Learners and Special Education students, Program Improvement status and Public School Choice process.
Following discussion, Report No. 163 – 10/11 as amended and Report No. 164 – 10/11 were adopted by general consent. Ms. Flores was absent.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 165 – 10/11
Renewal of the Charter for GARR Academy of Mathematics and Entrepreneurial Studies (GAMES)

Dr. Vladovic moved that the report be adopted. Ms. LaMotte seconded the motion.

The report was adopted by general consent. Ms. Flores was absent.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 185 – 10/11
Denial of the Renewal Charter Petition of New West Charter Middle School

Ms. Martinez moved that the report be adopted. Ms. Galatzan seconded the motion.

On roll call vote the report was adopted with 5 ayes, 1 abstention, Ms. LaMotte. Ms. Flores was absent.

Ms. Martinez requested that staff provide a written update on the status of the litigation.

BOARD MEMBER RESOLUTION FOR INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Zimmer – School Families Resolution

Whereas, Families, teachers, school leaders and community members are best equipped to make decisions that directly affect school communities;

Whereas, LAUSD has implemented several initiatives designed to bring important decision making closer to the school site and the classroom;

Whereas, LAUSD has a continuing goal of achieving dynamic articulation between elementary, middle and high schools that benefits student achievement;

Whereas, Current budget projections indicate ongoing challenges to a centrally operated school district for at least the next five years;

Whereas, LAUSD has the most dynamic and diverse learning and reform models (Pilot, Expanded School-Based Management, Affiliated Charter and Network Partners) compared to any district in the nation;

Whereas, Section 7 of the L.A. Compact commits LAUSD to collaborative decentralization efforts; and

Whereas, The School Family (a high school and its feeder middle and elementary schools) is the most appropriate platform at which critical decisions should be made that will affect the lives of students and their families throughout their LAUSD experience; now therefore, be it
Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District directs the Superintendent to report back to the Board in 60 days about the most effective methods of decentralizing most governance and operations to the School Family level for the comprehensive School Families and additional alternative families (Belmont and Kennedy Zones of Choice, etc.) over a three year period, with full implementation completed in the 2013-14 school year; 

Resolved further, That the Board directs the Superintendent to report on the feasibility of replacing the existing Local District structure with Regional Service Centers whose primary role would be to support School Families and serve as one-stop centers for families needing District services;

Resolved further, That the Board further directs the Superintendent to report back on the functions deemed essential to be provided by LAUSD centrally;

Resolved further, That the Board directs the Chief Financial Officer to report back to the Board about fiscal implications of “block granting” significant funding to School Families for the purpose of decentralizing most budget decisions within a board-approved framework;

Resolved further, That the Board directs the Human Resources Division and the Personnel Commission to study the impact of decentralizing staffing and hiring decisions (within approved frameworks) to the School Family level and report back its finding to the Board;

Resolved further, That the Board directs the Human Resources Division and the Personnel Commission to begin identifying training opportunities for current employees with the aim of meeting the new needs of the School Families model;

Resolved further, That the Board directs the Chief Academic Officer to report back to the Board about the most effective method of decentralizing most instructional decisions (reading programs, professional development, intervention programs, and instructional themes, etc.) within approved frameworks;

Resolved further, That the Board directs the School Management Services to identify possible equitable alternative mapping for School Families that do not fit easily into traditional feeder patterns;

Resolved further, That the Board directs the Superintendent to assign staff to research best practices and lessons learned from other districts that have implemented decentralization plans; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board agrees to devote at least part of a strategic board meeting (on or before May 31st) to formulating a decentralization plan based on the above requested information from staff and input from key stakeholders.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President García stated that the Bond Oversight Committee Update would be heard at a subsequent meeting.

Ms. LaMotte announced she would bring forward a resolution at a later meeting to support the Governor’s proposals to help the school funding.
ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Martinez moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Galatzan seconded the motion, which by general consent was adopted. Ms. Flores was absent.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

APPROVED BY BOARD: AUGUST 30, 2011

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MONICA GARCIA                           JEFFERSON CRAIN
PRESIDENT                                EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE BOARD

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