

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON CAHSEE, A-G REQUIREMENTS, GRADUATION
MEETING NOTES

333 South Beaudry Avenue, Board Room
1:00 p.m., Thursday, September 29, 2005

Board Members Present:

Mr. José Huizar, Chairperson
Ms. Marlene Canter
Ms. Julie Korenstein, Member
Mr. Mike Lansing, Member
Ms. Marguerite P. LaMotte
Mr. Jon Lauritzen
Mr. David Tokofsky, Member

Staff Present:

Ms. Rowena Lagrosa, Deputy Superintendent, Educational Services
Ms. Ronni Ephraim, Chief Instructional Officer, Elementary
Mr. Robert Collins, Chief Instructional Officer, Secondary
Mr. John Liechty, Associate Superintendent, Extended Day Programs
Ms. Donnalyn Jaque-Anton, Associate Superintendent, Special Education Division
Dr. Liza Scruggs, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services
Ms. Michelle King, Assistant Superintendent, Student Health and Human Services
Mr. Dominick Cistone, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Adult and Career Education
Ms. Esther Wong, Assistant Superintendent, Planning, Assessment and Research
Ms. Lucy Okumu, Coordinator, Legislative Analysis and Advocacy
Mr. Hector Madrigal, Director, Pupil Services
Dr. Jon Fullerton, Board of Education Director of Budget and Financial Policy
Dr. Randy Ross, Board of Education Director of Educational Policy

The meeting convened at 1:15 p.m.

Mr. Huizar advised that this Committee was formed to review the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE), the A-G course sequence as part of the high school graduation requirement beginning in 2008, and graduation rates.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITIES FOR EDUCATIONAL EQUITY (CEE)

Mr. Huizar announced that the members of the Communities for Educational Equity (CEE) brought to the Board's attention the policy of the A-G requirements. He introduced the following members:

Ms. Maria Casillas, Dr. Julie Mendoza, Mr. Alberto Retana, and Ms. Sandy Mendoza. Other members of the Committee who were present were Ms. Cris Aczate, Ms. Ana Cabrera, Mr. Agustin Urgires, and Mr. Cesar Chavez. Ms. Casillas, Dr. Julie Mendoza, Mr. Retana, and Ms. Sandy Mendoza expressed their commitment to improve the academic achievement of all students.

DROPOUT INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION UPDATE

Mr. Huizar advised that on April 12, 2005, the Board approved a resolution on excellence and equity in the reduction of high school drop-outs/push-outs through prevention, intervention and recovery.

Mr. Collins stated that the student dropout rate is an urgent issue for schools, students and their families. Students who dropout rarely achieve their true potential, have diminished career possibilities, have diminished earning potential, and have limited life options.

Mr. Collins said that the definition of a dropout that the National Center for Education Statistics utilizes is a student who did not begin the 2004-05 school year attending the next grade (7-12) in the school to which he or she was assigned or at which he or she had pre-registered and/or was expected to enroll or attend by norm day, October 7, 2005, or the student was enrolled in grade 7-12 for part of the 2004-05, didn't complete the year 2004-05, and has not returned to school as of norm day, 2005.

Mr. Collins talked about how a student may be cleared from dropout status and briefly spoke about dropout statistics. The dropout rate is determined on norm day of each school year. Last year, the District's dropout rate, on a four-year rate, was 33.1% (8% annual).

Ms. King reported on short-term actions taken to address the student dropout rate. She pointed out that training sessions were held during the summer for school staff and that all schools were provided with new District memoranda, policies and procedural bulletins to address potential dropout students and informational materials regarding options and alternative education programs. Ms. King noted that following norm day, a Dropout Committee will be established to work with school staff throughout the year.

Mr. Collins spoke about long-term actions to address potential dropout students. These actions include providing ongoing professional development for school counseling, attendance and discipline office staff; establishing positive school environments; addressing curricular issues; and providing multiple pathways to graduation.

Mr. Collins, Ms. King, Ms. Wong, Mr. Cistone, and Mr. Madrigal responded to comments and questions raised by the Committee.

A-G IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

Mr. Huizar announced that beginning in 2008, every student who enters the ninth grade will be placed in an A-G curriculum required for acceptance to California's public universities. If a student chooses to opt out, the student, the parent, and a counselor will select another career program of his or her choice.

Mr. Collins spoke about the fourteen steps required to implement the A-G requirement policy. These steps include the following:

1. Ensure collaboration
2. Implement a calendar for reform
3. Establish and maintain strong administrative practices
4. Support a positive campus culture and strong counseling programs
5. Support a "college-going" culture through access and equity
6. Promote career-tech and multiple pathways to graduation
7. Complete curriculum and master program audits
8. Ensure implementation of a quality secondary curriculum
9. Establish middle school accountability
10. Implement Summer Bridge program
11. Support 9th grade academies
12. Support 6th grade cores
13. Support and expand options programs
14. Support and expand parent engagement

Speakers

Mr. Glenn E. Windom, President of the Crenshaw Cougar Coalition, stated that his organization is comprised of parents, students, teachers, and community members who want to ensure that students receive a quality education. He expressed his concerns over the displacement of teachers at Crenshaw High School.

Ms. Gloria Collins, a member of the Crenshaw Cougar Coalition, expressed concerns over the displacement of teachers at Crenshaw High School.

Ms. Eunice Grigsby, a member of the Crenshaw Cougar Coalition, expressed concerns over the displacement of teachers at Crenshaw High School.

Mr. Collins indicated that steps have been taken to address the use of Local District allocations to support additional teaching positions at Crenshaw High School. There will not be sufficient funding to cover all of the displaced teachers, but the existing funding should ensure that there is no significant disruption to the current academic program.

Mr. Collins responded to questions raised by the Committee on the accreditation process and the staffing of school sites.

Mr. Ernest Kettenring, Chair of the United Teachers Los Angeles Adult and Occupational Education Committee, expressed concerns over students not being able to pass the California High School Exit Exam. He presented a proposal that he felt would improve the pass rate on the exam.

CAHSEE UPDATE

Mr. Collins reported that as of September 29, 2005, 69% of the 12th grade students have passed both sections of CAHSEE; 24% of English learners and 63% of the special education students need to pass both parts of the exam. He reviewed the pass rate data by ethnicity for the Class of 2006 and the Class of 2007. He pointed out that 49% of the eleventh grade students passed both sections of the exam; 41% of English learners and 75% of special education students need to pass both sections of the exam.

Mr. Collins reviewed the 2005-06 CAHSEE testing dates. The students on Track C took the exam on September 13 and 14, 2005. He also spoke about the action steps that have been taken and the steps that will be taken to address the graduating classes of 2006 and 2007.

Ms. Okumu advised that Assembly Bill 1531 would authorize local school districts or charter schools to create and administer alternate performance assessment to students who are unable to pass the current CAHSEE. The bill awaits the Governor's action.

Ms. Okumu reported that Assembly Bill 586 would require a school district to grant a high school diploma to a pupil with a disability, if he or she is scheduled to graduate from high school in 2006 or 2007, does not qualify for that high school exit examination waiver, and meets other specified criteria, including having an individualized education program or other specified plan. The bill includes the interim Chapman settlement agreement but would modify the language to expand the period of delay to two years. The bill awaits the Governor's action.

Mr. Collins, Ms. Lagrosa, Mrs. Anton, and Mr. Liechty responded to comments and questions raised by the Committee.

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The meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.
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1:00 p.m., Thursday, September 29, 2005

AGENDA

Committee Members

José Huizar, Chairperson
Julie Korenstein, Member
Mike Lansing, Member
David Tokofsky, Member

Board Secretariat Contact

Dinah Edwards (213) 241-7002

Superintendent's Representatives

Rowena Lagrosa
Deputy Superintendent, Educational Services
Ronni Ephraim
Chief Instructional Officer, Elementary
Robert Collins
Chief Instructional Officer, Secondary
Liza Scruggs, Ph.D.
Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services

AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTERS	PRESENTATION TIME
1. Chairperson's Remarks	José Huizar <i>Chairperson</i>	5 minutes
2. Introduction of Communities for Educational Equity (CEE)	José Huizar <i>Chairperson</i>	3 minutes
3. Dropout Intervention and Prevention Update	Robert Collins, <i>Chief Instructional Officer, Secondary</i> Michelle King, <i>Assistant Superintendent</i>	30 minutes

4. CAHSEE Update	Robert Collins, <i>Chief Instructional Officer, Secondary</i> John Liechty, <i>Associate Superintendent</i> Vivian Castro, <i>Director</i> Lucy Okumu, <i>Coordinator</i> Esther Wong, <i>Assistant Superintendent</i>	30 minutes
5. A-G Implementation Update	Robert Collins, <i>Chief Instructional Officer, Secondary</i> Ronni Ephraim, <i>Chief Instructional Officer, Elementary</i> Donnalyn Jaque-Anton, <i>Associate Superintendent</i> Santiago Jackson, <i>Assistant Superintendent</i> Rita Caldera, <i>Assistant Superintendent</i>	60 minutes
6. Public Comment Persons who wish to address the Committee may sign-up at the Committee meeting.		

Requests for disability related modifications or accommodations shall be made 24 hours prior to the meeting to the Board Secretariat at 333 S. Beaudry Ave, 24th Floor, Los Angeles, CA, 90017 or by calling (213)-241-7002 or toll free (877)-772-6273.

For more information, go to: <http://www.laschoolboard.org>, Select Committee on CAHSEE, A-G Requirements, Graduation Rates website.