



## LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT Board of Education Report

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Report Number:</b>     | 323-09/10  |
| <b>Date:</b>              | April 27, 2010   |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | 2010 Public School Choice Applicant Team Recommendations |
| <b>Responsible Staff:</b> |  |
| Name                      | Ramon C. Cortines  |
| Office/Division           | Superintendent   |
| Telephone No.             | (213) 241-7000   |

### BOARD REPORT

**Action Proposed:** Approve the following recommended applicant teams for the corresponding 2010 Public School Choice sites:

| <u>Public School Choice Site</u>          | <u>Applicant Team</u>   |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Valley Region<br>Elementary School #12 | Local District 1        |
| 2. South Region Elementary<br>School #7   | Local District 7 & UTLA |

Individualized rationales are provided for each Public School Choice site in the Attachments to this Board Report.

**Background:**

In accordance with the Board of Education's passage of the Public School Choice Resolution, an additional cycle of the Public School Choice process was held to include two new schools that were confirmed to open in September 2010. In February 2010, eight Letters of Intent were received expressing an interest to submit a comprehensive proposal to operate the additional new schools.

On March 29, 2010, a total of three proposals were submitted. Valley Region Elementary School #12 received one submission and South Region Elementary School #7 received two submissions. As prescribed in the Public School Choice Resolution, all proposals were vetted through the following rigorous evaluation process:

1. Initial Review Team: Consisted of 17 reviewers who read individual proposals for each designated Public School Choice site and generated corresponding application rubrics and site summary



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recommendations.

2. Superintendent's Panel: An additional team of 10 reviewers who read proposals and the site summaries produced by the Initial Review Team.
3. Advisory Vote: After convening Public School Choice Informational Meetings in March 2010 and Applicant Team Presentation Meetings in April 2010, students, parents, staff and community members submitted their recommendations via an Advisory Vote conducted by the League of Women Voters.

The above-mentioned evaluation processes and applicant academic data were utilized as data points in the formation of the official recommendations provided in the Attachments. The overall guidelines for developing these official recommendations consisted of the following principles:

1. Proposals primarily included a strong, research-based, data-driven instructional plan with a clear assessment methodology;
2. Proposals demonstrated a proven track record of success with students of similar demographics;
3. Proposals clearly exhibit strong outreach and a collaborative approach with all stakeholders; and
4. Proposals reflect effective structures to support implementation of the instructional plan.

The recommendations outlined in the Attachments include an explicit rationale (based on the guiding principles) for the selection of the applicant team(s) designated to operate the corresponding Public School Choice site with recommended next steps. For additional reference, the Attachments also include the corresponding Initial Review Team, Superintendent's Panel and Advisory Vote outcomes for each recommended applicant team.

**Expected Outcomes:** Approval of the recommended applicant teams will enable 1,399 students, who will attend these two additional Public School Choice sites, to benefit from the strongest instructional programs identified through the Public School Choice process. The operation of these Public School Choice sites commencing in the 2010-11 school year will provide students with the highest quality education possible.

**Board Options and Consequences:** The Board of Education may approve, amend or deny the Superintendent's recommendation. The Board of Education's action is necessary to establish the 2010-11 school year instructional plans for each



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Public School Choice site.

Higher student achievement, greater public school choice and the replication of high-quality instructional models are the intended consequences of approving the Superintendent's recommendation.

The unintentional consequences of approving the recommendations may result in litigation from entities disputing the Public School Choice Resolution process.

**Policy Implications:** This action does not entail any policy implications and is in accordance with the Board of Education's August 2009 passage of the Public School Choice Resolution.

**Budget Impact:** This action does not entail any budget implications. Both recommended applicant teams would operate the campuses under a traditional District governance model.

**Issues and Analysis:** To ensure the instructional needs of all students are addressed, all recommended applicant teams are required to submit a comprehensive plan for providing programs and services for students with disabilities by May 30, 2010. The plan shall also include the details for establishing special day programs. Finally, the plan shall include the design for the provision of programs and services for students with mild to severe disabilities including demonstrating the fiscal, programmatic, and facility resources to provide programs for all students.

**Attachments:**

**Informative**

**Desegregation  
Impact Statement**





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Respectfully submitted,

RAMON C. CORTINES  
Superintendent of Schools

APPROVED BY:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Morris".

JAMES MORRIS  
Chief Operating Officer

REVIEWED BY:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Holmquist".

DAVID HOLMQUIST  
General Counsel

No legal issues

Legal informative

REVIEWED BY:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Yumi Takahashi".

YUMI TAKAHASHI  
Budget Director

No budget issues

Budget Informative



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### **Attachment A**

**Public School Choice Site:** South Region Elementary School #7 (SRES #7)

**Local District 7 (McKenna)**

**Board District 7 (Vladovic)**

**Superintendent's Recommendation:** Local District 7

### **Rationale:**

#### **Local District 7**

- I. This proposal contains a focus on the arts coupled with a dual language component that will be introduced in the second year of implementation. The plan is centered on nurturing a positive school culture with wrap-around services to support the varying needs of students, which include various elements that will result in effective community-building. Professional development will focus on using data to drive instruction and the creation of "teacher-made assessments." The professional development calendar is closely aligned to these initiatives.
- II. Over the last four years, the surrounding community elementary schools in Local District 7 have shown gains in API and CST proficiency rates. API growth ranged from 57 to 155 points with improvements in proficiency on the CST ranging from 9% to 20% gains.
- III. Local District 7 will partner with the following organizations; Salvation Army, South LA Youth and Community Center, Washington Park Recreation Center and others to develop wrap-around services to address the social-emotional needs of students served by SRES#7. To support and enhance the proposal's focus on the arts, Local District 7 has established partnerships with the following organizations; California State University-Dominguez Hills (music department), Museum of Contemporary Art, and Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Additional partnerships will be pursued with the Getty Museum and Museum of Latin American Art. In addition, Local District 7 intends to promote a "college-going culture" from an early age by creating sustainable partnerships with Southwest College, University of Southern California, University of California, Los Angeles and California State University, Dominguez.
- IV. Local District 7 has a demonstrated track record of implementation and has outlined clear structures of support and development it will employ on behalf of this school plan.

### **Evaluation Process Data Points:**

#### **Local District 7**

- **Initial Review Team Recommendation:** Yes
- **Superintendent's Panel Team Recommendation:** Yes
- **Advisory Vote Tabulation for Applicant (# votes for applicant/# of votes)**



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| High School Students | Employees | Parents | Feeder Grade Parents | Feeder School Parents | Community Members | Non-verified LAUSD Parents and Students |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---|
| N/A                  | 46/48     | 22/28   | N/A                  | N/A                   | 9/10              | 12/12                                   |

#### Next Steps:

1. Local District 7 must reassess their use of Small Learning Communities at the elementary level. The current structure outlined does not clearly demonstrate a benefit to students. By the end of May 2010, Local District 7 must submit a revised structure and/or rationale supporting the use of Small Learning Communities at the elementary level.
2. The dual language program outlined in this plan should commence in the 2010-11 school year. The outreach and enrollment should commence immediately.
3. By the end of May 2010, the applicant team will need to meet with the Superintendent to revise and review their Accountability Matrix.
4. By October 2010, the school will meet with the Superintendent to discuss revisions to the Accountability Matrix based on current data.
5. Bi-annually (or as needed) all Public School Choice sites will be reviewed by institutions of higher education, Local District Superintendents and the Innovation and Charter Schools Division with an annual report submitted to the Board and Superintendent.
6. If Public School Choice sites are not meeting their annual targets, the Superintendent will have the opportunity to work with the school to intervene as necessary.
7. Public School Choices site operators will be considered for renewal every five years.





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### Attachment B

**Public School Choice Site:** Valley Region Elementary School #12 (VRES #12)

**Local District 1 (Brown)**

**Board District 6 (Martinez)**

**Superintendent's Recommendation:** Local District 1

### **Rationale:**

#### **Local District 1**

- I. The proposal includes the integration of the arts throughout the instructional plan, which is founded on solid research. This instructional approach addresses the learning needs of all students and shows the ability to help close the achievement gap for economically disadvantaged students. Individual learning plans will be provided to all students to ensure a personalized learning experience based on data.
- II. Local District 1 has a demonstrated instructional track record operating the surrounding neighborhood elementary schools. Over the past 4 years all relieved schools have shown progress on both API scores and CST proficiency. In particular, Plummer Elementary School has shown impressive results a 33% 5 year gain in CST proficiency rates and a 180 point gain in API scores.
- III. The proposal demonstrates very strong partnerships with the Consortium of Partner Schools, California State University Northridge and the National Board Certified Teachers network. Local District 1's support network, particularly for arts education, will be crucial to the success of this school.
- IV. Local District 1 has a demonstrated track record of implementation success and has outlined the clear structures of support and development it will employ on behalf of this school plan.

### **Evaluation Process Data Points:**

#### **Local District 1**

- **Initial Review Team Recommendation:** Yes
- **Superintendent's Panel Team Recommendation:** Yes
- **Advisory Vote Tabulation for Applicant (# votes for applicant/# of votes)**

| High School Students | Employees | Parents | Feeder Grade Parents | Feeder School Parents | Community Members | Non-verified LAUSD Parents and Students |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---|
| N/A                  | 6/6       | 5/5     | N/A                  | N/A                   | none              | 16/16                                   |



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#### Next Steps:

1. A clear implementation timeline for professional development, the creation of partnerships and supports, as well as curriculum development is required by the end of May 2010. This existing plan relies heavily on the Arts Division for certain staffing and support. However, due to the severe budget constraints the District faces, Local District 1 needs to delineate an alternate arts support plan to ensure the successful implementation of its vision for an arts integrated school. I recommend that Local District 1 work with Robin Lithgow if they have not already done so.
2. This plan must include the development of a dual language program to commence in the 2010-11 school year. The outreach and enrollment should commence immediately.
3. VRES# 12 and Plummer Elementary School should partner to provide VRES #12 an opportunity to study and replicate best practices and innovations that have been successful for students in their shared communities.
4. By the end of May 2010, the applicant team will need to meet with the Superintendent to revise and review their Accountability Matrix.
5. By October 2010, the school will meet with the Superintendent to discuss revisions to the Accountability Matrix based on current data.
6. Bi-annually (or as needed) all Public School Choice sites will be reviewed by institutions of higher education, Local District Superintendents and the Innovation and Charter Schools Division with an annual report submitted to the Board and Superintendent.
7. If Public School Choice sites are not meeting their annual targets, the Superintendent will have the opportunity to work with the school to intervene as necessary.
8. Public School Choices site operators will be considered for renewal every five years.