The Los Angeles Board of Education acting as the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District, met in special session on Tuesday, October 23, 2007, at the Administrative Offices, 333 South Beaudry Avenue, Board Room, Los Angeles, California.

President Mónica García called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

The following Board Members were present: Ms. Marlene Canter, Ms. Yolie Flores Aguilar, Ms. Tamar Galatzan, Dr. Richard Vladovic, and President Mónica García. Ms. Julie Korenstein and Ms. Marguerite P. LaMotte were absent.

Superintendent David Brewer was present.

Mr. Kevin Reed, General Counsel, and Ms. Maribel Medina, Special Counsel to the Board, were also present.

Mr. Jefferson Crain, Executive Officer of the Board, announced that the following items would be discussed:

Open Session -- to be discussed later in the meeting

Ms. LaMotte – Resolution to Support Equal Protection and Civil Rights for All Students in All Los Angeles Unified School District Schools

Closed Session

1. Conference with Legal Counsel

Potential Litigation (Government Code §54956.9 (b)(1))

1 case

At 12:06 p.m., the Board recessed the public portion of the Special Board Meeting to begin the closed portion of the meeting.

Closed Session discussion began at 12:06 p.m. and ended at 1:06 p.m. All Board Members were present during the closed portion of the meeting, with the exception of Ms. Korenstein.
The Board reconvened the public portion of the meeting at 5:31 p.m. The following Members were present: Ms. Canter, Ms. Flores Aguilar, Ms. Galatzan, Ms. LaMotte, Dr. Vladovic, and President Garcia. Ms. Korenstein was absent.

Mr. Crain announced there were no reportable actions from the closed portion of the meeting.

Board Resolution – Initial Announcement

Ms. LaMotte read her resolution to Support Equal Protection and Civil Rights for All Students in All Los Angeles Unified School District Schools:

Whereas, Recent events such as those in Jena, Louisiana, and Palmdale, California, have brought to light the disturbing reality that racism and social injustice continue to exist in the educational community and the criminal justice system, as well as the community at large;

Whereas, The lack of appropriate school interventions, the imposition of racially discriminatory disciplinary action, and the failure to effectively address racially motivated hate incidents directed against African-American and other students underscore the need for aggressive and continued advocacy for civil rights and equal justice in the schools;

Whereas, For more than 3 decades, African American youth attending District schools have been disproportionately represented in the District’s suspended and expelled student population. (In 2007, close to 80,000 African American students were enrolled in the District. Approximately 21% (16,464) of those students were suspended from school making them the highest ethnic group suspended compared to other ethnic groups in the District);

Whereas, African American youth are disproportionately overrepresented in referrals and assessments for Special Education eligibility (African American students comprise 11.2% of the District’s total student population, yet currently represent 16.4% of the total number of District’s special education population);

Whereas, African American students continue to remain in the lowest levels of academic achievement;

Whereas, The Equal Protection Clause of the United States Constitution, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and State doctrines, such as the California Constitution, demand and guarantee equality of treatment, social justice, protection of civil rights, and freedom from racial discrimination; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education of the City of Los Angeles publicly recognizes its responsibility as the governing board of one of this nation’s leading
educational institutions to serve as a committed advocate for equality of every student
and to be a champion of social justice and civil rights;

Resolved further, That the Board challenges school districts throughout this nation to
take the position that racial injustice and educational inequality in any school is
unacceptable;

Resolved further, That the District shall work together with parent groups, community
organizations, and institutions of higher education to explore methods of addressing
and remedying the disparate treatment of youth in our schools and community;

Resolved further, That the Superintendent of Schools be directed to ensure that the
District’s Vision, Mission, Goals, and Objectives are aligned with principles
consistent with those relating to equality in treatment, protection of civil rights, and
social justice; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Superintendent, administrative officials, and every employee of
the District take immediate action to identify and remedy any and all District
practices that may result, or have resulted, in the disparate treatment of students.
Such action may include, but is not limited to:

1. The review and analysis of current student discipline and Special Education
   policies and practices that may result or may have resulted in the inequitable
treatment of African American and other students;

2. The review and evaluation of current school police policies, practices and
   training relating to the equitable treatment of students;

3. The evaluation of the professional development training of District employees
   relating to the District’s Educational Equity, Human Relations, School
   Operations, Special Education, College and Career Counseling and Pupil
   Services programs regarding the equitable treatment of students;

4. The incorporation of classroom instruction providing comprehensive and age-
   appropriate lessons for elementary and secondary students to learn about civil
   rights, social justice and appreciation of racial and cultural differences;

5. Mandate that, as an accountability for school site principals, every school
   shall include within their school safety plan measures to address
discriminatory actions that maybe taken against students and staff for any
reason (e.g., race, gender, sexual orientation, religion or disability) and that
school site officials must develop a system for identifying and remedying
suspected or known acts of discrimination in any form;
6. Collaboration with local colleges and universities to ensure the instruction of civil rights, racial equality, social justice and human relations in programs offering teaching and administrative credentials;

7. Mandate that, as part of the District’s Transformational Team, school site officials participate in professional development (such as that provided in the Student Support Strategies Institute) that focuses on providing tools to examine the underlying causes that contribute to problematic student behavior and to help re-connect students to the learning process;

8. Develop a plan that identifies several methods of remediation for the overrepresentation of African American students in special education, student expulsions, suspensions, and/or Community Day Schools;

9. Provide sufficient resources and support to accelerate the full implementation of the District’s “Closing the Achievement Gap” initiatives which include the Action Plan for a Culturally Relevant Education to Benefit African American Students and All Other Students; and

10. Provide to the Governing Board within 90 days from the date the Board takes action on this resolution, a status report identifying the actions taken to implement the mandates set forth in this resolution.

Mr. Julio Fonseca, Administrator in the Student Expulsion and Intervention Unit, and Ms. Rochelle Montgomery, Office of the General Counsel, addressed the Board on the District’s disciplinary data showing the inequitable trend of suspensions and expulsions of African American and Latino students.

With the consent of the Board President, the following speakers addressed the Board:

- Ms. Hermisha Green spoke in place of Ms. Felicia Richard
- Ms. Kierra Parker
- Dr. Owen Knox representing the Western Regional Conference on Educating Black Students
- Mr. Richard Edmond representing Village Nation
- Ms. Betty Glenn representing the National Coalition of ESEA Title One Parents, Region 9
- Ms. Helsa Irizarry representing Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
- Ms. Frances Copeland representing the Committee to Advance Progress of the African American Child
- Mr. Samuel Sanchez
- Mr. Damon Azali representing the Labor Community Strategy Center
- Mr. Akbar Bnafa

President García and Ms. Flores Aguilar requested to co-sponsor the resolution.
Board Members and Superintendent Brewer commented on effective training, student discipline, and classroom management issues.

On motion by Ms. Canter, seconded by Ms. Galatzan, the meeting was adjourned by general consent at 6:28 p.m. Ms. Korenstein was absent.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD: November 13, 2007