



Coalition of California Black School Board

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January 6, 2014

Los Angeles Unified School District

Board of Education

333 S. Beaudry Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education:

The unexpected death of the champion for schoolchildren, Marguerite Poindexter LaMotte is not only a loss to your school district but to our organization as well. Especially, since she passed in San Diego while attending the annual CSBA Conference and during our annual CCBSBM Business Meeting. We, as an organization of 150 African American School Board Members, the largest electorate of African Americans in the State of California, realize that filling the vacancy caused by Board Member LaMotte's death is a difficult task. Thus, we, as school board members have serious concerns regarding your decision that will impact the students in the Los Angeles metropolitan area, specifically District 1 that LaMotte represented. As we understand it, if an appointment is not made for LaMotte's vacancy then the LAUSD's District 1 will be without voting representation until a special election.

This is a critical year for all California School Board Members to establish 2014-2015 school year budgets that incorporate the new Local Control Funding Formula (LCCFF) and adapting the Common Core State Standards. We are making landmark decisions as a result of the largest K-12 public education funding transformation in state of California, historically in 40 years. The new LCFF is intended to provide more funding, greater local control and more support for students that are low-income, English Language Learners and foster care youths. Like you, our decisions as school boards over the next months will define educational policy for an entire generation of learners. Accordingly, the urgency of significant policy, educational, budget and administrative decisions that must be made in the next 6 months is crucial. Therefore, to leave the District 1 seat vacant without a voice may be undemocratic, and marginalize over 600,000 citizens, nearly 100,000 school children and over 100 schools. The eyes of national, state and other educational entities are on you! Given, the long-lasting impact of the decisions that must be made by your Board of Education in the upcoming months, we find it important to collectively urge you to choose the appointment process. Our appointment recommendation is Dr. George McKenna III, whom our organization greatly respects and has had a longstanding relationship with as a highly qualified educator.

We know and completely understand the untimeliness and complexity of the decision you must make. Consequently, we encourage you to move swiftly to fill the District 1 vacancy through the constitutional appointment of Dr. McKenna so that District 1 can be properly represented, engaged and have a voice during this decisive time of decisions by California Educators.

Thank you in advance for your serious consideration about this matter.

Respectfully,

Gloria Allen

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CCBSBM, President