



COUNCIL OF URBAN BOARDS OF EDUCATION  
SERVING AMERICA'S URBAN PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

**National School Boards Association's  
Council of Urban Boards of Education Programming**  
*(held in conjunction with the NSBA 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference)*  
**Manchester Grand Hyatt, One Market Place, San Diego, CA**  
**April 2-6, 2009**



**MANCHESTER GRAND HYATT (CUBE) PROGRAMMING**

CUBE School Site Visits – Thursday, April 2  
CUBE Pre-Conference Urban Programming – Friday, April 3  
CUBE District Workshops – Saturday, April 4

**SAN DIEGO CONVENTION CENTER (CUBE) PROGRAMMING**

CUBE Annual Issues Forum – Saturday, April 4  
New Urban School Board Leadership Training – Sunday, April 5  
Urban Advocacy Skills Building – Sunday, April 5  
What Urban Board Members Want for Kids – Monday, April 6

**AGENDA**

**Thursday, April 2, 2009**

10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. CUBE Registration  
*Manchester Grand Hyatt,  
Randle Foyer, 4<sup>th</sup> Fl*

**8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Site Visit to San Diego Unified School District and  
Chula Vista Elementary School District**  
*Manchester Grand Hyatt,  
Randle Ballroom AB, 4<sup>th</sup> Fl* *Continental Breakfast provided*

8:00 a.m. – breakfast  
8:15 a.m. – welcoming remarks  
8:30 a.m. – site visit briefing  
9:15 a.m. – buses load on the Front Drive.  
9:30 a.m. – buses depart the Front Drive.  
12:00 p.m. – buses return to hotel

How are the San Diego Unified School District and the Chula Vista Elementary School District meeting the challenges faced by larger districts? See for yourself during a visit to both districts hosted by CUBE.

Presider: *Evelyn Shapiro*, CUBE Steering Committee Member and Board Member, Isaac (AZ) School District #5

Presenters from San Diego Unified School District

*Donna Campbell*, School Improvement Officer, Morse High School

*Shirley Wilson*, School Improvement Officer, Millennial Tech Middle School

Presenters from Chula Vista Elementary School District

*Dr. Lowell Billings*, Superintendent

*Francisco Velasco*, Principal, Otay Elementary School

*Erin Dare*, Associate Principal, Otay Elementary School

Attendees will have the option to visit one of three schools:

**Millennial Tech Middle School (San Diego Unified School District)** provides all students with cutting edge opportunities to help them excel in academics, and unique experiences around our STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) focus. High expectations are held for each and every student at MTM, as they are encouraged to be creative thinkers, responsible citizens and active participants in their educational opportunities. With groundbreaking new technology, MTM students will be prepared for high school, college and the future workforce.

Principal: *Helen Griffith*

1110 Carolina Lane, San Diego, CA 92102

Phone: 619.527.6933

**Morse High School (San Diego Unified School District)**, a forty-two year old high school known for its athletic and technology programs, is located on a beautiful 65 acre site in Southeast San Diego. The distinguished murals that adorn the buildings not only express the diversity of the student body but also their pride. This pride is evident in their academic programs as well. Its advanced computer programs, math and science curriculum and the aeronautics courses make Morse one of a kind.

Principal: *Todd Irving*

6905 Skyline Drive, San Diego, CA 92114

Phone: 619.262.0763

**Otay Elementary School (Chula Vista Elementary School District)** was on the state watch list but with the assistance of a strong principal and a focus on the basics was removed last year. Every hour of every school day at Otay Elementary is spent teaching basic English and other skills like reading and math. That means no music class, no art class and no gym class, which instead are offered as after-school clubs. Otay Elementary teaches English to parents so that they can practice with their children and talk about what they are learning when they get home from school.

Principal: *Francisco Velasco*  
1651 Albany Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91911  
Phone: 619.425.4311

**3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**  
*Manchester Grand Hyatt  
Randle Ballroom, 4<sup>th</sup> Fl*

**What are the Financial and Political Implications for Schools in Educating Undocumented Students?**

*CUBE districts have been invited to participate in this special session offered by NSBA's Council of School Attorneys (COA). Attendance is optional.* Extracurricular activities? Tax issues? Who pays? How far do schools have to go in complying with Plyler? The mandate to educate all children is clear; the practical and legal issues that impact school board decisions today are less so. Join this panel of experts and get a 360-degree view of what's at stake.

Moderator: *Margaret A. Chidester*, Past Council Chair, Law Offices of M.A. Chidester & Associates, Irvine (CA)

Panelists:

*John W. Borkowski*, Hogan & Hartson, LLP, Washington (DC)

*Norma V. Cantu*, Professor of Law & Education, University of Texas School of Law and former Asst. Secretary for Civil Rights (OCR), U.S. Dept. of Education

*Michael M. Hethmon*, General Counsel, Immigration Reform Law Institute, Washington (DC)

*Dr. Guillermo Zamudio*, former Superintendent (retired), Nogales (AZ)

**Friday, April 3, 2009**  
7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
*Manchester Grand Hyatt,  
Randle Foyer, 4<sup>th</sup> Fl*

CUBE Registration

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.  
*Manchester Grand Hyatt,  
Randle Ballroom, 4<sup>th</sup> Fl*

*Breakfast Buffet provided*



**9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.**  
*Manchester Grand Hyatt,  
Randle Ballroom, 4<sup>th</sup> Fl*

**Welcome Remarks**

*Lock P. Beachum, Sr.*, CUBE Steering Committee Vice Chair and Board Vice President, Youngstown (OH) City School District  
*Shelia Jackson*, Board President, San Diego (CA) Unified School District

**9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**  
*Manchester Grand Hyatt,  
Randle Ballroom, 4<sup>th</sup> Fl*

**Keynote Address by Linda Darling-Hammond  
Teacher Knowledge & Student Learning: Making the Critical Connection**



*Linda Darling-Hammond* is the Charles E. Ducommun Professor of Education at Stanford University where she has launched the Stanford Educational Leadership Institute and the School Redesign Network and served as faculty sponsor for the Stanford Teacher Education Program. Her research, teaching, and policy work focus on issues of school restructuring, teacher quality and educational equity. From 1994-2001, she served as executive director of the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, which led to sweeping policy changes affecting teaching and teacher education. In 2006, this report was named one of the most influential affecting U.S. education and Darling-Hammond was named one of the nation's 10 most influential people affecting educational policy over the last decade. She recently served as education advisor to President Barack Obama's presidential campaign.

10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.  
*Manchester Grand Hyatt,  
Randle Foyer, 4<sup>th</sup> Fl*

Book Signing with Linda Darling-Hammond and Break  
*Ms. Darling-Hammond's books "Powerful Learning" and "Preparing Teachers for a Changing World" will be available for purchase using credit card only during this book signing. Copies of her books will also be available at the NSBA Bookstore located in the San Diego Convention Center, Lobby E.*

**11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**  
*Manchester Grand Hyatt,  
America's Cup BCD, 4<sup>th</sup> Fl*

**CUBE Annual Business Meeting and Lunch**

CUBE districts meet to consider nominations, elect new Steering Committee members, and discuss issues of concern to the membership. Districts who are not CUBE districts are encouraged to attend to learn more about CUBE and to hear reports from the nation's major urban districts about student achievement progress.

Presider: *Steve Corona*, CUBE Steering Committee Chair and Board Member, Fort Wayne (IN) Community Schools

**Annual Meeting Agenda**

- I. 2009 CUBE nomination process and Steering Committee election  
*Brian K. Perkins, Chair, 2009 Nominating Committee*
- II. CUBE year in review  
*Kevin Scott, Membership Services Manager, CUBE*
- III. Urban education economic challenges  
*Steve Corona, Chair, CUBE Steering Committee Chair and Board Member, Ft. Wayne (IN) Community Schools*
- IV. Service recognition
- V. Other CUBE business
- VI. Adjourn

1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Break

**1:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Concurrent General Sessions**

*(Please select one of the following sessions to attend)*

*Manchester Grand Hyatt,  
Cunningham AB, 4<sup>th</sup> Fl*

**Session I – Redefining Urban School Counseling**

The realities and needs of urban students, families, and educators have outgrown traditional individual counseling models. With increased calls for accountability in public education and increased attention to the access, equity, and success for every student, taking note of the role of the school counselor must be part of all reform efforts. Join this timely session to learn how professional urban school counseling is being redefined to advocate for and demonstrate accountability in closing K-12 achievement and opportunity gaps.

Presider: *Elizabeth Daniels*, CUBE Steering Committee Member and Board Member, Portsmouth (VA) City Public Schools

Presenters:

*Fred Bemak*, Professor and Program Coordinator, Counseling and Development Program, School of Education, George Mason University (VA)

*Jo Ann Murphy*, Board President, Baltimore County (MD) Public Schools

*Lynne E. Muller*, Coordinator, Office of School Counseling, Baltimore County (MD) Public Schools

*Manchester Grand Hyatt,  
Emma ABC, 3<sup>rd</sup> Fl*

## **Session II – Immigration Raids and Urban Student Safety**

Raids by federal authorities on undocumented immigrants have panicked urban parents and school officials as fears spread that students might be targeted. Raids have forced schools to act swiftly as important safety nets for children. In affected schools, absentee rates have soared and test scores have dropped. Students who come to school are distracted with worries about whether their families will be at home when they return, and after-school programs have become huge counseling sessions, rather than instructional time. Join this important session to learn how urban schools are coping with and responding to this challenge.

Presider: *Susan L. Valdes*, CUBE Steering Committee Member and Board Member, Hillsborough County (FL) School District

Presenters:

*Lisa Soronen*, Senior Staff Attorney, National School Boards Association (VA)

*Araceli Simeon-Luna*, Director, National Parent School Partnership, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Los Angeles (CA)

*Raul Borbon*, Parent and Community Organizer, Pasadena (CA) Unified School District

*Michael Martinez*, Superintendent, Cartwright (AZ) School District #83

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Break

**3:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.**

*Manchester Grand Hyatt,  
Randle Ballroom, 4<sup>th</sup> Fl*

## **General Session**

### **The Shaky Economy and Urban Schools**

A struggling economy is making its presence felt for school districts across the country and the budget crunch hits urban school districts especially hard. Revenues have dramatically declined and everything from teaching positions to bus transportation is on the chopping block. School districts will get some financial relief from the federal American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (AARA) but there will be no relief from the political pressure on school boards



to close the achievement gaps and regain public confidence. The infusion of these much needed funds comes with a requirement that school districts will also advance major educational reforms. What are some new ideas to help school boards decide how to spend these "stimulus" dollars? Secretary of Education Arne Duncan is expected to share his goals for improving public education at the NSBA General Session tomorrow. Join this timely session today to discuss how urban districts can save, create jobs AND reform education too.

Presider: *Sandra Smith-Jones*, CUBE Steering Committee Member and Board Member, Virginia Beach (VA) City Public Schools

Presenter: *Jo Ann Yee*, Senior Director, Strategy Development, Achievement, Diversity and Urban Affairs

**5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**  
*Manchester Grand Hyatt  
America's Cup BCD, 4<sup>th</sup> Fl*

**CUBE Networking Reception**



**Saturday, April 4, 2009**  
**8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**



**District Workshops and Continental Breakfast**  
*Continental Breakfast provided in the Windsor Foyer*

*Manchester Grand Hyatt, Windsor BC*  
Small – size (under 30,000 enrollment)  
Presider: *Pierre V. Cooper*, CUBE Steering Committee Member and Board Member, Reading (PA) School District

*Manchester Grand Hyatt, Emma C*  
Mid – size (30,000-60,000 enrollment)  
Presider: *Sandra Jensen*, CUBE Steering Committee Member and Board President, Omaha (NE) Public Schools

*Manchester Grand Hyatt, Emma A*  
Large – size (60,000 + enrollment)  
Presider: *Sandra Smith-Jones*, CUBE Steering Committee Member and Board Member, Virginia Beach (VA) City Public Schools

**Topic: Communications - Are They A Priority In Tight Budget Times?** *Topic and questions are hosted by the CUBE Communications Task Force.*

Cutting the communications program and staff could be perceived as a responsible decision as school districts work to trim, slash, and balance budgets that are crippled by the recession. At the same time, making sure your message is effectively communicated and heard by your staff and community is more important than ever. The question: What is the value of an effective communications effort in today's budget crunch?

**PLEASE NOTE**  
**THE REMAINDER OF CUBE PROGRAMMING WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE**  
**SAN DIEGO CONVENTION CENTER IN ROOM 14A ON THE**  
**MEZZANINE LEVEL.**

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**2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**  
*SDCC, Room 14A, Mezz.*

CUBE's Afternoon Break  
is sponsored by:



**CUBE Annual Issues Forum**  
**A Model of Sustained Urban Academic Success:**  
**The Atlanta Public Schools**

*(This session is open to all NSBA Annual Conference attendees)*  
Urban schools in America have made great academic strides in recent years. A stellar example is the Atlanta Public Schools (APS). With a focus on instruction and student success, proven, research-based methods and an accountability system tailored to each school, the Atlanta Public Schools' transformation initiatives are paying off. Join this session to hear the 2009 American Association of School Administrators Superintendent of the Year Beverly Hall, with the support of the Atlanta Board of Education, share their urban academic success story.

Presiders:

*Lock P. Beachum, Sr.*, CUBE Steering Committee Vice Chair and Board Vice President, Youngstown (OH) City School District  
*Sandra Smith-Jones*, CUBE Steering Committee Member and Board Member, Virginia Beach (VA) City Public Schools

Presenters:

*Dr. Beverly Hall*, Superintendent, Atlanta (GA) Public Schools and 2009 Superintendent of the Year  
*Khaatim Sherrer-El*, Board Member, Atlanta (GA) Public Schools

**6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

**Urban Night Out (By invitation only)**

*Due to the capacity of the event, RSVP's will not be taken onsite.*

*On Broadway Event Center*

*615 Broadway*

*San Diego, CA 92101*

*(619) 231-0011*

CUBE's *Urban Night Out* is co-sponsored by:



**Blackboard**

**Sunday, April 5, 2009**

**8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

*SDCC, Room 14A, Mezz.*

**New Urban and Large-size School Board Leadership Training**

*(This session is open to all NSBA Annual Conference attendees)--  
Continental Breakfast provided*

Newly elected or appointed, as well as continuing urban and large-size district school board members often struggle to define their roles. Seize this opportunity to strengthen your leadership skills as a new or a continuing school board member.

Presider: *Sandra Jensen*, CUBE Steering Committee Member and Board President, Omaha (NE) Public Schools

Trainer: *Terry Boyd, Ph.D.*, Division Chair, Graduate and Undergraduate Business Studies, Franklin University (OH)

**2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

*SDCC, Room 14A, Mezz.*

**CUBE Urban Advocacy Skills Building**

**Civic Index for Quality Public Education**

*(This session is open to all NSBA Annual Conference attendees)*

The Public Education Network (PEN) is on a mission to investigate and strengthen the influence that communities have in improving public schools through a research-based index designed and implemented to measure a community's perception of itself with regard to its public schools. Eight cities and counties are using the index to develop a local report card and work with their public to fix inequities in community support for the local school system. Attend this session to learn about a new advocacy tool that supports the work of public schools.

Presider: *Tariq Butt*, CUBE Steering Committee Member and Board Member, Chicago (IL) Public Schools

Presenters:

*Arnold Fege*, Director, Public Engagement and Advocacy, Public Education Network, Washington (DC)

*Sherri Lung*, Communications Manager for Strive, KnowledgeWorks Foundation, Cincinnati (OH)

*Cristina Valdez*, Director of Policy and Professional Development, San Francisco (CA) Education Fund

**Monday, April 6, 2009**

**11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

*SDCC, Room14A, Mezz.*

**What Urban Board Members Want for Kids**

*(This session is open to all NSBA Annual Conference attendees)*

The literature is scarce regarding the views held by school board members about the districts in which they serve. Specifically, the views, opinions and motives held by urban school board members are the subject of considerable criticism and review in the news media. A recent survey and series of interviews revealed some interesting views held by a sample of urban board members. This session will provide participants with an overview of the reported beliefs, objectives and practices of urban school board members in the United States.

Presider: *Minnie Forte-Brown*, CUBE Steering Committee Member and Board President, Durham (NC) Public Schools

Presenter: *Brian K. Perkins*, Board President, New Haven (CT) Public Schools. He will be joined by a panel of school board member respondents.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**CUBE Issues Seminar**  
*Urban Reforms Shaping  
Federal Education Policy*  
**June 25-28, 2009**  
**The Drake Hotel**  
**Chicago, IL**

*Register today!!*

*For additional information, visit [www.nsba.org/cube](http://www.nsba.org/cube).*