

October 25, 2013

Hon. Dr. Richard Vladovic, President, District 7
Hon. Marguerite LaMotte, District 1
Hon. Mónica García, District 2
Hon. Tamar Galatzan, District 3
Hon. Steve Zimmer, District 4
Hon. Bennett Kayser, District 5
Hon. Monica Ratliff, District 6

Dear Board Members:

We are writing to express our indignation over reports that Superintendent John Deasy will be resigning his position. Make no mistake: his resignation would be a devastating loss for the 600,000-plus students at LAUSD schools. On behalf of our member organizations, we urge you to make every effort to retain Superintendent Deasy, and work with him to continue to raise student achievement in every school.

Under Superintendent Deasy's leadership, our schools have made remarkable gains, particularly among poor children and children of color. Unfortunately, since the moment the School Board elected new leadership, some of you have struck a combative tone – putting your own political agendas ahead of students' needs. There is little doubt that the Superintendent's reported resignation is due in large part to some board members' efforts to attack his leadership, undermine his agenda, and micro-manage the district.

We hope that this incident serves as a wake-up call for the Board, and you can find a way to retain the Superintendent. If this relationship cannot be repaired, know that the community will hold you accountable, and will expect you to continue the policies that have made such a difference at our schools. After all of the progress that has been made, it is simply unacceptable to turn back to the failed policies of the past.

Sincerely,

Ama Nyamekye, Executive Director, Educators 4 Excellence, Los Angeles
Arun Ramanathan, Executive Director, The Education Trust—West
Corri Ravare, Executive Director, Families That Can
Elise Buik, Chief Executive Officer, United Way of Greater Los Angeles
Jed Wallace, CEO, California Charter Schools Association
Kathy Kanter & Farnaz Simantob, Co-founders, Lanai Road Education Action Committee
Maria Brenes, Executive Director, InnerCity Struggle (ICS)
Marqueece Harris-Dawson, President & CEO, Community Coalition
Martine Singer, President & CEO, Para Los Niños
Mynor Godoy, CA State Program Director, Students For Education Reform (SFER)
Rene Rodman & Amy Baker, Co-founders, Parent Partnership for Public Education