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John Ramirez, Jr.

August 23, 2011

To: Dr. Michael W. Kirst, President
State Board of Education

From: Dr. Carmella S. Franco
State Trustee

Re: Recommendation for Change of Governance Authority from Option B to Option A
for the Alisal Union Elementary School District

Background:

The Alisal Union Elementary School District has operated under the Option B governance model since May 5, 2010. It was under the general authority of Education Code Section 52055.57(c)(3) that the State Board of Education approved a State Trustee. As background information, the scope of authority for Option A and Option B is defined as follows.

Option A (Trustee with authority to stay or rescind governing board actions):

The local governing board will generally retain its existing powers and authorities, including its authorities with respect to the district superintendent. The local governing board will exercise its powers and authorities to implement the details of the corrective action plan. During the period of service, the trustee may stay or rescind any action of the local governing board that, in the sole judgment of the trustee, is inconsistent with the corrective action plan or which otherwise may adversely impact the LEA.

Option B (Trustee with full authority to administer the affairs of the LEA):

Under Option B, the trustee will assume all the legal rights, duties, and powers of the local governing board, including its authorities with respect to the district superintendent. Throughout the term of service, the local governing board shall serve only as an advisory body reporting to the trustee, with no rights, duties, or powers with respect to the LEA. Members of the local governing board are not entitled to any stipend, benefits, or other compensation from the LEA during the term of service.

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I officially reported and began my work with the District on May 24, 2010. During the 2010-11 school year, the following major reports were completed and submitted.

Initial Assessment

Comprehensive Assessment

Goals and Performance Objectives

Corrective Action Plan

End of Year Report for 2010-11

A status report for 2011 was prepared based on the Goals and Performance Objectives adopted by the State Board of Education in November 2010. The Corrective Action Plan, which was implemented during 2010-11, contains information that supports the status of the Goals and Performance Objectives. A comprehensive Communication Plan also was developed and specific actions identified for implementation. In addition, the Alisal Union Elementary School District 2011 test scores show gains in student progress on the STAR test. As of this date, one school, Bardin Elementary, will be exiting from Program Improvement status. All of these documents can be located at the www.alisal.org website under the State Trustee webpage.

Rationale:

The Alisal Board of Trustees has shown progress in meeting criteria which were approved by the State Trustee in April 2011. An update has been developed for the document titled *Establishment of Criteria for the Alisal Union Elementary School District to Move from Option B to Option A*. Of particular note was the Board's commitment to participate in 24 study sessions/workshops/retreats (January 1, 2011 through August 10, 2011). This was above and beyond attendance at the 12 Regular Trustee/Board meetings, as shown in the document titled *2011 Board Meeting and Study Session/Workshop/Retreat Dates*. Additionally, the Board has participated in the full review and revision of one-third of the District's Board Policies as cited on the District website. The remaining policies will be completed in 2011-12. The Board has worked together during Option B, and will benefit from continued oversight as it regains some of its authority. By virtue of transitioning to Option A Stay and Rescind Governance model, the State Board of Education retains the oversight authority over the State Trustee. The documents mentioned in this section can be found via the www.alisal.org website under the State Trustee webpage.

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Trustee's Recommendations:

Based on these factors, I am recommending that the Alisal Union Elementary School District move from the Option B to Option A governance model, effective September 21, 2011. This date provides time for a Special Board meeting to precede it whereby criteria for a move from Option A to a full governance model can be finalized.

I also recommend that the Alisal Board of Trustees receive professional development recompense retroactive to May 1, 2011 (\$30 per workshop and \$60 per Saturday retreat). Upon the effective date of approval of the Option A governance model, the Board would begin to receive its regular monthly Board stipend and health benefits in accordance with the Alisal Board of Trustee's Bylaws and Policies.

Long-term Vision:

Once the District is operating under the Option A governance model, it is anticipated that a transitioning of authority to independent governance would occur no later than June 30, 2012. Examples of criteria for this governance transition include the following.

- 100% of Board policies reviewed, revised, and approved
- Board member attendance at a minimum of six governance workshops (one per month)
- Board member enrollment and attendance at CSBA *Masters in Governance* training
- Full understanding of roles and responsibilities by Board and Interim Superintendent as evidenced by observance of Board Operating Procedures
- *Stay and rescind* authority not exercised by State Trustee for four consecutive Board meetings
- Continued progress by District and schools towards reaching 800 on the API
- Continued improvement on test scores by a minimum of 10% on the AYP annually
- Determination by State Trustee that the local Board is ready for full governance authority

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Long-Term Vision (continuance):

Goal Areas	Benchmarks	Timeline
Board Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board /Interim Superintendent/State Trustee are working together as a team.• Board is operating in a cooperative and effective manner. Indicators would include the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Actions taken in alignment with the Corrective Action Plan and in the best interests of the District.• Minutes are acted on in a timely manner, e.g. meeting-to-meeting.• Board is observing its Operating Procedures, e.g. leaves personnel matters to district staff.	Ongoing
Improved Student Achievement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schools continue to exhibit growth on the California Standards Test and a trend of improvement is established.• Multiple schools exit Program Improvement status.	Ongoing
Highly Qualified Work Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board supports the hiring of highly qualified teachers, effective employees, and allows management to carry out an accountability system.• Educational Services Department continues as the cornerstone for supporting instruction in the schools.	Ongoing
Fiscal Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board ensures that District is operating in a fiscally conservative and responsible manner, e.g. District reserves are built to assist with the elimination of the structural deficit factor.	Ongoing

Your consideration of the above-mentioned is appreciated.

Cc: Sue Burr, Executive Director
Patricia de Cos, Deputy Executive Director