

Today's Education Experts

K-12 Education Seminar - November 20, 2008

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Sally Bennett-Schmidt has been an educator for more than 30 years, starting as a teaching assistant while in college and continuing on as a bilingual (Spanish/English) elementary teacher and a school site resource teacher with the San Diego Unified School District. In 1992, she moved to the district office to work as a resource teacher, program evaluator, and ultimately the Director of Planning and Accountability. After 26 years with SDUSD, Bennett-Schmidt took a position in 2003 with The Pulliam Group, which was subsequently acquired by ETS, supporting schools and districts across the country in the areas of assessment, accountability, and data analysis. In 2007, she began her current position of Assessment Director at the San Diego County Office of Education, where she works with district and school site leaders on using data and assessment in support of student learning. Bennett-Schmidt also teaches a Measurement and Evaluation course for the Masters program in Learning and Teaching at the University of San Diego.

Jed Wallace, Chief Operating Officer
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Jed Wallace began his career in public education as a teacher at Hooper Avenue Elementary School, a 2000-student school in South-Central Los Angeles that had the second-lowest API ranking in the County. There, he established a school-within-the-school that reduced teacher and student transiency and significantly improved results on state-mandated tests. The model was exported across the school and became the basis for a charter school application. Wallace also worked in the Office of the Superintendent at San Diego City Schools, performing oversight activities for the district's 22 charter schools and leading efforts to develop a new Charter School Policy and template MOU. These documents have been cited as models by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers. He also served as an Associate Resident for the inaugural cohort of the Broad Foundation's Residency in Urban Education.

Earlier in his career, Wallace worked in the office of Colorado Congressman David E. Skaggs. He holds a Bachelor's degree in the Science of Foreign Service from Georgetown University, an MFA in playwriting from UCLA, and an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. Wallace is an avid playwright and enjoys spending time with his wife and two children.

Kay Davis, Board Secretary
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Kay Davis served nine years as a San Diego Unified School Board Member, where one of her major accomplishments was establishing the Business-Education Partnership Program. For seven years, she was the Director of the Business Roundtable for Education of the Greater San Diego Chamber of Commerce. Davis mobilized the business community on school-to-career programming, charter schools, standards, measurement, accountability, the selection of a new superintendent and passage of a \$1.5 billion school bond.