PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

San Francisco Education Leaders Contribute to Plan for California Schools

August 9, 2011 (San Francisco) - Today State Superintendent Tom Torlakson presented his transition team’s report, A Blueprint for Great Schools. Two San Francisco education leaders, San Francisco Board of Education President Hydra Mendoza and President of the United Administrators of San Francisco Jim Dierke, contributed to shaping the state superintendent’s plan.

Dierke, who is principal of Visitacion Valley Middle School, was asked to serve on the five-person committee on Educator Quality chaired by Stanford Professor Linda Darling-Hammond.

“I feel very honored to reflect the perspective of a principal,” said Dierke “With the baby boomer generation nearing retirement there is an urgent need to train new school leadership and teachers and provide professional development in an organized and cost-effective way.”

Superintendent Torlakson asked Hydra Mendoza to serve on the Family and Community Engagement Team. Mendoza commended the state for including the role of parents and community as part of its plan.

“The fact that the parent and community conversation was part of the plan is really important. The state superintendent truly understands that the larger community has a role in improving our schools.”

A Blueprint for Great Schools can be found at http://www.cde.ca.gov

James S. Dierke, a native San Franciscan and public school graduate, has worked with the San Francisco Unified School District for 40 years. In addition to serving as the principal of Visitacion Valley Elementary School, Mr. Dierke has been president of the United Administrators of San Francisco (UASF) for the past 12 years, executive vice president of the American Federation of School Administrators, AFL-CIO, and in 2008 was awarded National Middle School Principal of the year by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. He is married to Anne Marie Dierke, a public school teacher.

Hydra Mendoza is a parent of two children in public schools, a former preschool teacher and an education advisor. She is the former Executive Director and a founding member of Parents for Public Schools of San Francisco. Currently she is president of the San Francisco Board of Education, where she is serving her second term on the board. Hydra is the first and only Filipina elected to office in San Francisco. A senior level official for the City and County of San Francisco, Hydra serves as the mayor’s advisor on education and family services. She has two children, ages 13 and 15 and lives in the Bayview community in San Francisco.

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