

**ADDENDUM TO THE
HUSD BOARD AGENDA**

FOR WEDNESDAY,

AUGUST 24, 2011

ITEM H.5.

AFRICAN AMERICAN TASK FORCE

Memorandum

TO: Hayward Board of Education

FROM: Board Members Jesús Armas and Maribel Heredia

Date: August 24, 2011

Subject: African-American Achievement Gap Task Force

In recent weeks, the School District in general and the Board in particular have been asked to focus on the achievement gap involving our African American students. Test results data indicate that the gap persists, underscoring the need to take proactive steps to address this serious problem. One suggestion raised by many in the community, including COR representatives, advocates for the formation of a task force or committee comprising parents, teachers, administrators and other key stakeholders to assist the District in addressing this critical issue. Some have likened formation of such a group to the group and groups formed by the District to address the needs of English Language Learners.

It is clear the community is looking to the Board to take a leadership position on this important issue. It is for this reason that we have requested this item appear on tonight's agenda. Following our discussion, we recommend that the Board take formal action to authorize creation of the task force. To underscore the importance we place on this matter, we believe it is appropriate for the Board to approve the appointments to the task force.

While we are open to the specifics around the formation of the task force, we offer the following for the Board's consideration:

- That the task force consist of 11 community members, plus appropriate staff, teachers and administrators;
- That applications be solicited from community members interested in serving on the task force;
- That if more than 11 applications are received, the Board interview the candidates and select 11 individuals to serve on the task force;
- Lastly, that staff be directed to develop a description of the role and duties of the task force for the Board's consideration.