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PHOTOS: RICH MORALLO



Avalon High School Principal Jackie Ayala welcomes Metro South Bay Gm Dana Coffey on campus, where Coffey served as "principal for a day."

South Bay GM Dana Coffey was Guest Principal at Avalon High

By RICH MORALLO

(March 31, 2005) Dana Coffey went from managing a transit staff and bus operations to handling teachers and students, March 29, during the LA Chamber of Commerce's Principal for a Day program.

"I was a guest principal at Avalon High School, a continuation facility for Banning High School in Wilmington," said Coffey. She was selected for the program through a Chamber solicitation process.

As the South Bay general manager, Coffey oversees the sector's administrative offices in Torrance and bus operations at Carson Division 18 and Arthur Winston Division 5.

Principal Jackie Ayala gave the 29-year Metro veteran an orientation on school procedures before Coffey shadowed her throughout the school day. At Avalon High, at-risk and potential drop-out students can finish high school.

Alternative education



Metro South Bay Gm Dana Coffey goes over classroom procedures with Avalon High School Principal Jackie Ayala.

"We provide students an alternative educational experience and a second chance to graduate with structured and personalized learning environment," said Ayala.

During her day at Avalon, Coffey attended a staff meeting, visited a classroom and processed the paperwork for a student's class schedule. She also received school briefings on handling absences and tardiness, and what to look for in a classroom.

"When principals visit classrooms they look for spacing of chairs, student projects displayed on walls, teachers working with students, and above all, eager and engaged students and the sounds of ideas being exchanged," explained Coffey.

"I enjoyed my day at Avalon and learned a lot about the big responsibility of teaching and of being a principal," said Coffey. "I now look forward to hosting Principal Ayala during the Executive for a Day program when the principal will shadow me and learn about providing public transit at Metro South Bay."



Metro South Bay GM Dana Coffey learns some of what it takes to be a high school principal from Avalon High School Principal Jackie Ayala.



Avalon High School Principal Jackie Ayala and Metro South Bay Gm Dana Coffey on campus.