



San Francisco Board of Education Parent Advisory Council

Year-End Report to the Board of Education

June 13, 2017

The role of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is to represent parent voices and perspectives to inform Board of Education policy discussions and decisions. This report summarizes the PAC's work during the 2016-2017 school year and identifies our accomplishments, challenges, and plans moving forward.

The PAC's Work in 2016-2017

The PAC's work is closely aligned with the goals of the district, and is shaped by what we have learned through the years of reaching out to hear from families across the city. At the beginning of the school year PAC members met with Interim Superintendent Myong Leigh to hear about the district's top priorities for the year, including the search for a new superintendent. This dialogue helped shape our priorities, projects, and teams for the year.

Last week the PAC held its final meeting of the year and had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Vincent Matthews, Superintendent of SFUSD schools. PAC members discussed strategies, actions, and services that are working well in our schools and the district and also shared ideas for improvements. This conversation helped to frame the PAC's process for evaluating our work and impact this year.

Major Outreach Campaigns to Engaging Families and Communities in District Policy

Through joint efforts with our community and district partners, **we reached over 450** parents and community members to gather input for the district's **the Local Control and Accountability Plan**. This major outreach campaign allowed the PAC to focus, support, and strengthen our priorities and bring parent voices and perspectives to Board commissioners and district leaders.

In addition to meeting with school communities and advisories, the PAC was intentional about reaching out to organizations that work with and serve SFUSD families that usually do not attend school meetings or gatherings. We recognize the significant role these organizations play to ensure that our outreach is reflective of communities that are typically left out of education policy discussions and who are often the most marginalized.

Representing Parent Perspectives to District Leaders

Throughout the year PAC members met with individual Board commissioners and district staff leading specific district initiatives to advocate on issues important to families. To this end, PAC members met with:

- Dr. Mary Cashen, Program Administrator of the Achievement Assessment Office, to provide **feedback on the SFUSD Report Card Companion Document**
- Laura Savage, Ombudsperson from Special Education Services, to **discuss the IEP (Individualized Education Plan) Family Survey**
- Rickie Jo Scott, Program Administrator for Special Education Services, to learn about the **Alternative Dispute Resolution process for families with students who have IEPs**
- Jessica Wan from the Office of Communication to **provide feedback on the SFUSD's tools for communicating with families.**
- Sarah Delaney, Science Supervisor, to discuss the **new science standards and provide input on the implementation plan**
- **Leadership Associates** to provide **input on the search for a new superintendent**
- Carmelo Sgnarlato, Chief Officer of **Labor Relations**, and Lita Blanc and Susan Soloman, President and Executive Vice President, respectively, of United Educators of San Francisco (**UESF**) to **address home school communication, professional development, and consistent grading policies and equitable access to Advance Placement courses.**
- Commissioners Emily Murase and Mark Sanchez
- Additionally, PAC members attended **Ad Hoc Committee meetings on Student Assignment to speak during public comment**

In addition, PAC responded to district requests for input, participation in stakeholder groups, and worked collaboratively to address specific issues to impacting family engagement and student outcomes.

Participation and Invitations for Stakeholder Groups:

- PAC actively participated in **Instructional Calendar Committee** and **provided input on the proposed changes** for the 2017-2018 school year.
- PAC members participated on a **parent panel with the San Francisco Teacher Residency (SFTR) Program** to share ideas about what makes a successful partnership with families.
- PAC staff joined the **School Portfolio Planning Committee** to support planning, problem solving, and the development a protocol to respond to proposals from stakeholders, both internal and external, to be shared district-wide.
- Likewise, PAC staff participated on the **Arts Education Master Plan (AEMP) Review Panel** to identify a candidate to conduct, produce and refresh the SFUSD's Arts Education Master Plan.

Supporting Networks, Task Forces and Collaborative Actions:

- The PAC actively participated in the district's **Community Partnership Network** convened by the Office of Community Schools and Family Partnerships
- **PAC helped to lead the LCAP Task Force**, co-developing the agendas and facilitating the monthly meetings. Additionally, the PAC was part of the committee that developed the objectives, content, and strategic outreach plan for LCAP community engagement campaign.
- **As a LCAP Task Force advisory group member**, PAC helped to organize the **mid-year "Data Review" event *Telling the Story Behind the Numbers: Making Sense of District Data***.
- PAC staff participated in **planning sessions to support** the Balanced Scorecard process and **Annual School Planning Retreat** held in March.
- PAC **convened a meeting on transportation** with district staff from several SFUSD departments, Supervisor Katy Tang and representatives from the Mayor's Office of Transportation **to share what we heard from families** last year and in turn, **learn about efforts** each department is making **to address transportation challenges** families face across the city.
- For the first time this year the **PAC collaborated with the African American Parent Advisory Council and the District English Learner Advisory Council** to **present joint recommendations** to the Board of Education **for the district's LCAP**.

Sustainability of the Parent Advisory Council

The PAC is made up of volunteer members appointed by the Board of Education and supported by part time staff at .75 FTE to coordinate the PAC's work; secure interpretation and translation services; and provide childcare and refreshments for community meetings. The PAC's organizational achievements during this school year include:

- **Securing renewed funding** from the **Walter & Elise Haas Sr. Fund** with a two-year grant for 2016-2018
- **Renewing funding** with the **Evelyn & Walter Haas Jr. Fund**
- **Continuing fiscal sponsorship** by Community Initiatives. This relationship is instrumental to the PAC's sustainability and allows staff to focus on program efforts rather than administrative issues, while ensuring financial accountability.
- **Recruiting four new members** to the PAC, and **retaining 10 current** PAC members whose terms have not expired.
- **Holding a PAC Family Science Night** to build community, engage our families and connect this process to learning

Challenges and Plans for Moving Forward

The PAC is pleased with the accomplishments we have made in securing funding. However, we also recognize that we need to continue to expand our funding portfolio in 2017-2018 to ensure our financial sustainability. The PAC plans to work more closely with the SFUSD's Fund Development Office to coordinate efforts, approach, and timing.

While we continue to experience improvements with the LCAP development process, the timing remains a challenge. The fact that the first reading of the LCAP and budget happen after school is out makes it difficult to keep families engaged in the process or provide additional feedback on a completed document. Moreover, our district data shows that we are not meeting our goals in some crucial areas. Family and community members genuinely want to understand how the district plans to improve the implementation of key strategies, actions, and service to shift the data in a positive direction in these areas. While we recognize there are efforts being made to improve student outcomes, it is not always clear to stakeholders.

The PAC is committed to working with district staff, our labor and community partners as well as board commissioners to continue to improve family engagement and student outcomes in our district. Based on our existing projects, next year the PAC plans to continue to:

- Engage families in the **LCAP development process and annual update** and **support efforts to move to a more systemic approach** to gather input from school sites.
- Advocate for **greater transparency regarding the implementation plan of key strategies** identified in the LCAP to improve student outcomes and support efforts to strengthen them.
- Work with district staff, labor and community partners as well board commissioners to **increase and improve home school communication**, particularly with the new ***Gradebook for All***
- Advocate, support, and contribute the **development and implementation of the district's Family Academy**.

We look forward to working with the Board of Education, SFUSD staff, and our community partners to engage families in all of these efforts, and to support the success of all our students.

If you have any questions about this report, or the PAC's work in general, please contact the PAC at (415) 355-2201, or at pac@sfusd.edu