



San Francisco Board of Education Parent Advisory Council

Report to the Board of Education

December 13, 2016

The role of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is to represent parent voices and perspectives to inform Board of Education policy discussions. This report expresses our appreciation for Commissioners Sandra Fewer and Jill Wynns and provides a brief update on PAC activities.

Appreciation of Commissioners

The PAC would like express our gratitude to Commissioners Sandra Fewer and Jill Wynns for their service over the past eight and 24 years, respectfully. Both commissioners were instrumental in establishing the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) in 2003, though each had a very distinct role at the time. Commissioner Fewer was the voice of the parent, community partner and advocate and Commissioner Wynns was one of the authors of the resolution that created the PAC while serving on the Board. They recognized the importance of family engagement and the need for a formal process to bring parent perspectives to policy discussions.

In their own right, Commissioner Fewer has been a fierce advocate for historically underserved communities and ensuring underrepresented voices help shape and inform policy discussions, decisions and programs being implemented, such as Ethnic Studies, Restorative Practices and changes to high school graduation requirements. Commissioner Wynns has been an incredible liaison sharing education policy discussions from the state level to inform policy discussions and practices locally, while also advocating for public resources to remain in the public sector. This kind of advocacy is more important than ever as public institutions and resources are increasingly being privatized.

The PAC appreciates the commitment, dedication and advocacy Commissioner Fewer and Wynns have demonstrated over the years. Thank you for your invaluable contributions to SFUSD students and families.

A-G Report Card: A Tool for Improving Communication

A few of years ago, PAC members actively participated on the New Graduation Requirement Task Force to support the implementation of the A-G graduation requirements, which took affect with the class of 2014. As part of this advisory body, PAC members helped identify short and long-term goals for the task force. However, this advisory body dissolved before it could present formal recommendations to the Board of Education or district leaders.

One short-term goal identified by a PAC member was the concept of an A-G Report Card for parents to regularly monitor their students' progress and on-track status. While the A-G Task Force dissolved, the PAC has remained in communication with district staff to support the development of this idea.

Recently, the PAC learned that next semester transcripts will be mailed to all high school families to inform them about their students' A-G status. While the transcript is not an formal A-G Report Card, it is a step in the right direction to keep families informed and improve communication. In addition, in 2017-2018 both students and parents will have online access to student transcripts through the Student Information System *Synergy* while Information Technology (IT) continues to develop a customized A-G Report Card as a longer-term, uniform strategy to communicate with families about their students' A-G progression.

PAC members are committed to identifying and building upon mechanisms, structures and systems to improve and promote better home-school communication and believe the A-G Report Card will:

- Create a uniform process to communicate with families and students of their A-G status
- Increase awareness about A-G graduation requirements
- Empower families and students to monitor their student's A-G progress
- Foster home-school communication

Instructional Calendar Committee

PAC has been part of the 2017-2018 Instructional Calendar Committee, which has been discussing several potential changes for next year. Parents for Public Schools-SF (PPS-SF) has created a survey to gather input from families across the district to help inform decisions and minimize potential hardships for families and the interruption of student learning. The Parent Advisory Council encourages families to take the survey, which will remain live on the PPS website through Friday, December 16th. The survey is available in English, Chinese and Spanish.

Providing Input for the Superintendent Search

The PAC will be meeting with Leadership Associates to provide input on the superintendent search this Wednesday, December 14th at our regularly scheduled PAC meeting. The PAC lead team realized that many of the advisories were scheduled to meet with Leadership Associates during the day when many parents have to work or pick up their children from school. For this reason, the PAC has extended an invitation to members of other advisories to join our PAC meeting to ensure their voices are captured and reflected in the community feedback from parents.

In general, the PAC requests that district leadership consider working-families' schedules when coordinating input sessions for such critical topics. Thank you.

If you have any questions or comments about this report, or the PAC's work in general, please contact the PAC at (415) 355-2201, or at pac@sfusd.edu. You can also visit our website at www.pacsf.org