



# San Francisco Board of Education Parent Advisory Council

## Report to the Board of Education

November 15, 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 highlights the PAC's priorities for this school year, our process for developing action plans, and actions in progress.

### Priorities for the PAC in 2016-2017

In order to set PAC priorities for 2016-2017, PAC members looked at student achievement data and demographics, revisited our priorities from last year, and explored new ideas. PAC members also considered how our work might have the greatest impact in bringing families' questions, concerns and ideas to the Board and district leaders. As a result of this process, the PAC established the following priorities to engage families and represent parent perspectives for the 2016-2017 school year:

- **Advocate for Racial Equity**, especially with **the review of the Student Assignment process**, the implementation of **Safe and Supportive Schools Initiative**, and the **African American Achievement and Leadership Initiative**.
- **Strengthen the implementation of the Lau Plan, supporting programs and services for English Language Learners**, particularly to increase reclassification rates and access to district information in their home language.
- **Strengthen Special Education Services** to be more inclusive in practice.
- **Advocate for a cohesive approach to Family Engagement across SFUSD departments, divisions and schools** to support authentic engagement and site-based accountability.
- **Improve mechanisms for Home-School Communication**, especially when students are struggling academically, and promote the implementation of a uniform A-G reporting policy
- **Explore transportation solutions to address challenges families are experiencing**, working with district staff, city officials and community partners to address these issues.
- **Continue our work with the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP)**, actively participate on the LCAP Task Force, support community engagement, and explore the development of a LCAP Toolkit to shift to a systemic approach with community engagement.

## **Developing Action Plans**

PAC members have already started developing project plans and will continue to work on them at our next PAC meeting on Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. PAC members will develop specific goals and action plans for the PAC's work in our priority areas. Project goals will be reviewed and approved by the entire council.

## **Actions Regarding Transportation**

Last year during both of the PAC's outreach campaigns with the Our Children, Our Families initiative and the LCAP, we heard families express their concerns about how transportation impacts school choice, chronic absenteeism, and student and families' ability to participate in after school programs and school events. The PAC is taking steps to ensure what families shared will help inform SFUSD's work regarding transportation moving forward.

The PAC also understands that transportation is a challenge that extends beyond the jurisdiction of our district and any viable, sustainable solution will require greater collaboration with city officials and departments. Earlier today PAC met with district staff from several SFUSD offices, including Transportation, Policy and Operations, Sustainability, Early Education, and the Educational Placement Center, as well as with Supervisor Katy Tang and representatives from the Mayor's Office to learn about what efforts are currently underway to address transportation challenges across the city. The PAC plans to convene a public forum early in the New Year to discuss transportation and explore solutions to the major challenges students and families are experiencing.

In addition, the PAC will participate in SFUSD's newly formed transportation working group, which will focus on developing the transportation plan called for by the transportation resolution passed by the Board last year. The Office of Sustainability secured a grant from the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency to hire a transportation planner to help draft the plan and possibly staff the working group.

## **Update on Post IEP Family Survey and the Alternative Dispute Resolution Program**

At the next PAC meeting on Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, Laura Savage, Ombudsperson, and Ricki Jo Scott, Program Administrator, from Special Education Services will provide updates on the district's post IEP Family Survey and the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program, respectively.

*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](mailto:pac@sfusd.edu). You can also visit our website at [www.pacsf.org](http://www.pacsf.org)*