



San Francisco Board of Education Parent Advisory Council

Report to the Board of Education

December 12, 2017

The role of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is to represent parent voices and perspectives to inform Board of Education policy discussions. This report provides an update on the PAC's activities to support a few of our priorities areas of work, including transportation, the alignment of preK-3rd grade and improving home-school communication.

Transportation

In November and December, PAC member Rebecca Page and Program Coordinator, Georgia Williams-Bratt, met with SFUSD Transportation Fellow, Ilse Villacorta-Alatriste, from the Office of Sustainability regarding her work to gather feedback from various stakeholders about school transportation opportunities and challenges to address.

During our initial meeting, the PAC had the opportunity to share the concerns families raised during community conversations over the past two years about transportation and its impacts on school choice, tardiness, chronic absenteeism, as well as students and family engagement and the ability to participate in afterschool programs and school events. It is important to raise these issues again, particularly since the conversation about student assignment has started for the year with the Ad Hoc Committee Meetings on Student Assignment. These two systems are intricately linked and identifying solutions to improve one requires consideration of the other.

Additionally, we shared considerations and ideas the PAC heard from the community, which we brought before to the Board of Education and district leaders last February regarding transportation, urging actions to:

- Address the limited transportation options for families living on Treasure Island and its impact on school choice, truancy and student and family participation in afterschool programs and activities and school events
- Consider creating central pick-up and drop-off zones that align with existing SFUSD school bus routes to maximize service and increase ridership, particularly for families living on Treasure Island
- Work with city officials to explore:
 - Increasing the number schools and students served by SFMTA School Trippers
 - Expanding the service of the 10 most popular SFMTA bus lines during school commute hours
 - Assessing the need to increase the number of SFMTA bus lines that augment their service during school commute hours (beyond the 10 already identified)

In turn, Ms. Villacorta-Alatrisme shared some basic goals established to measure transportation outcomes and ideas to increase green, sustainable options for SFUSD families. She also noted emerging themes gathered from her research interviews and data collection. Ms. Villacorta-Alatrisme will use this information to draft a SFUSD Transportation Plan and will seek community feedback on the proposal in March-April 2018. Once revised to reflect community input, the plan will be presented to the Board of Education for approval later this spring.

Ms. Villacorta-Alatrisme is also overseeing the development of a transportation portal website specifically designed for principals, in which all information about transportation resources will be centralized to facilitate use and access. The PAC would like to see a similar resource created for families and made available in multiple languages.

Transportation Next Steps

As one of our areas of focus this year, the PAC is committed to collaborating with Ms. Villacorta-Alatrisme and is willing to support her work in the following ways:

- Connect Ms. Villacorta-Alatrisme with families on Treasure Island to gather their questions, ideas and concern about the very limited transportation options and its impact.
- Participate in the community review process in spring 2018 to inform the transportation plan, and help spread the word about opportunities parents, families and other community members will have to provide feedback.
- Help modify the content from principal-designated website to make it family-friendly, useful and accessible to parents and families and ensure it is available in multiple languages.

Early Education Department/Out of School Time Collaboration

To support the implementation of the preK-3rd grade alignment and strengthen early learning outcomes, the PAC is working with staff from the Early Education Department and Out of School Time Office to improve its enrollment processes. The PAC will facilitate two focus groups in January-February 2018, one in the Bayview and another in the Mission. We will gather feedback from families about how to make the application process more family-friendly for both programs, including reducing the amount of duplicated paperwork, exploring options for creating office hours to accommodate working families and informing how to improve customer service overall.

San Francisco Teacher Residency Program

On December 1, 2017 five PAC members participated on a parent panel for the San Francisco Teacher Residency (SFTR) Program. PAC members shared varying perspectives regarding their experiences with home-school communication and forming strong partnerships with their children's teachers. They also addressed questions from the cohort of 21 teacher residents, who are working as co-teacher apprentices in several of our public schools across the district.

This year marks the seventh year the PAC has collaborated with the SFTR Program to exchange ideas about family engagement to explore strategies that foster successful home-school partnerships. The PAC values the SFTR Program's approach to family engagement as an integral part of teacher training and recognizing the important role it plays in teachers getting to know their students, building strong relationships and supporting positive student outcomes.

Skype Interviews to Inform the Redesign of the SFUSD Website

PAC members will be participating in Skype interviews this week and next to provide feedback for the SFUSD Website Redesign Project being managed by Exygy. It is reassuring to know that the designers made it a priority to seek diverse user perspectives, including non English-speaking participants and users who may have a disability. We look forward to seeing the results when the project is completed.

Next PAC Meeting

The next PAC meeting is tomorrow Wednesday, December 13th from 5:45-8:00pm. We will be meeting in the cafeteria on the 3rd floor of 555 Franklin Street.

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