



# San Francisco Board of Education Parent Advisory Council

## Report to the Board of Education

September 12, 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. The PAC does not meet over the summer recess, but is now back in session and working to establish priorities for the year.

### Setting the Stage for the School Year

The PAC held its first meeting of the school year on Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, welcoming both returning and new PAC members. Traditionally, we invite the Superintendent of Schools to join us to talk about the district's top priorities for the school year and to help shape our own. However, since the PAC met with Superintendent Dr. Vincent Matthews in June, we decided to follow his lead and explore how our individual and collective leadership stories might shape the work of PAC this year.

Dr. Matthews' personal story is a powerful one. It exemplifies, reflects and demonstrates the importance family engagement has on student outcomes. Through his story we learn how his mother's advocacy changed the trajectory of his educational experience and set him on a course to lead him to where he is today. Dr. Matthews' story is one of hope, inspiration and aspiration for all SFUSD students and families. Students need to know their potential will be cultivated, valued and reflected back to them when they enter our schools, regardless if they have someone to advocate on their behalf or not. Until then, the PAC remains committed to supporting actions that build the capacity of families, district staff and community partners to engage and advocate for efforts that will improve student outcomes for all.

To this end, PAC members started the process of establishing priorities by conducting a Gallery Walk. We reviewed SFUSD data, student demographics and trends to help provide context for our work. In addition, we revisited U.S. Supreme Court landmark decisions that still inform education policies today, including *Brown vs. the Board of Education*, *Lau vs. Nichols* and *Plyer vs. Doe*. PAC members will continue this process at the next PAC meeting, which is tomorrow September 13<sup>th</sup>.

### Special Education Services

One area PAC members intend to focus on is efforts to strengthen Special Education Services and the implementation of inclusive practices across the district. PAC members wonder who will be leading the charge of the department with the recent departure of Dr. Elizabeth Blanco and Guadalupe Guerrero, who was tasked with this role at the start of this school year.

## **Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Task Force**

Likewise, the PAC will continue to collaborate with the SFUSD LCAP Task Force, which held its first meeting on August 31<sup>st</sup>. The PAC looks forward to working closely with our community and district partners to inform and improve the budget process, community engagement and the overall implementation of the California's equity-based funding model. The next LCAP Task Force meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> from 4-5:30pm at 555 Franklin Street.

## **Sugary Tax Advisory Committee**

In July, PAC staff was notified that the Parent Advisory Council is charged with nominating a SFUSD parent or guardian to serve on the Sugary Tax Advisory Committee, who in turn, will be appointed by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, as specified in the legislative policy. Needless to say, this discovery came as a complete surprise and presented the challenge of a short timeline to reach out to our families, community and district partners to request their help in sharing this announcement with their respective networks. To support an authentic, fair and transparent process, we specifically called upon the leaders of other district advisories to share this opportunity with their families, specifically the African American Parent Advisory Council, the District English Learner Advisory Committee, the Indian Education Program Parent Advisory Committee and the Special Education Community Advisory Committee.

The PAC recognizes that July is a difficult time to reach families, as they tend to be less engaged during the summer. As a result, we believe the timing had an impact on the response rate and number of applicants, which was minimal. Still, given the mission of the PAC, we wanted to ensure whoever is appointed as a SFUSD parent representative will bring diverse voices to the work of the committee, especially from historically underrepresented communities, as well as those most impacted by the consumption of sugary drinks and the health consequences that ensue.

The PAC selected Janna Cordeiro. As part of our process, we interviewed Ms. Cordeiro to establish a mutual understanding of expectations, as well as to determine her alignment with and support of the PAC's mission. A few expectations as the SFUSD parent representative are:

- Represent families across the city – not individual family or community's needs
- Attend at least one PAC meeting during the school year to update PAC members on the activities, proposals, and actions of the Sugary Tax Advisory Committee.
- Be prepared to gather input from PAC members to inform discussions and decisions of the Sugary Tax Advisory Committee
- Support actions that reinforce the SFUSD Wellness Policy adopted by the SFUSD Board of Education.

PAC members voted unanimously to approve the nomination of Janna Cordeiro to the Sugary Tax Advisory Committee at the PAC meeting on August 30, 2017. Ms. Cordeiro's nomination goes before the Board of Supervisors' Rules Committee meeting tomorrow Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 2pm for approval. Please see Ms. Cordeiro's application attached.

*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)*