



San Francisco Board of Education Parent Advisory Council

Year-End Report to the Board of Education

June 12, 2018

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 provides an update on some of the activities of the PAC over last couple of months, as well as a summary of the work we did during the 2017-2018 school year.

SFUSD Transportation Plan and Treasure Island

In April, the PAC collaborated with SFUSD Transportation Fellow, Ilse Villacorta-Alatrisme, from the Office of Sustainability to organize and facilitate a meeting about transportation with families who live on Treasure Island. We gathered their ideas, questions and concerns to help inform the development of the SFUSD Transportation Plan. Many families expressed a sense of isolation, a feeling of being forgotten and wanted to ensure their voices would help shape any transportation plan that is adopted by the district or the City as a whole. Participants asked that we share the following messages with district leaders and San Francisco City Officials:

“Students have different needs and have to choose schools based on transportation.”

“We are part of San Francisco. The only time they remember us [on Treasure Island] is at election time. We are the most rural part of San Francisco. What don’t you see?!”

“How can you discount us out here? No library, no school, limited community youth programs.”

“Don’t want to say the most disenfranchised community, but we are and we’re part of the community.”

“Come here. Visit us!”

KTO12 Water Cooler Network Convening: Local Control and Accountability Plan Stakeholder Engagement

In late April, PAC staff was invited to Sacramento by the Opportunity Institute to participate on a state-wide panel to discuss SFUSD LCAP stakeholder engagement. It was a chance to highlight the work of the LCAP Task Force as a collaborative: what we have done well; areas we still need to improve and build on the process; and why this work is important.

One aspect of the work we need to rethink is how to shift to a more sustainable model of gathering stakeholder feedback, especially as we continue to support efforts for *all* schools to be more inclusive and transparent in their site planning process. While many schools are already modeling this practice others need support to engage their diverse school communities, particularly families of students intended to benefit from the state’s funding formula and our own district’s priorities.

SFUSD Board Policy 6020 Parent Involvement

At our PAC meeting in April, PAC members reviewed and discussed the SFUSD Board Policy 6020 Parent Involvement Policy to provide feedback for State and Federal Programs. Overall, PAC members agree with the policy as written but had questions about accountability and implementation of the policy, questions that echo what we have heard during LCAP stakeholder engagement.

Some of the question PAC members raised are as follows:

- What happens if the Parent Involvement Policy is not actually implemented at the school?
- Who is held accountable?
- Who is responsible for follow-up?
- How do we get the support we need?

The PAC shared this feedback with State and Federal Programs.

Family Culture and Climate Survey

PAC members invited **Mele Lau-Smith**, Executive Director of **Community Schools and Family Partnerships** to attend our last PAC meeting on June 6th **to discuss the Family Culture and Climate Survey**. Specifically, PAC members wanted to discuss the possibility of using the survey to collect family feedback for areas of concerned that were mentioned during the LCAP stakeholder engagement. For example, questions that would address how successful schools are at establishing community across difference, or building cultural sensitivity; how they would rate their students' access to technology both at home and school; access to and effectiveness of academic supports at school and those provided through community partners; absenteeism for their students and insights into the challenges that may play a role; and finally, understanding restorative practices and implementation at their school.

Likewise, PAC members would to see the district share the results of these surveys more broadly with families across the district as well as outline plans to address needs that surface from these surveys.

The PAC's Work in 2017-2018

Last week the PAC held its final meeting of the year and we had the opportunity to reflect on our work over the year identifying areas of growth, impact and room for improvement. We were excited by new areas of work, particularly the collaboration with the Early Education Department to gather stakeholder feedback on the Out of School Time enrollment process as well as our efforts to strengthen our work with the other district advisories and staff from the Family Engagement and Empowerment Program by holding the first SFUSD District Advisory Alignment Summit. These endeavors help set the stage for future collaboration.

Major Outreach Campaigns to Engaging Families and Communities in District Policy

Through joint efforts with our community and district partners, **we reached over 350** families, staff and community members through **24 different conversations** to gather input for the district's **the Local Control and Accountability Plan**. Once again, this major outreach campaign allowed the PAC to strengthen our work and bring parent voices and perspectives to Board commissioners and district leaders.

Another priority area and focus for the PAC this year was supporting the collaboration with the Early Education Department to gather stakeholder feedback on the Out of School Time enrollment process. We were able to **hear from over 70 participants and make recommendations** based on the themes we heard.

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. Vincent Matthews** to provide input for **hiring the new Chief of Special Education**
- **Exypy consultants** to **provided feedback on the SFUSD website redesign through interviews**
- Consultants hired to develop the **SFUSD Service Standards**
- **Mele Lau-Smith**, Executive Director of **Community Schools and Family Partnerships** to discuss the Annual **Family Culture and Climate Survey**
- **Transportation Fellow, Ilse Villacorta-Alatriste**, from the **Office of Sustainability** to support the development of the SFUSD Transportation Plan
- **Jesch Reyes** and **Ritu Khanna** from the **Research, Planning and Assessment Office** and **Lita Blanc**, **President of the United Educators of San Francisco** to plan for the **SFUSD Assessment Committee**
- **Commissioners Stevon Cook**, **Mark Sanchez**, **Shamann Walton** and President Hydra **Mendoza-McDonnell**

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.

Supporting Networks, Task Forces and Collaborative Actions:

- PAC members participated on a **parent panel for the San Francisco Teacher Residency (SFTR) Program** to share ideas about successful partnerships with families.
- 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 **met regularly with Ilse Villacorta-Alatriste, Transportation Fellow**, to discuss the development of **the SFUSD Transportation Plan.**
- PAC staff supported the **School Portfolio Planning Committee** helping to identify a candidate to lead the work of this committee.
- Likewise, PAC participated on the **Arts Education Master Plan (AEMP) Advisory Committee.**
- For the first time, the **African American Parent Advisory Council (AAPAC)**, the **Community Advisory Committee for Special Education (CAC)**, the **District English Learner Advisory Council (DELAC)** and the **PAC** partnered with **staff** from the **Family Partnership and Empowerment Program** to **convene** the first **SFUSD Advisory Alignment Summit** with over **70 participants.**
- The **AAPAC, CAC, DELAC and PAC** presented **joint recommendations** to the Board of Education and **district leaders to inform** the SFUSD 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 work of the PAC; provide interpretation and translation services; and offer childcare and refreshments for community meetings, as well as secure the organizational funding to lead this work. The PAC’s organizational achievements during this school year include:

- **Renewed funding** with the **Evelyn & Walter Haas Jr. Fund**
- **Continued fiscal sponsorship** with **Community Initiatives.** This relationship is instrumental to the sustainability of the PAC and allows staff to focus on program priorities while ensuring financial accountability.
- **Recruited three new members** to the PAC, and **retaining eight current** PAC members whose terms have not expired.

Moving Forward

The PAC is pleased with our accomplishments of bringing family voices and perspectives to the Board of Education this year. We look forward to continuing to move our work forward next school year and partnering with SFUSD staff and our community partners to engage diverse families in our district and support the success of all 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