



San Francisco Board of Education Parent Advisory Council

Report to the Board of Education

September 8, 2015

The role of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is to represent parent voices and perspectives to inform Board of Education policy discussions. The PAC does not convene over the summer but some PAC members worked on a few of projects, including providing feedback on SFUSD's website, tabling to support community outreach and preparing for our first meeting of the year.

Providing Feedback on the SFUSD Website

In July, PAC members met with Joyce Tsai, the Online Communications Coordinator from the Office of Public Outreach and Communications, to provide suggestions on how to improve the Language Pathway section of the SFUSD website and make it more parent-friendly. A few highlights include:

1. Provide a brief introduction to this section of the website so readers know from the onset that there are five different language pathways described in this section. This is an opportunity for the district to celebrate its ability to offer five distinct pathways to meet the diverse language needs and desires of its students and families.
2. Create a live link for each of the five pathways listed in the introduction for readers to go directly to the pathway of interest without having to scroll through others to reach the one they want.
3. Use a chart to compare and contrast the different pathways, distinguish the eligibility criteria, and show the percentage of instruction provided in English vs. the targeted language. A table makes the content easier to understand, is visually appealing and easier on eye of the reader.
4. Provide a glossary of terms or cross-reference the definition of words. PAC members like the idea of tool tips that appear when the cursor hovers over a word.

These are some suggestions, among others, that PAC shared with district staff. The PAC recognizes this is not a high priority project, and therefore, while suggestions are being considered it may be some time before any changes are reflected the SFUSD website.

PAC Community Outreach

For the third summer in a row, the PAC had an outreach table at the BMagic Annual Back-to-School Celebration on August 15th. Three PAC members and a member from the African American Parent Advisory Council volunteered at our information table. It was a chance to increase the PAC's visibility, connect with the community and network with other community partners serving students and families in the Bayview.

Setting the Stage for the School Year

The PAC held its first meeting of the school year on Wednesday, August 26th. PAC members appreciate Superintendent Carranza for coming to our meeting. His presentation was a chance to hear about the district's top priorities for the new school year, how he sees the work of the PAC supporting these areas of focus and helps set the tone for aligning our own priorities with SFUSD's overall goals of student achievement, access and equity, and accountability to students and their families.

In addition, Margaret Farruggio, district staff from the Special Education Department, attended the first PAC meeting along with the current chair, Katie Russell, and former chair, Kimberly Webb, of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for Special Education. They presented the Local Plan for Special Education. PAC members value learning about the plan, having the opportunity to ask questions and especially appreciate members from another advisory presenting on a topic of mutual interest.

Next week the PAC is meeting on Wednesday, September 16th to continue with the process of setting our priorities for this year, and identifying our project teams to work on different issues. We'll report the results of this process next month.

LCAP Task Force

The SFUSD LCAP Task Force also held its first meeting of the year on Thursday, August 26th. The PAC is helping again this year with the coordination and convening of the task force and has created a binder to document agendas, notes and reports pertaining to the work of this group. We will continue to report on this work throughout the year. The next LCAP Task Force meeting is Thursday, September 17th from 4-5:30pm at 555 Franklin Street.

SFUSD 3rd Annual Family Empowerment Conference

The PAC is currently working with district and community partners to support the planning, coordination and outreach for the SFUSD's Third Annual Family Empowerment Conference, which is being co-sponsored by the African American Parent Advisory Council (AAPAC), CAC for Special Education and the District English Learners Advisory Committee (DELAC). The conference will take place on Saturday, October 17th from 9am-2pm and will be hosted at Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided in addition to interpretation and childcare services. Participants are encouraged to pre-register to ensure adequate staffing for childcare. More information for this event will be available on the district website soon.

*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*