



San Francisco Board of Education Parent Advisory Council

Report to the Board of Education

December 11, 2018

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 recent activities of the PAC.

Appreciation of Commissioners

The PAC would like to express our gratitude to Commissioners Matt Haney, Emily Murase, and Shamann Walton for their years of service to SFUSD students and families. They have been strong advocates for equity and supportive of district initiatives intended to close the gap in achievement and opportunity. Thank you for your contributions to SFUSD students and families. We hope you will continue to support SFUSD through your future endeavors.

Welcome New and Re-elected Commissioners

The PAC also welcomes recently appointed, newly elected Commissioner Faauga Moliga to the Board of Education. We look forward to meeting with you in the near future and working together to serve SFUSD students and families.

Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Task Force Data Forum

Last week the LCAP Task Force held the SFUSD's Annual Data Forum. The theme this year was ***Turning Data into Action: Telling the Story Behind the Numbers***. This event brought together families, district leaders, and community partners to review goals, indicators, and outcomes identified in the SFUSD Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP). This event is the first phase of LCAP stakeholder engagement and helps set the tone for the school planning process, which starts early in the New Year.

Although we had less participation this year, we now have new tools and resources that will be useful for families and site leaders for the school planning process. We would like to thank district staff who supported this event and helped lead the breakout sessions. We extend a special appreciation to the Research, Planning, and Assessments team for helping with the resource fair and creating a QR (quick response) Code for every SFUSD school. Families can quickly access data for their students' schools on their phones with these codes.

The next LCAP Task Force meeting is this Thursday, December 13, 2018 from 4-5:30pm at 555 Franklin Street on the 3rd floor in the cafeteria.

Supporting All SFUSD Schools to Offer An Exceptional Educational Experience:

One of the PAC's priorities for the 2018-2019 school year is to address issues of access and equity, particularly related to areas of inequities of school fundraising, the student enrollment system, and access to special programs in order to ensure every SFUSD school offers an exceptional educational experience for each student. This month, PAC members met with the Second District PTA and SFUSD SPARK to better understand PTA fundraising across the district, explore ideas for expanding fundraising to provide support for all schools, and to examine how other districts, including Santa Monica and Palo Alto in California, and Portland, Oregon are addressing this issue.

We learned that 64 of the 136 schools in SFUSD have a PTA and some schools have their own foundations. PTAs are nonprofits and vary in the level of fundraising they can generate to support individual school site budgets, priorities, and funding gaps. Several other schools have active Parent Teacher Organizations (PTOs) or other parent fundraising groups. In addition, we discovered that SPARK is the nonprofit arm of SFUSD, and is focused on bringing in resources and support for Vision 2025, closing the achievement gap, and early education initiatives.

PAC members are interested in identifying solutions to the equity gaps created by the ability of select schools to fund supplemental art or science programming through successful parent fundraising, when such fundraising efforts are out of reach for other family and school communities. PAC members would like to draw attention to these disparities and identify ways to encourage additional funding to support every school so all students across the district have equal and equitable access to arts, science, and support.

For example, all SFUSD elementary schools receive a minimum of two days of Visual and Performing Arts Programs (VAPA) instruction in dance, drama, music or visual arts (whole class instruction) and a minimum of one day of 4th/5th grade instrumental music (pull out instruction). Currently, this program is funded through the voter-approved Public Education Enrichment Fund (PEEF). However, schools that can raise additional funds, through parent groups, are able to supplement additional days of arts instruction.

It is important to raise this issue now, particularly since the conversation about student assignment is in progress and there is talk of exploring a neighborhood, zoned and/or "home" base model in Resolution 189-25A1, "Developing a Community Based Student Assignment System," which is up for Board approval this evening. At this point in time, not all schools offer the same or even an equitable educational experience. If we are going to talk about changing the student assignment system we need to talk about how to bring to scale the educational experience across all SFUSD schools so every seat in our district is desirable and in demand. Expanding fundraising efforts for the benefit of all is one way to begin this process. The PAC will continue to work on this project and explore equitable funding systems to support an exceptional educational experience for each and every SFUSD student.

Inclusive Schools Week:

The PAC participated on the planning committee for the district-wide celebration of Inclusive Schools Week, which took place last week and culminates tomorrow evening at Mission High School with the screening of “Intelligent Lives,” a film by Dan Habib. The screening is free and reflects the theme, “Kaleidoscope of Friends: Education takes on a beautiful shape when all children are included.”

Next PAC Meeting

The next PAC is tomorrow Wednesday, December 12th. We moved our meeting to Mission High School located at 3750 18th Street to participate in the final event of Inclusive Schools Week. PAC members will meet from 5:45-6:50pm to conduct regular PAC business and adjourn in time to attend the screening of “Intelligent Lives.” We hope you can join us at this event.

*If you have any questions or comments about this report, or sthe 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*