



San Francisco Board of Education Parent Advisory Council

Report to the Board of Education

October 9, 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 presents highlights from the PAC's recent monthly meetings, the development of upcoming activities, and our invitation to discuss Resolution 189-25A1, "Developing a Community Based Student Assignment System for SFUSD" with its authors.

Welcoming New and Returning PAC Members

The PAC held its first meeting of the school year on Wednesday, August 29th, bringing both returning and new PAC members together. We also welcomed Superintendent Vincent Matthews at our meeting to hear his top priorities for the district and identify how the PAC could support them.

PAC members also started the process of establishing priorities for the year with a Gallery Walk. We reviewed SFUSD data, student demographics, and trends to help contextualize our work. Likewise, we revisited pivotal U.S. Supreme Court landmark decisions that still impact education policies today, including *Brown vs. the Board of Education*, *Lau vs. Nichols*, and *Plyer vs. Doe*. At our next meeting on Wednesday, October 10, 2018 PAC members will finalize priorities for the year and establish project teams to begin developing work plans.

Feedback on Family Guides for the Fountas & Pinnell Reading Assessment

At our meeting on September 12th, Michelle Maghes, Supervisor from the Office of Research, Planning & Assessments (RPA), joined us to gather feedback on drafts of the new Family Guides for the Fountas & Pinnell (F&P) reading assessments. RPA is redesigning the F&P assessment reports and creating Family Guides to go with them. The guides are designed to help families understand the characteristics of the different reading levels, identify reading behaviors, and support their students as readers at home. PAC members reviewed samples of multiple levels and provided written and verbal feedback.

These Family Guides were developed in response to the recommendations the District Assessment Committee made on May 8, 2018. PAC members appreciate the responsiveness of RPA in creating these tools so they could be implemented early in the new school year, and to ensure that the F&P assessment results could be shared with families in a meaningful way.

Resolution 189-25A1: Developing a Community Based Student Assignment System for SFUSD

The PAC has been working with the African American Parent Advisory Council (AAPAC), Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for Special Education, and the District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC) to coordinate a meeting with Commissioners Stevon Cook, Matt Haney, and Rachel Norton, authors of Resolution 189-25A1, “Developing a Community Based Student Assignment System for SFUSD.” Our respective advisory members have questions, concerns, and ideas about the resolution, which we would like to share with the commissioners to help inform their discussions, potential amendments and their decision-making process before it moves forward for full Board of Education approval.

We believe any resolution proposing major changes to systems that are directly linked to SFUSD keeping its promises to students and families, such as the student assignment system, needs to be informed by families from the very beginning. Ideally, the development of any such resolution is written with families’ questions, concerns, and ideas in mind. In addition, it would include input from the formal district advisory councils whose mission is to ensure that the perspectives of our most historically underserved families are included and inform the conversation, and ultimately, the solutions.

Many of the concerns the PAC has raised over the years in past reports regarding student assignment still remain issues for the Board and district leadership to address today. We share these concerns with members of the other advisories, which at the core are issues of access and equity. Changing the student assignment system, as proposed, does not resolve or address these concerns. Members of the AAPAC, CAC, DELAC, and PAC want to be part of the conversation to help inform solutions that will address the ongoing challenges that result from our current student assignment system.

To this end, we look forward to meeting with Commissioners Cook, Haney, and Norton on Wednesday, October 17th to have an open dialogue about Resolution 189-25A1, “Developing a Community Based Student Assignment System for SFUSD.”

Alignment Summit: Relationships Matter

The PAC is working with leadership from the AAPAC, CAC for Special Education, the DELAC, the Early Education Department, Office of Family Partnerships and Empowerment, and LGBTQ Support Services to plan and organize the Second Annual Alignment Summit. Our theme this year is “Relationships Matter.” We will be offering four workshops in the following topics: Respecting Cultural Differences, Addressing the Community Barriers to Relationship Building, Promoting Anti-Bullying (prosocial) Behavior, and Building Cross Collaboration Relationships. Dr. Aminah Norris, Assistant Professor at Sacramento State University, will deliver our keynote address.

The Alignment Summit is an opportunity for the district advisories to bring together our respective parent leaders to foster relationships, enhance leadership development, and build alliances across diverse communities. This event will be held on Saturday, November 3rd from 9am to 2pm at James Denman Middle School. Childcare, breakfast, lunch, and interpretation services will be provided.

SFUSD Enrollment Fair

The PAC will host a table at the SFUSD Enrollment Fair this coming Saturday, October 13, 2018 at John O'Connell High School. We encourage families to stop by to learn more about the PAC and how to get involved with our organization.

*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*