



San Francisco Board of Education Parent Advisory Council

PAC UPDATE AND ACTION NOTES

FEBRUARY 23, 2010

(These are not official meeting minutes!)

This is an update on actions discussed at the PAC's meeting on February 16. The official Minutes from the February 16 meeting will be reviewed at the PAC's meeting on March 18th.

- ➔ **The PAC's next meeting will be on Thursday, March 18, from 6:00-8:30pm.** This meeting is scheduled for Thursday because there will be a meeting of the Board of Education as a Committee of the Whole to discuss the budget on Tuesday, March 16.
- ➔ **The PAC's meeting for April likely will be the week of April 20th.** We will schedule the date for this meeting after the Board of Education sets its committee meetings for April, to ensure our meeting is not in conflict with the Board Budget Committee.

The PAC discussed several major district initiatives, and how the PAC can be involved in them – or help to lead them. These notes include updated information and PAC action steps.

➔ **Changing Student Assignment**

The Board of Education intends to adopt a new student assignment policy on March 9. At the Ad Hoc committee meeting on Feb. 17, SFUSD staff presented changes to the proposal that was given to the Board on February 9 – which was different from the two options presented to the Board on February 2. The Board scheduled a committee meeting for Wednesday, February 24, to have more discussion before their vote. SFUSD staff Orla O'Keeffe will conduct a briefing for the PAC on Friday, February 26, to explain the current proposal and answer questions.

PAC members expressed great concern and frustration that the proposed policy was different from that discussed on February 2, that the changes have moved away from the emphasis on reducing the concentration of under-served students and providing equitable access to higher-performing schools – which are Board priorities – and that staff proposals do not reflect the community input. PAC staff and members speaking at Board meetings have shared these concerns with the Board, as well as frustration with the lack of transparency in this process.

We also noted that the proposal includes several positive elements, including an emphasis on placing high-demand and high-quality programs in communities that have not had these programs (for example, language immersion). At the same time, PAC members want to see the implementation plans for these programs, given the deep budget cuts the district is facing.

➤ **Community Engagement in the District's Budget Process**

Superintendent Garcia wants the Board to adopt a framework for the budget on March 23rd, in part so that schools have time this spring to plan for next year. Our concern with that timeline is ensuring there is ample opportunity for the community to understand and give opinions to inform the Board's decisions – and that the process is as transparent as possible.

The PAC agreed to work with PPS and district staff to co-sponsor three community forums, to provide information to the public and hear community feedback on the Superintendent's budget proposals. The PAC and PPS will help conduct small-group discussions at the forums, following a presentation by SFUSD staff.

PAC members shared serious concerns about whether co-sponsoring these forums would comprise the PAC's credibility, and agreed to do it only if we can pose critical questions and make alternative suggestions about the budget.

Deputy Superintendent Myong Leigh and Board Vice-President Hydra Mendoza agreed that the PAC and PPS can have time on the March 16th meeting of the Board as a Committee of the Whole to report on the findings and recommendations from the forums.

The forums will be in the evening, from 6:00-8:00pm, at three locations:

- Wednesday, March 3, at Horace Mann MS
- Wednesday, March 10, at Thurgood Marshall HS
- Thursday, March 11, at Francisco MS

Many PAC members offered to facilitate and support the small-group discussions at the forums (depending on the date), including Ruth B., Michelle, Tiana, Natasha, Betty, Georgia, and Nancy.

➤ **Teacher and Administrator Quality, Standards, Support & Accountability**

The "TAQ" team has been meeting frequently and conducting a lot of research on different aspects of teacher and administrator standards and accountability, implementing the A-G graduation requirements, and the Parent Engagement Plan. PAC members and staff also met with SFUSD staff in charge of teacher coaching and review, the A-G requirements, and the Parent Engagement Plan.

In the process we have seen how much these issues are connected with the overall issue of school and educator quality that are necessary for the success of any new student assignment system, as well as key in managing the budget crisis. We want to make sure we take advantage of opportunities in talking about the budget to clearly raise these issues, and will spend time in the PAC's meetings in March and April to discuss further action steps.

➤ **Bayview Community Empowerment Initiative**

Principals at elementary, middle and high schools in the Bayview have been working together with district staff to support their schools. They are working on a campaign to engage their communities in understanding and supporting these programs and initiatives. The PAC has been invited to the team's meetings, to learn more and support their parent engagement strategies. Ruth G. attended their meeting on February 18, where the principals decided to hold a community summit to focus on that process before the community budget forum.

- The Bayview Empowerment Summit II will be on Saturday, March 6, from 10am – 2pm at Thurgood Marshall HS.

➤ **Access to Afterschool Programs**

Ruth B. has been participating in the Afterschool for All Advisory Council. Mollie Matull is a member of the AFA Council, and is a former PAC member. Mollie invited the PAC to join her in a meeting with Deputy Superintendent Richard Carranza to talk about the district's work to align district-managed afterschool programs. The AFA Council endorsed this effort to align the programs run by ExCEL and the Child Development Centers, but information has not been made available about the details or plans for how this would work.

Ruth B. is not available for that meeting, but Michelle is willing to go – and is also familiar with both ExCEL and CDC afterschool programs.

Ruth B. requested that time be allocated at future PAC meetings to talk more about what's happening on the AFA Council, how the PAC's previous work on access to afterschool fits with these, and agree on action steps.