



San Francisco Board of Education Parent Advisory Council

PAC UPDATE & ACTION NOTES

OCTOBER 21, 2011

(These are not official meeting minutes!)

This is an update on issues and projects discussed at the PAC's meeting on October 18th. The official Minutes from the October meeting will be reviewed on November 15th.

➤ The next meetings of the PAC will be:

- **Tuesday, November 15th**
- Tuesday, December 6th
- Tuesday, January 17th & Tuesday, February 21st

Regular meetings of the PAC start at 6pm, and are held at 555 Franklin Street (the district's central office). Dinner, interpretation and childcare will be provided - but please let Ruth know if you plan to bring your children so we have enough materials & supplies on hand!

The Board of Education has tentatively scheduled a meeting as the "Committee of the Whole" on Tuesday, December 6, to discuss the district's revised **Family Engagement Plan**. The PAC will attend the Board's meeting as part of our regular meeting for that same evening, since this issue is so important to us and to the PAC's work.

➤ PAC Project Teams - Updates and Next Steps

PAC members and staff presented brief updates on what the PAC's Project Teams have been working on. We identified questions to follow up on, and agreed to some specific action steps. Each team will bring proposals for the PAC to consider at our meeting on November 15th.

➤ Core Curriculum/ Middle School Quality/Teacher & Administrator Accountability

Members of this committee are meeting with Board of Education commissioners and district staff to talk about the Core Curriculum standards and assessments, plans and timelines for improving middle schools, and ideas for engaging parents to strengthen these initiatives.

PAC members raised several questions we need to get answers for, including:

- How is the Core Curriculum related to assessments and tests? How are "assessments" different from "tests"?
- How are these assessments being used to support and improve teaching?

- How is this information being shared with parents, to help understand how their children are doing and ways to support them?
- How are teachers being informed about the value of these assessments, and supported to both conduct them and learn from the process?

The PAC approved a motion to recommend that the district develop a plan to let families know about the new curriculum standards, including how information from the assessments will be shared with parents. This should happen by January.

Information about plans and the timeline for improving middle schools, and how the assignment process will support equitable access to high-quality programs, should be made available as soon as possible.

Next steps:

- Meet with Board of Education commissioners and SFUSD staff leading these efforts, including staff at the Academics & Professional Development department and the middle school team.
- Include in the PAC's report to the Board of Education the importance of communicating with families about the new curriculum standards and the use of ongoing assessments to support student achievement - and our recommendation that the district have an action plan for doing this by January.
- Provide feedback to the draft *Communication Plan* being developed by the district's Office of Family and Community Engagement.
- Develop proposals for other concrete ways the PAC could engage parents in these initiatives and strengthen their implementation.

➤ **Restorative Practices & Improving School Climate**

PAC members met with the head of Pupil Services and the person who's coordinating implementation of Restorative Practices to learn more about their plan for implementing this across the district. We talked about the training that was given for middle school principals and other staff, and the three "demonstration schools" that are fully implementing Restorative Practices this year: Rosa Parks ES, SF Community School (K-8) and James Lick MS; Everett MS and Wallenberg HS are also committed to Restorative Practices.

Some of the goals of Restorative Practices are to make schools safer, to avoid suspensions and that kind of punitive approach to discipline, and to build strong school communities that support academic achievement as well as students' social and emotional health.

The PAC team thinks this would be a great issue to discuss through community conversations, to inform families about Restorative Practices, why the district has adopted this focus, and to strengthen how it's implemented at school sites.

Next steps:

- Invite the district’s coordinator for Restorative Practices to the next PAC meeting.
- Meet with people leading the process at the district’s demonstration schools.
- Develop a proposal for ways the PAC could conduct community conversations about Restorative Practices (in partnership with other organizations and/or schools).

➤ **Expanding Access to Afterschool Programs**

Miranda is the PAC’s representative to the Afterschool for All Advisory Council, and reported briefly on the meeting she went to in late August. She is also on the AfA Council’s “Program Quality” work group. She and Ruth attended the Council’s meeting on October 19 and will share information about that in the next PAC meeting.

PAC members have some questions and concerns about access to high-quality afterschool programs, including wondering who monitors programs to ensure that the process of choosing children for programs is equitable.

The district is planning to align how they run the two different kinds of afterschool programs managed by the SFUSD (ExCEL and Early Childhood Education); there are also plans to develop a sliding-scale fee system. This past summer Ruth met with the district managers for this process to let them know the PAC wants to have a chance to review and comment on the implementation plan before that is adopted. That plan is still in a very preliminary stage, but the district has promised they will share it with us as soon as possible.

Next steps:

- Meet with SFUSD staff leading these efforts, including managers of the ExCEL and Early Childhood Education programs.
- Participate in the Program Quality and Financing workgroups of the city’s Afterschool for All Advisory Council, to bring parent perspectives to these efforts and identify issues to bring back to the PAC.

➡ **PAC Reports to the Board of Education**

PAC members signed up to present the PAC’s report in the next few Board of Education meetings:

Tuesday, October 25	Patsy
Tuesday, November 8	Betty and Scott

➡ **Opportunities for Outreach and Networking**

Ruth passed a sign-up sheet for people to sign up to represent the PAC at several events and meetings we have been invited to participate in. Ruth will remind people about these events and get them information/materials as needed.

Event	When	Where	Who Signed Up
SFUSD/UESF/UASF Instructional Calendar Planning Committee	Weds., November 1, 3:00 - 4:30pm	555 Franklin	No one can do this
Parent Engagement Coalition	Weds., November 2, 10:00 - 11:30am	To be determined	(Send out an email with this info)
SFUSD Enrollment Fair	Saturday, November 5, 10am-12 noon	Concourse Exhibition Center, 8 th & Brannan	10am-12pm: Miranda 12-1pm: Betty 12-2pm: Buthienah & Carolyn

Please don't hesitate to contact Ruth if you have any questions. The PAC office number is (415) 355-2201. Be sure to check out the PAC's website, at www.pacsf.org!