



San Francisco Board of Education Parent Advisory Council

UPDATE AND ACTION NOTES

OCTOBER 3, 2009

(These are not official meeting minutes!)

This is a summary of the key action items addressed by the PAC at its meeting on September 29th, and additional information. The official Minutes will be reviewed at the PAC's next meeting.

➔ The Next Meeting of the PAC is Tuesday, October 20th, 6:00 – 8:30pm.

We set a schedule of meetings for this fall based on when the most people were available. We'll confirm these dates and make adjustments as needed. The next few meetings are scheduled for Tuesday evenings: **October 20th, November 17th and December 15th.**

➔ Redesigning the Student Assignment System

District staff are working closely with the Board so they can approve conceptual models for a new system at their committee meeting on Monday, October 19th. If they agree on models at that meeting, community conversations may begin in early November, and go through mid-January. The plan for community engagement includes a series of small, community-based conversations and a few larger, public forums. The PAC will work with PPS and other partners to convene parents by active outreach through schools and community organizations; SFUSD staff will publicize the forums, inform civic leaders of the process, and invite them to participate in additional conversations. This is the proposed timeline for community engagement:

October 19 BOE Committee meet; BOE agrees on a model for community discussion

November 7 SFUSD Enrollment Fair; hold one or two workshops on new SAS model

November 16 BOE Committee meeting; include public forum/discussion

December 7 BOE Committee meeting; include public forum/discussion

Mid-Nov. - mid-Jan: **PAC works w/PPS and other partners to lead small-group community conversations** organized through schools and community centers (significantly interrupted by Thanksgiving and winter break).

January 25 BOE Committee meeting; **PAC and PPS present report of findings**

February 9 First Reading of resolution for a new student assignment system

March 9 Board adopts a new student assignment system

PAC members talked about schools and community leaders they feel comfortable contacting to start setting up the community conversations. Ruth G. discussed this with the Parent Involvement Coalition members on Friday, October 2; several groups are interested in hosting or helping publicize the conversations (including the PTA and Coleman Advocates, and through the SF Family Support Network). The PAC team on student assignment will review the potential sites, identify gaps in our effort to reach a diverse and representative group of families, and develop a list of additional schools and community groups to approach about this project. Ruth G. will follow up with PAC members who weren't at the meeting to identify other sites.

Our goal – based on previous outreach campaigns – is to reach 200 parents/guardians through 15 conversations. PPS is committed to convening 5 additional conversations.

This is a preliminary list of sites/groups PAC members will contact about hosting a conversation:

School/Community Lead/Organization	PAC Contact
Richmond District Neighborhood Center/Eric Mar's office	Michelle
Western Addition/Mo'Magic	Michelle
Wu Yee Children's Center/Gordon Lau ES	Un Un
David Campos' office/Mission community	Nancy
Marshall ES or other Mission ES	Betty
Carver ES, Drew ES, Malcolm X Academy	Rochelle
MLK MS, Marshall HS, Willie Brown Academy	Quran
Bessie Carmichael K-8, Sanchez ES	Ruth G.
Presidio CDC or Tule Elk CDC	Mollie Matull (Ruth G.)
Yick Wo ES	Natasha

Ruth G. will provide PAC members a one-page flyer explaining this initiative and our goals, as well as talking points about the community conversations, to help with this outreach.

➡ **Developing the District's Parent Engagement Plan**

Last spring the Board of Education passed a resolution calling for a district-wide parent involvement plan, to set goals and standards for engaging families in their children's education, support parent leadership and advocacy, and hold school site and district staff accountable for meeting parent involvement objectives. A half-day "Summit" was held on Saturday, Sept. 26 to bring parents and the community into this process. Many PAC members attended the Summit, and felt it was a positive and successful event.

SFUSD staff plan to work with the Parent Involvement Coalition to develop the written plan, and PAC members agreed this is an important project for the PAC to be involved in. Ruth G. will keep the PAC informed about the process, and let people know how to provide feedback to the plan as draft versions become available.

➤ Identifying Issues to Work On

The PAC's work to engage families in district issues balances focusing on issues before the Board, to ensure that parent voices are included in policy discussions; bringing parent issues to the Board's attention, even if there aren't specific policy initiatives in action; and supporting other efforts to engage and empower parents to support their children's education. The PAC is currently focused on three main issues: community engagement in the student assignment redesign process, expanding access to high-quality afterschool programs, and supporting development of the district's Parent Engagement Plan. We recognize there are many other issues the PAC could address. We took a few minutes to identify some topics that PAC members are interested in discussing in the future, to consider working on:

- The district's budget (and pending budget cuts)
- New high school graduation requirements (the A-G requirements)
- School lunch/nutrition
- Parent volunteer recognition (especially in communities without a history of doing this)
- Publicizing the PAC (so parents know who we are & what we do)
- Reaching out to communities where people don't have a voice or know already how to be involved
- Creating/supporting mechanisms for parents with concerns about their child's school – so the issues can be addressed
- Providing information for parents about standards & curriculum so they can support their children
- Addressing: How to get parents to participate (at schools & in the district)

Chris Armentrout mentioned that one way for the PAC to be involved on the graduation requirements would be to have a member serve on the community task force that will be formed to support implementation of the new A-G requirements.

Ruth G. mentioned that the PAC could work with PPS and other partners to support community forums on the budget situation and pending budget cut. Myong Leigh, the SFUSD's Deputy Superintendent for Policy and Operations, is enthusiastic about this idea.

➤ Officer Elections

Nancy stepped up and accepted nomination to be the PAC's Parliamentarian. She was elected unanimously. The Officer position of Secretary is still open – but please consider stepping up to help with this! Let Ruth G. if you're interested or have any questions.