



San Francisco Board of Education Parent Advisory Council

UPDATE AND ACTION NOTES

From the September 1, 2009 PAC Meeting

(These are not the official minutes!)

This a summary of the key points addressed by the PAC at its meeting on September 1st. The official minutes will be reviewed for approval at the PAC's next meeting, on September 29th.

➔ **The Next Meeting of the PAC is Tuesday, September 29th, 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. For the next few months, the meetings are scheduled for Tuesday evenings:

September 29th, October 20th, November 17th and December 15th

The PAC provides childcare, dinner and interpretation for all regular meetings. Ruth G. will send out reminders and agenda information before each meeting – please let her know if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions.

➔ **PAC Goals for 2009-2010**

The PAC's mission is to engage parents/families in conversations about district issues, and ensure Board policies are informed by parent perspectives. The PAC's work is closely aligned with the priorities defined in the district's Strategic Plan. We briefly reviewed the PAC's goals for this school year, based on projects and priorities set by the PAC last year:

- Engage parents/families to inform changes to the student assignment system
- Advocate/follow up on our recommendations to expand access to high-quality afterschool programs
- Present reports at all regular Board of Education meetings & meet with individual Board commissioners, SFUSD staff and other district leaders
- Actively participate in the Parent Involvement Coalition, the San Francisco Coalition to Close the Achievement Gap, and the Afterschool For All Advisory Council
- Actively support developing the district's Parent Engagement and Partnership Plan
- Maintain / sustain / grow the PAC

➤ PAC Project Teams – Fall 2009

Several of the PAC's main projects/programs are already underway for this year. Ruth G. reviewed the status of these projects, announced key dates coming up, and invited PAC members to sign up for the projects they're interested in working on. Ruth G. will follow up to set meetings for the project teams, so we can talk more in depth about each issue.

➤ Redesigning the Student Assignment System

The PAC has been working closely with district staff and Parents for Public Schools to coordinate community engagement in the process to redesign the district's student assignment system. District staff is optimistic that the Board will soon approve conceptual models for a new system, so that we can hold community meetings for parents to talk about these models and give feedback on them. These community conversations may begin as early as mid-October – so we need to start planning them in the next few weeks!

Along with PPS, Ruth G. has been playing a major role to advise district staff on the redesign process, and to ensure that the voices of different communities are heard in this process (not just the people who come to school board meetings). PAC members affirmed that we should continue to play a large role in this process – and encourage our coalition partners to help convene community conversations, to reach more parents.

The Board of Ed. **Ad-Hoc Committee on Student Assignment** meets **Monday, Sept. 14th at 7pm** – and might agree on models at that meeting (or not).

PAC Members Interested in the Student Assignment Project Team

Ruth B.
Tiana
Michelle
Betty
Stelly
Natasha
Mandy

➤ Expanding Access to Afterschool Programs

Last spring the PAC presented our findings from a needs assessment survey to the Board, and our general recommendations for expanding access to high quality programs. The Superintendent's Cabinet discussed our findings, and the Board's Curriculum Committee wants to have an in-depth discussion of our findings and more detailed recommendations for addressing these issues. We need to follow up on this opportunity.

The PAC also has a seat on the city-wide Afterschool For All Advisory Council (which includes district staff, city agencies, community funders and afterschool program providers). We asked for a volunteer to be the delegate to the AFA council, and **Ruth Barajas offered to step into that role**. The AFA council is meeting Monday, Sept. 21st.

PAC Members Interested in the Afterschool Programs Team

Stelly
Michelle
Ruth B.
Natasha
Diane

➔ 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.

Over the summer, district staff began the process to develop a framework for this plan – and has set a half-day “summit” to bring community voices into the process. Ruth G. will send the flyer to everyone once we receive it.

The Summit will be on Saturday, September 26th from 8:30am-12:30pm.

➔ Participating in Coalitions

The PAC actively participates in two coalitions: the **Parent Involvement Coalition (PIC)**, which is convened by the SFUSD's Office of School/Family Partnership and includes many community groups who work closely with parents and schools; and the **San Francisco Coalition to Close the Achievement Gap (CTAG)**, which includes educators, parents, youth advocates, and community members. The PAC is on the steering committee for the CTAG coalition, along with Coleman Advocates and the SF Education Fund.

The PIC meets the first Friday of every month, at 10am. PAC members are welcome to attend these meetings – let Ruth G. know if you're interested and she'll get you information about the agendas and meeting location.

A CTAG meeting is being organized for later this month; Ruth G. will let everyone know when this will be, and see who might be interested in attending.

➡ **Delegates to Board of Education Meetings**

The PAC presents a brief report at each regular meeting of the Board of Education. Each member of the PAC takes a turn attending Board meetings and presenting the report. We have found it works best for people to pair up and share giving the report, when possible. Ruth G. will meet with people doing the report the week before, to talk about topics and key points to present; she will also develop a written report for the Board, which they prefer to receive a few days before the meeting.

The Board has requested that PAC members stay for as much of the meeting as possible, to better understand the issues they are addressing. (Ruth G. attends the meetings to support the PAC members, and to identify possible issues for the PAC to take up.)

We circulated a sign-up sheet for people to cover the Board of Education reports. People signed up for the following dates:

Sept. 8:	Un Un	Michelle
Sept. 22:	Mandy	
Oct. 13:	Natasha	Nancy
Oct. 27:	Un Un	
Nov. 10:	Betty	Tiana
Dec. 8:	Diane	Quran

➡ **New PAC Members – and Officer Elections!**

The PAC voted to recommend that the Board of Education appoint a new member to the PAC, Tiana Blunt. Ruth G. will work with the Board to put this action on their agenda.

The PAC still has several open seats, and we are accepting applications for these seats – so let Ruth G. know if you have suggestions for people we should encourage to apply. Applications are available in English, Chinese & Spanish on our website: www.pacsf.org

There are two open Officer positions to fill (from the current PAC membership): the Secretary and the Parliamentarian. We will talk about this more at the next meeting – but please consider stepping up to help with these roles! Let Ruth G. if you're interested or have any questions.