



San Francisco Board of Education
Parent Advisory Council

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the PAC

April 20, 2010

I. Attendance

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carolyn Alexander, Ruth Barajas, Georgia Bratt Williams, Nancy Gapasin Gness, Beatriz Gudino, Mandy Johnson, Stelly Kuo, Quran Mays, Michelle Menegaz.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tiana Blunt, Un Un Che, Diane Huang, Rochelle Fort, Natasha LaVine.

ALSO PRESENT: Ruth Grabowski, PAC Staff; Chris Armentrout, SFUSD.

II. Call to Order/Roll Call

Michelle Menegaz called meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Ruth B. moved to approve the Minutes from February 16, adding Carolyn as present at the February 16 meeting. Nancy seconded the motion. The Minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Update on SFUSD Issues

Ruth G. provided an update on SFUSD's budget process and negotiations between the SFUSD and UESF. The district and UESF have been negotiating around specific parts of the budget action plan - for example, the number of furlough days. Apparently they have reached agreement to have more furlough days next year, in order to avoid larger class size and teacher layoffs. Recently UESF walked away from the talks because the district wouldn't respond to non-monetary work rule change requests. The District declared negotiations at an impasse, and the Public Employment Relations Board agreed and assigned a mediator.

Chris Armentrout reported on the district's budget. The May revise will provide a more accurate picture of what's coming in the next fiscal year. Chris believes that SFUSD will continue to pursue grants, such as the School Improvement Grant, the Magnet Schools Grant, and the I3 Grant. Ruth G noted that, from today's meeting with US Department of Education Deputy Secretary Tony Miller, it's clear there is some dispute between the State and the Feds around whether school reforms are mandatory for low-performing schools, or conditional (required only if schools are receiving certain funds). Also, some parents at low-performing schools don't feel like they have a voice in the decision-making process.

Chris also reported on the Mello-Roos tax. SFUSD approved a parcel tax in 1990, after Loma Prieta, to repair earthquake damage and upgrade facilities. The parcel tax expires this year. The parcel tax renewal is on the ballot for June 8. The city is also proposing a second parcel tax

for the November ballot. This second parcel tax would dedicate a funding stream to Prop H programming. Currently, Prop H funding comes out of the city’s general fund. Prop H is set to expire in 2014; the proposed parcel tax would serve as an early renewal, would increase the annual revenues to the district (potentially from \$30 to \$50 million annually), and would reduce the budget impact of Prop H to the city. Details still need to be worked out.

Ruth G. provided an update on the proposed alignment of SFUSD-managed afterschool programs. The district has decided to hold off implementing the alignment of the ExCEL and CDC afterschool programs, and spend next year on a more thorough planning process.

Georgia reported on the work of the “Teacher and Administrator Quality” team (TAQ). The team reviewed the draft Parent Engagement Plan and made recommendations on the content and format of the Plan. Georgia sent the recommendations to Deena today. Ruth G. reported that Commissioner Yee has asked for PAC feedback on the PEP.

IV. Reflections on the Year So Far

Ruth G. presented a chart showing the PAC’s goals and accomplishments for the year so far. She then recorded the notes as PAC members shared “Pluses” and “Deltas” to evaluate the PAC’s work, strengths, and challenges this year.

+ / Strengths	Δ / Challenges / Wishes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People took initiative: we did things that we hadn’t set up goals for • PAC stood up for community re: student assignment • PAC seems like one voice - it’s not like one person is trying to credit, we’re all in it together • We’re developing an identity in the community - that we don’t work for the SFUSD, we represent parents • We work well as a team and have each other’s backs • PAC’s visibility, credibility and capacity are high • We work well with community partners • As someone with a disability I’ve learned I can go above and beyond, with the PAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have stuff written down that says what we do and our parameters and limits - who we are and what we do (and don’t do) • Need roles of officers written down • Also need to have written guidelines re: facilitating community conversations • Training opportunities: we’re asked to do stuff that maybe we don’t have experience with, especially for newer people need to do training on networking, public speaking, etc. • Want to have pictures of PAC members - so people can see who we are • Make a puzzle w/info re: PAC, partners, etc. • Sometimes maybe we agree too much - or people don’t feel comfortable saying something different. It’s important to have space for different opinions & perspectives in PAC discussions • We need a better / more simple & direct flyer recruiting people to volunteer with the PAC

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need set criteria for deciding which projects to take on • We get pulled into district and other people's issues a lot - need to be clear about our priorities and try not to get derailed
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V. What's Next: Priorities and Action Steps

The Lead team (Michelle, Ruth B., Nancy and Natasha) discussed how to facilitate this process, and decided to do it as simply as possible, by listing the projects that are either already happening or that have been proposed, and then having PAC members sign up for the projects they want to work on. In this way, the projects that PAC members sign up to do become our priorities.

Georgia suggested setting criteria for choosing projects, so that we can respond in a consistent way as new opportunities are presented to PAC. Nancy suggested making it easier to let the passions and interests of PAC members define PAC priorities. We will continue that process in the fall, but for the rest of this school year will focus on the projects that PAC members sign up for now.

Ruth G. will convene the project teams to discuss possible actions, to bring back to the whole PAC for more discussion.

Events/Board of Education committee meetings:

- Saturday, April 24 - Tabling at the PPS Annual Meeting: Quran, Carolyn
- Tuesday, April 27 - PTA Budget Forum: Ruth G.
- Monday, May 10 - BOE Ad Hoc Committee on Student Assignment: Ruth B.
- Monday, May 17 - BOE Rules Committee: Ruth G.
- Monday, June 14 - BOE Ad Hoc Committee on Student Assignment: Ruth B.

Project Teams:

- Interview PAC Candidates: Ruth B, Michelle
- Outreach: Ruth B, Georgia, Quran, Carolyn
- Afterschool Programs: Ruth B, Michelle
- TAQ: Betty, Georgia, Nancy, Quran, Natasha
- Revise PAC Operations/Rules: Natasha, Carolyn, Ruth B, Nancy, Quran

VI. New PAC Member Recruitment - Timeline & Process

PAC has seven open seats, and three applications have been received. The initial deadline for applications is Friday, May 7. The PAC will vote on a list of nominees at our May 18 meeting, and present the nominees to the BOE for approval, on June 8.

The PAC is looking for members to represent all of SFUSD's diverse communities. We are not required to fill all open seats; and we can hold seats open to do more outreach and recruitment if people feel some communities are not represented.

PAC members discussed qualifications for new members; people agreed the most important thing is that individual candidates should demonstrate passion for the education of all SFUSD children. Prior volunteer experience is helpful, but not a requirement.

VII. Officer Elections Process

Ruth G. described the current roles of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Parliamentarian (who together make up the Lead Team). Nancy expressed concern that the person taking notes (currently the Secretary) is not able to participate as fully in the meetings. Ruth G. suggested having the PAC Operations/Rules Team discuss ideas for how to handle note-taking and the Secretary position.

Ruth G. proposed nominating PAC officers in May, and electing officers in June. Because of quorum issues, PAC may need to nominate and elect officers in the May meeting.

VIII. PAC Business

The PAC's May meeting will be Tuesday, May 18. We reviewed who is available for either June 1 or June 2; the June meeting will be Wednesday, June 2, but PAC will probably not be able to achieve a quorum for that meeting.

Ruth G. is going on leave the second week of June, returning in 12 weeks. She proposed using a combination of vacation time (4 weeks), comp time (6 weeks), and unpaid leave with benefits intact (2 weeks). Nancy moved to approve Ruth G's leave. Ruth B seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ruth G asked the group to consider hiring a temporary support person to prepare during August for Fall PAC business. Ruth B raised concern about the PAC's finances. Ruth G would like to come to a decision in May whether the PAC preparation work can be done by a volunteer or a hired resource.

Regular reports to the BOE:

- April 27: Carolyn
- May 11: Betty

- May 25: Nancy and Georgia
- June 8 (introduce new PAC members): Michelle
- June 22 (year-end report): Michelle

IX. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

X. Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mandy Johnson.