



San Francisco Board of Education
Parent Advisory Council

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the PAC
October 20, 2009**

I. Attendance

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ruth Barajas, Georgia Bratt Williams, Un Un Che, Rochelle Fort, Beatriz Gudino, Mandy Johnson, Stelly Kuo, Natasha LaVine, Quran Mays, Michelle Menegaz.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tiana Blunt, Nancy Gapasin Gnass, Diane Huang.

ALSO PRESENT: Chris Armentrout, SFUSD; Tristan Leder, Andie Rose Crug, Jessica Link, SFUSD Student Advisory Council; Ruth Grabowski, PAC Staff; Jose Lam, Interpreter.

II. Call to Order/Roll Call

Michelle called the meeting to order at 6:20pm.

III. Update on SFUSD Issues

Chris Armentrout, SFUSD Liaison, gave a brief update on the budget. The outlook keeps getting worse and worse – now we’re hearing \$80 million in cuts by 2012. The overall message from the District’s leaders (Superintendent Carlos Garcia, and Deputy Superintendents Myong Leigh and Richard Carranza) is, that’s not going to stop us from our mission, and closing the achievement gap is still our #1 goal.

The resource allocation team (Myong & Richard) is actively looking at the situation – but they don’t know where things stand right now. A PAC member asked Chris what the timeline is for making decisions, and whether that team can make budget decisions or if the Board decides on budget cuts. Chris did not know the timeline, but confirmed that budget changes are a Board decision.

Ruth B. asked how the district is going about informing parents about the budget situation/cuts. Chris said that so far nothing is planned. Ruth G. explained that the PTA and PPS are interested in doing community engagement around the budget. Michelle pointed out that it’s the not knowing that’s hard, and starts to make people angry. It’s really important to bring people into this.

Ruth B. suggested that Superintendent Garcia send a letter to parents telling them what’s happening, and how bad the situation is. Chris A. said he would communicate that to the Superintendent.

Chris reported the Board passed a resolution supporting a “restorative justice” approach to student discipline; implementing A-G graduation requirements and changes to the student assignment system are moving forward. The Public Education Enrichment Fund (PEEF) will submit its new report to BOE on Nov. 2, with findings from their community outreach last spring. PEEF is funding from Prop. H – for sports, libraries, arts and music (SLAM). Over the past year the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for PEEF went through big change in how it works; Ruth G. helped PEEF re-structure their CAC.

IV. Building Relationship with the Student Advisory Council

Representatives from the Student Advisory Council gave a brief presentation on how the SAC works, and then discussed ways the students and PAC could work together.

Tristan Leder and Andie Rose Crug are on the SAC and student delegates to the Board of Education, while Jessica Link staffs the SAC for the district.

The SAC includes about 30 people right now; they aim to have two student representatives from each high school in the district. Part of their work is to get information from the Board of Education or district staff, and distribute the info to students at schools. One example is the Restorative Justice resolution – Commissioner Kim wanted SAC input into that resolution.

For the two student delegates to the SAC from each high school, one is elected by YouthVote through the Youth Commission, and one is named by the principal. They started the election process last year. This year they're making it so one representative is a member of their student council at the site – so there's a structure to share the information with other students. At this point, they know that Lowell & Galileo have an elected SAC position on their school boards – and think Lincoln does as well. But some schools barely have student government - so the goal is to at least have someone from each school, officially. Jessica's been helping students at the school level to build capacity to disseminate the information.

They had about 8 people from O'Connell at the first meeting, but only a couple of people since then. The meetings are open to whoever wants to come – and we sometimes get visitors. Tristan & Andie are student delegates to the Board – he was elected city-wide through YouthVote, and she was elected by the SAC to represent them on the Board.

In the SAC bylaws, the principal or vice principal have final say for SAC representatives. Their goal is to get to the “unknown” leaders, people who are under the radar; in student government it's the same people all the time. Jessica & Peter at YouthVote have been working a lot to support that.

Civic Center, Ida B Wells & Independence high schools don't currently have reps on SAC. Jessica personally went out to those schools trying to get students through teachers – it's really hard, the teachers have their own cubicles & the students come in & meet w/them. It's been hard to get participation from those schools...

A PAC member asked whether the students get any benefit from being on SAC? Besides looking good on college applications... They answered that some schools offer credit to students to encourage them to come. A real benefit is how much you learn – for example, it's wonderful to learn not only how SFUSD works but to learn from other students in districts all over.

What's the time commitment? The SAC meets twice a month; we're forming work committees – so that would be more time. If you're a member of the Cabinet – the officers – they meet two more times a month. The student delegates go to everything.

Youth Summit: this is a big get-together, for students from a lot of schools – we have workshops. Some explain what organizations do, offer employment workshops, violence prevention, helping with college resume-writing & applications... The students come up with topics they want to have. Sometimes it's

more about social issues, this year was more about supporting students in their needs. Usually info about it is sent to student councils at all schools. It's open to anyone who wants to attend.

In terms of the SAC and PAC working together: The PAC should bring any draft resolutions or policy issues to SAC to get feedback/perspectives/ideas about how to ensure that youth voice is included in that. We could email or send issues to Jessica to get it to SAC; could come to SAC to discuss it; hold focus group and invite SAC – so their voices are part of actual plan rather than just give input to something that's already written.

For changes to the Student Assignment System, it would be interesting to bring this to the SAC – students don't necessarily think the same as the parents. Ruth G. pointed out that the PAC wouldn't lead that discussion – probably district staff would – but we'll make sure it happens.

Regarding the budget: it's essential to make sure student voices are included in this process.

Jessica also asked that the PAC share information about where we get our food & places that deliver.

V. Electing PAC Secretary

Michelle described the responsibilities of the PAC's Secretary. After a brief discussion to clarify these roles, Natasha LaVine offered to be the Secretary but expressed her concern about missing meetings due to travel she's expecting to do in the spring. She asked if someone will share – Ruth G. will help.

Michelle formally nominated Natasha to be Secretary; Georgia seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously, and Natasha was elected the PAC's Secretary.

VI. Community Engagement in Redesigning the Student Assignment System

Ruth G. gave an update on the district's progress in developing the new system:

- The district was awarded a federal grant for \$250,000, mostly for technical assistance & support. Got the funding along with ten other districts looking at redesigning student assignment to address de-segregation of schools. They just found this out so they don't even know which other districts also got the funding – but they'll be able to work together, share info & strategies.
- We submitted a joint proposal with SFUSD and PPS to Zellerbach for additional funding for the direct expenses of doing the community conversations – would cover childcare, refreshments, a stipend for people to type up the transcripts, and some translation. This would help us a lot – and mean we have more ability to do additional outreach in the spring (from saving money this fall).
- The Board discussed ways to evaluate different models – the measures aren't to set specific goals for the models, but to compare them to each other and decide which comes closer/does better to achieve the district's priorities for a student assignment system.
- They're currently looking at six models – some had been presented at 9/14 meeting, others were developed on the basis of their discussion and exploring other options. Ruth G. distributed a handout explaining the six models and measures to evaluate them.
- Researchers from Stanford (who designed Boston & New York's assignment systems) presented to the Board initial data from simulations of different models. They're trying to design a system that

can be modified slightly as enrollment patterns change over time – to avoid having to completely redesign it in a few years.

Ruth G. then asked for feedback on how to frame these issues in the “Discussion Guide” for the community conversations. Ideas included:

- The presentation needs to be very visual – so people can see how it works, not rely on the complicated wordy description.
- We need to present a lot of facts; I would want more facts, answers to people’s questions – we can’t go out with a cloudy presentation.
- We’re taught it’s important to have answers to people’s questions – but sometimes it’s important to identify the questions. To know what they’re wondering about what’s happening with the current situation, why it’s not working, about the achievement gap. Keep it real & no bs.
- And we won’t have all the answers – no one does, yet.

Mandy, Michelle & Natasha offered to help develop the Discussion Guide.

Leading Community Conversations

We can start community conversations in early November, and need to finish them up by mid-January. The PAC will work with PPS and other partners to convene parents by reaching out through schools and community organizations; SFUSD staff will host a few larger, public forums, inform civic leaders of the process, and invite them to participate in additional conversations.

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 Organization	PAC Contact
Marshall ES	Betty
Richmond District Neighborhood Center, John Muir ES	Michelle
David Campos’ office/Mission community	Nancy
Yick Wo ES	Natasha
MLK MS, Marshall HS, Willie Brown Academy, Sheridan ES	Quran
Carver ES, Drew ES & CDC, Malcolm X Academy	Rochelle
Mo’Magic, B’Magic, Vis Valley ES, Harvey Milk Academy	Ruth B.
Bessie Carmichael K-8, Sanchez ES, El Dorado ES	Ruth G.
Presidio CDC or Tule Elk CDC	Ruth G. > Mollie Matull
West Portal ES, Starr King ES, Argonne CDC	Stelly
June Jordan HS	Tiana
Wu Yee Children’s Center/Gordon Lau ES	Un Un

To help PAC members contact school sites and set up meetings, there is a one-page flyer explaining this initiative and our goals, as well as “talking points” that outline questions to ask when setting up the community conversations. These talking points are available on the PAC’s website, at pacsf.org, on the “Student Assignment” page.

VII. Additional issues/projects for the PAC

- **SFUSD Budget:** Ruth G. and Michelle have been approached by SFUSD staff, PPS, the PTA, and other parent leaders about working together on community engagement around the budget cuts – to inform our community about the unprecedented severity of the cuts, connect with education advocacy at the state level, and also to bring our community voices to the SFUSD budget process. The PAC agreed this is an important issue for all of us – we will talk more about this at the next PAC meeting.
- **Community Task Force on A-G Graduation Requirements:** The PAC has been invited to be on the community task force to implement the new A-G high school graduation requirements. The first meeting was October 29th – future meetings will be set by the members of the Task Force. Ruth B. and Nancy are both interested in participating, but are concerned about being able to make the meeting times. Anyone else who's interested should let Ruth G. know, and she'll find out the schedule for upcoming meetings.

VIII. PAC Business

- The next PAC meetings will be November 17 and December 15, because that's when the most PAC members could attend. Ruth G. pointed out that both Diane and Tiana have school on Tuesday nights; we will try to set future dates that won't consistently exclude the same people from attending.
- We confirmed that the following PAC members will present our Reports to the Board of Education: On October 27: Un Un; on November 10: Betty and Michelle.
- The PAC still has several open seats, so people should encourage other parents to consider applying to join the PAC. Applications are available on our website.
- Ruth G. passed around a new sign-up sheet for PAC members to attend the Principals meetings: they meetings are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, November 3-5. She will follow up with everyone, and make sure they get talking points and the PAC's brochures.
- Ruth G. confirmed that people are signed up to be at the PAC's table at the SFUSD Enrollment Fair on Saturday, Nov. 7. She'll take care of setting up the table the day before, and remind people of the times they signed up for.

IX. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

X. Adjourn Meeting

Michelle adjourned the meeting at 8:40pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ruth Grabowski