



San Francisco Board of Education  
**Parent Advisory Council**

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the PAC**

**September 1, 2009**

**I. Attendance**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ruth Barajas, Georgia Bratt Williams, Un Un Che, Nancy Gapasin Gnass, Beatriz Gudino, Diane Huang, Mandy Johnson, Stelly Kuo, Natasha LaVine, Quran Mays, Michelle Menegaz.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rochelle Fort.

ALSO PRESENT: Karen Zapata, Guest Facilitator; Chris Armentrout and Richard Carranza, SFUSD; Ruth Grabowski, PAC Staff; Jose Lam, Interpreter; Tiana Blunt, SFUSD parent.

**II. Call to Order/Roll Call**

Ruth Barajas, Vice Chair of the PAC, called the meeting to order at 6:15pm.

Richard Carranza, Deputy Superintendent for Instruction, Innovation and Social Justice, introduced himself and congratulated the PAC for its important work. He was unable to stay for the meeting but hopes to meet with the PAC in the near future.

Karen Zapata was the guest facilitator for this meeting; she reviewed the goals and agenda for the meeting and led PAC members in an “icebreaker” activity to open the meeting.

**III. Who’s Who on the PAC**

PAC members got into pairs to introduce themselves to each other, then presented their partner to the whole group. Through this activity everyone got to know more about each other, and what brought each person to the PAC.

**IV. Current Conditions in the SFUSD & the PAC’s Work**

PAC members had time to review data about student achievement, conditions in the SFUSD, and the PAC’s community engagement work. We then broke into pairs to talk about our reactions to this data, and what it means for the PAC’s work. Data included student test scores, compared across cities in California and across some demographic groups; racial isolation of students in SFUSD schools and various measures of student success; student and family responses on the district’s “Satisfaction Survey;” the district’s budget situation; and the PAC’s major community engagement campaigns.

The PAC then discussed their responses to this data. Comments included:

- I’m disappointed to see they’re projecting a cut of \$61 million, and that class size will go up
  - The surveys showed a real drop in “joyful learning” at the middle school level
  - That’s a big concern – maybe we need to restructure how middle school works. It’s where we’re losing so many youth
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- With the budget cuts, how can we do that (restructure schools)?
- Need to get parents involved, to deal with this
- It's so challenging to find the right way to have the right message. Basically, we need to tell people who have a choice that they should put their children in public schools – because we need them, we need those resources; but the conditions are really hard and it's not fair that some schools get these parent resources, while other schools don't.
- It was shocking to see the really low number of SFUSD students achieving "Proficient" or above in Algebra 1 - it's such an important course, especially for the new A-G graduation requirements.

## V. Update on SFUSD Issues

Chris Armentrout, the SFUSD Director of Development and Local Government Relations, gave a brief report on district issues:

- The Superintendent's top priority this year is to continue closing the achievement gap. He's also focused on the school-site strategic planning process, and developing a Balanced Scorecard for the central office.
- Regarding algebra: the first issue has been one of access: many students have gotten to high school and haven't been allowed to take algebra. The second issue is related to success: now all students will have access, but we need to support them, especially those who have been underserved and aren't prepared for that level of math.
- The budget situation continues to be extremely serious. We expect a \$60 million cut by 2012 – following years of cuts that we've already had to make. District looking to spread \$60 million cut over three years instead of two (i.e. will start sooner). There won't be any layoffs during this school year, but we need to be prepared for drastic cuts starting in the spring.

## VI. Current PAC Projects

Ruth G. described the projects the PAC has been working on, which are continuing into this school year, and reviewed the PAC's overall goals for the year:

- Engage parents/families to inform changes to the student assignment system
- Present/advocate for 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 members affirmed that we should continue to play a large role in this process – and to encourage our coalition partners to help convene community conversations, to reach more parents.

PAC members then signed up for project teams working on student assignment and afterschool programs, and also to attend upcoming events: The Parent Engagement Planning Summit on Sept. 26, introducing the PAC at SFUSD principals' meetings in early October, and tabling at the SFUSD Enrollment Fair in early November.

**Student Assignment Team:** Ruth B., Tiana, Michelle, Betty, Stelly, Natasha, Mandy

**Expanding Afterschool Programs Team:** Stelly, Michelle, Ruth B., Natasha, Diane

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.

Many PAC members expressed interest in the Coalition to Close the Achievement Gap (CTAG), and asked Ruth G. to let everyone know when a CTAG meeting is scheduled.

## VII. **PAC Business**

- **Nomination of new candidate to the PAC.** Michelle and Ruth G. recommended that the PAC nominate Tiana Blunt to be appointed to the PAC. They met with her over the summer (and she was in attendance at this meeting).

Ruth B. moved that the PAC recommend Tiana for appointment; Michelle seconded the motion. The PAC voted unanimously to support Tiana’s appointment. Ruth G. will schedule this action with the Board of Education.

- **PAC delegates to Board of Education meetings.** PAC members signed up to present the PAC report at regular meetings of the Board of Education:

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

- **Schedule PAC meetings September – December 2009.** We reviewed options for PAC meetings through this fall, and found that (as usual) there were many conflicts in people’s schedules. We found that the most people could attend on the following dates. We will review the dates each month to make sure they still work for people, and may adjust the schedule. Through the fall, the PAC will meet on **September 29, October 20, November 17 and December 15.**

## VIII. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## IX. **Adjourn Meeting**

Michelle adjourned the meeting at 8:40pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ruth Grabowski