



San Francisco Board of Education
Parent Advisory Council

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the PAC

September 29, 2009

I. Attendance

MEMBERS PRESENT: Un Un Che, Rochelle Fort, Nancy Gapasin Gnass, Beatriz Gudino, Stelly Kuo, Quran Mays, Michelle Menegaz.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ruth Barajas, Tiana Blunt, Georgia Bratt Williams, Diane Huang, Mandy Johnson, Natasha LaVine.

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

II. Call to Order/Roll Call

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

Nancy moved to approve the Minutes from the PAC meetings of June 1 and September 1, 2009. Quran seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. Update on SFUSD Issues

Chris Armentrout presented a brief update on some issues the PAC had questions about after the September 1 meeting.

Timeline for addressing the budget: The District has a core leadership team that's looking at budget issues. We're technically ok this year – the real damage comes during the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years. The district is looking at ways to conserve money so the damage gets spread out, but Chris didn't have any information at this time as to how that's going to happen. Myong Leigh, the Deputy Superintendent for Policy & Operations, will continue to monitor the budget situation. There isn't any timeline yet for how this is going to work.

Process to implement A-G requirements: Bill Sanderson has been brought in to lead the process of implementing A-G; they haven't started pulling together the community task force. Students entering 9th grade next year will be held to these standards; this is a planning year to "ramp things up." This is being run out of Academics and Professional Development (APD).

PAC members asked some clarifying questions about what A-G requirements are; how to find out more about it; how to make sure students are aware of these standards; and how teachers will be prepared to teach these standards, and make students are prepared to meet the requirements. Chris mentioned the National Urban Alliance, which is working with the district to provide support and coaching to teachers at several high schools, is helping address this.

IV. Electing PAC Secretary & Parliamentarian

Michelle described the roles and responsibilities of the PAC’s Secretary and Parliamentarian. After a brief discussion to clarify these roles, Nancy Gapasin Gness offered to be Parliamentarian.

Michelle formally nominated Nancy to be Parliamentarian; Stelly seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously, and Nancy was elected the PAC’s Parliamentarian.

No one volunteered or was nominated for Secretary, so that position remains open.

V. Community Engagement in Redesigning the Student Assignment System

Ruth G. reported that SFUSD staff are working closely with the Board to try and move their process forward. They’re hoping to clarify some 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 reaching out 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 model(s) 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

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. We 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. She’ll also encourage members of the Parent Involvement Coalition to help conduct and conduct conversations with their constituents, and to help with outreach and publicity for the public forums.

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.)

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 in making contact with schools about this project.

VI. SFUSD Parent/Family 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.

Quran said he thought it was great; people thanked him for being there, and he got a lot of respect as PAC member. Stelly was impressed with how diverse the attendees were, especially compared to other district events she has attended. Betty pointed out that she received the flyer in her daughter's Wednesday folder, but only a couple of days before the event; other PAC members got the flyer earlier, and a few people didn't get it at all.

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 let people know how to provide feedback to the plan as draft versions become available.

VII. Identifying Issues for the PAC to Work On

Ruth G. explained that the PAC's work requires us to balance **participating in issues** before the Board, to ensure that parent voices are included in policy discussions; **bringing parent concerns 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 go around the room and give each PAC member the chance to identify some topics they're 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.

VIII. The PAC's Revised Budget for 2009-2010

Ruth G. explained that last spring the PAC approved a proposed budget for this year, but it needs to be revised because we have less funding than we projected for this year. She reviewed the PAC's overall budget, and explained that the Haas Jr. and Zellerbach foundations remain committed to continue supporting the PAC. We receive both \$5,000 of direct funding and substantial in-kind support from the district – our office space, telephone service, email, and access to copying. One question is, should we continue to ask the district for direct funding, considering the budget situation? For the past two years people have agreed that we should, because it demonstrates the district recognizes the value and seriousness of the PAC's work. Myong said he expects (and supports) the PAC to request this money for this school year.

Ruth then explained why we have less money than initially projected:

- We had anticipated that we'd have several thousand dollars left over at the end of the year to roll into this year. Instead, we spent about \$5,000 more than last year's budget; that's why it shows negative \$5,350 in the "carryover from last year" line.
- There was an unexpected administrative delay on receiving the grant from Haas, not based on anything we had done, so we didn't receive several thousand dollars
- The written translations of our major reports to the Board cost more than we had expected.
- Finally, our proposal to the San Francisco Foundation was turned down (again).

Ruth G. and Michelle discussed the budget over the summer and developed the revisions being proposed to the PAC. The biggest cut in expenses was to not hire additional outreach staff, as we did last spring. This is disappointing, because they really helped us connect with communities we didn't

have relationships with. However, on the positive side, many of the new PAC members do have relationships with many schools that the PAC hopes to work with.

Stelly observed that translation is a big chunk of our budget, and it seems like we should get some help with this from somewhere – from the district, or our community partners. Ruth G. explained that the district’s translation doesn’t have enough staff to help us with translation – they are already overwhelmed trying to support school sites. We are working on a joint grant with PPS and the district for money to help conduct the community outreach on student assignment, which will help a lot with those costs.

Nancy moved to approve the revisions to the PAC’s budget; Stelly seconded the motion. During discussion, Stelly pointed out that the Special Ed CAC doesn’t have any budget – and the PAC is lucky to have this funding. The motion was approved unanimously.

IX. PAC Business

- The next PAC meetings will be on October 20, November 16, 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 and that we would try in January to set dates that wouldn’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 Oct. 13: Natasha & Nancy; on Oct. 27: Un Un
- 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.

X. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

XI. Adjourn Meeting

Michelle adjourned the meeting at 8:40pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ruth Grabowski