



# San Francisco Board of Education Parent Advisory Council

## UPDATE ON PAC ISSUES

APRIL 13, 2010

(These are not official meeting minutes!)

This is an update on issues and projects discussed at the PAC's meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>. We did not have a quorum at that meeting so there are no Minutes. The official Minutes from the February 16 meeting will be reviewed at the PAC's meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

- ➔ **The PAC's next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 20, from 6:00-8:30pm.**
- ➔ **The PAC's meeting for May will be on Tuesday, May 18.** At that meeting we will decide the date for the June meeting - probably the last PAC meeting for this school year.

While we could not make any decisions on March 18, PAC members in attendance had the chance to discuss several major district initiatives, and how the PAC can be involved. These notes include updated information and PAC action steps on several of these topics.

### ➔ **Update on SFUSD & Federal Funding**

Chris Armentrout and Guadalupe Guerrero gave a brief update on federal grant opportunities that the district is considering pursuing. They pointed out that the funding has a lot of strings attached (for example, specific models that include removing principals and/or staff) and that the SFUSD is not going to apply for things that are a distraction from our district's central priorities: focusing/dedicating time & energy to closing the achievement gap.

Guadalupe is working with the Superintendent to look at the grants with policy lens - to make sure that they fit our priorities. Federal grant applications require a lot of work, so they don't want to waste that effort if they won't support what our district is really working on. These grants are also very competitive and we want to be sure that ours would be competitive.

The biggest grant is called "Investing in Innovation" (or "I3"), which focuses on curriculum and provides up to \$17 million over three years. Our district's focus would be early literacy (pre-K - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade). Other grants range from \$2 million to \$4 million per year, but are very restricted.

We asked how the SFUSD is thinking to engage school communities in discussions about any of these federal grants - some of which would mean significant changes to the schools involved. There are several different grants but their timelines are all in May or June - which is very soon. District staff are thinking about this but do not have a plan yet.

## ➡ **Expanding Access to High-Quality Afterschool Programs**

Mollie Matull - a former PAC member, and current member of the Afterschool for All Advisory Council finance working group as well as the Community Advisory Council for the Department of Children, Youth and Families - gave us an update on the SFUSD proposal to align district-managed afterschool programs.

Currently the district manages two different afterschool program models: the ExCEL programs, which are at school sites and are free of cost (but do not serve all students at the school); and Child Development Programs (CDP), some of which are at schools and some which have their own sites, and which have sliding-scale fees.

The original concept of aligning these two programs came from the work of the Afterschool for All Council (which the PAC is a member of) over the past two school years. This year district staff worked on their own and came up with an implementation plan that included merging the ExCEL and CDP programs, bringing CDP programs onto school sites, and charging sliding scale fees for families in the ExCEL programs.

There were many concerns and questions about this plan and how it would be implemented, and District leaders have pulled back the effort in order to engage in a more open and collaborative planning process with its partners. In early April Michelle Menegaz and Ruth Grabowski, along with Ellie Rossiter and Mollie Matull, met with Deputy Superintendent Richard Carranza to express our concerns, and he was very receptive.

The concept of the program alignment has broad support and brings many benefits including more capacity to serve students, improved quality, equitable programming and a more sustainable structure. Most members of the AFA Council believe that if the district works in closer collaboration with its partners, this will be positive and beneficial to our students.

## ➡ **Recruiting New Members to the PAC**

Some PAC members are completing their first year of their term, while others are finishing up their two-year term. We checked in to see who intends to stay on for another year, and who will be stepping down. We will have about seven open seats on the PAC next year, and need to recruit strong candidates to fill these seats. At this time, we have confirmed the following:

Staying on for the second year of their term: Carolyn Alexander, Ruth Barajas, Georgia Bratt Williams, Betty Gudino, Quran Mays and Michelle Menegaz.

Staying on for another term: Nancy Gapasin Gnass and Natasha LaVine.

Stepping down: Stelly Kuo (she would like to come back after taking a year of maternity leave).

(We need to confirm the intentions of the remaining PAC members.)