



San Francisco Board of Education Parent Advisory Council

PAC UPDATE AND ACTION NOTES

APRIL 30, 2010

(These are not official meeting minutes!)

This is an update on issues and projects discussed at the PAC's meeting on April 20th. The official Minutes from the April 20 meeting will be reviewed at the PAC's meeting on May 18.

- ➔ **The PAC's next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 18, from 6:00-8:30pm.**
- ➔ **The PAC's last meeting of the year will be Wednesday, June 2,** because it looks like more people can make it that night. However, we're not sure that we'll have quorum for this date. Please confirm with Ruth as soon as possible whether you can attend this meeting!
- ➔ **Update on SFUSD & Federal Funding**

The Board of Education has decided the district should pursue several federal grants they had concerns about due to the many strings attached to the funds. The most controversial program is the "School Improvement Grants" related to "persistently under-performing" schools. The state of California put ten San Francisco schools on this list, and requires significant changes to principal and teacher staffing for these schools¹. The district is also pursuing a Magnet Schools grant to support an International Baccalaureate program at LR Flynn ES, John Muir ES and International Studies Academy (6-12), and an arts magnet program at Everett MS.

Associate Superintendent Kevin Truitt is convening parent advocacy organizations to strategize around the community engagement elements of the School Improvement Grants (SIG) program - including developing a plan for school-based community engagement in implementing any reforms at the schools on the SIG list. Ruth G. and Betty attended the first meeting, and encourage other PAC members to be part of this process. The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 12, from 4:00-5:30pm at 555 Franklin St.

- ➔ **Reflecting on the PAC's Work**

At the PAC meeting on April 20, we reviewed our achievements for this school year so far, and then discussed the PAC's strengths and challenges this year. The chart below summarizes the PAC's strengths/challenges; a table of our goals and accomplishments is attached separately.

¹ The SIG schools are Bryant, Carver, Cesar Chavez, and John Muir ES; Paul Revere K-8; Willie Brown Academy; Everett and Horace Mann MS; and Mission and O'Connell HS.

+ / 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 it seems like 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 • 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

➡ **Setting the PAC's Priorities**

After talking about our accomplishments and evaluating our strengths and challenges, the PAC listed the projects we're currently working on, events we know are coming up, and other actions to consider. PAC members then signed up for the projects they are interested in working on. 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 meetings:

- Saturday, April 24 - Tabling at the PPS Annual Meeting: Quran, Carolyn
- Tuesday, April 27 - PTA Budget Forum: Ruth G.
- Tuesday, April 27 - BOE meeting: Carolyn

- Monday, May 10 - BOE Ad Hoc Committee on Student Assignment: Ruth B.
- Tuesday, May 11 - BOE meeting: Betty
- Monday, May 17 - BOE Rules Committee: Ruth G.
- Tuesday, May 25 - BOE meeting: Nancy and Georgia
- Tuesday, June 8 - BOE meeting: Michelle (appointment of new members)
- Monday, June 14 - BOE Ad Hoc Committee on Student Assignment: Ruth B.
- Tuesday, June 22 - BOE meeting: Michelle (year-end report)

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

➡ **Recruiting New Members to the PAC**

Based on PAC members intending to remain and others who are stepping down, we anticipate having seven open seats for the new term. So far we have received only three applications, and the deadline is Friday, May 7.

We will interview all the applicants, and in May will discuss and vote on the candidates to nominate to the Board for approval at their June 8 meeting. The PAC is not required to fill all open seats, so we can extend the deadline if we don't get enough qualified candidates.

We discussed criteria for people interested in joining the PAC, and agreed that candidates should demonstrate passion for the education of all SFUSD children as well as a commitment to the PAC's mission. Prior volunteer experience is helpful, but not required.

➡ **Officer Elections Process**

Ruth G. explained the roles of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Parliamentarian as described in the PAC's By-Laws. Nancy expressed concern that the person taking notes (the Secretary) is not able to participate as fully in the meetings, and PAC members agreed the formal definitions don't reflect the true roles that officers play. Because the Board has asked us to evaluate our procedures and suggest changes to the rules, the Operations team will discuss how to redefine these roles to be more realistic - and to facilitate more shared leadership and responsibility.

The PAC will elect new Officers at the May 18 meeting, in case there is no quorum for June.