



San Francisco Board of Education Parent Advisory Council

PAC UPDATE AND ACTION NOTES

JANUARY 6, 2010

(These are not meeting minutes!)

This is an update to clarify our next few meeting dates, and actions we talked about last month on the PAC's work related to changing student assignment, teacher and administrator quality, and the district's budget process. The official Minutes from the PAC's December meeting will be reviewed at the PAC's meeting on January 19th.

The PAC will meet twice in January, and once in February. All meetings will be 6:00-8:30pm.

- **Tuesday, January 19th, the PAC's Regular Meeting** date for January, where we will discuss the options for a new student assignment system, and data related to these options (as well as other PAC projects/topics).
- **Wednesday, January 27th, a Special Meeting**, to discuss the PAC's conclusions and recommendations related to student assignment (and the community conversations).
- **Tuesday, February 16th, the PAC's Regular Meeting** date for February.

Why the change in meeting dates? After the PAC's meeting in December, SFUSD staff proposed changing the date for our report to the Board on Findings from our community engagement on student assignment. They asked that we give a written report to the Board by January 27th (instead of presenting it in person at their committee meeting on January 25th), and then present it in person to a special meeting of "the Committee of the Whole" on February 2nd. Staff wanted to have time to read the written report and prepare questions before the presentation in person.

This means the PAC can also change the date for our special meeting to discuss the student assignment options, and the PAC's recommendations to the Board of Education, **before** the staff presents their Resolution proposing a specific model – and thus (we hope) **inform and impact that proposal**. That is why the date of the PAC's Special Meeting has been moved forward from February 3rd to January 27th. (And, it turns out that more people are able to attend the January 27th meeting than could come on February 3rd!)

On January 19th we will discuss the proposed options, and the themes for our report of Findings from Community Engagement. On January 27th we will talk about the conclusions and recommendations the PAC wants to present to the Board, and plan our presentation for February 2nd. The staff of PPS, who have been our partners in the community engagement initiative, have been invited to attend these meetings.

➤ Community Conversations about Redesigning Student Assignment

The PAC and PPS are having a great success convening community conversations about these options – and we’re almost done! The last meetings will be on January 15th. We have scheduled a total of **39 community conversations, and are on track to hear from about 500 people.** (We have had 21 conversations so far, with over 340 people.)

This is the list of remaining meetings. Please note that even if you’re not leading the discussion, it’s always great to have PAC members at these conversations – so you can hear first-hand about people’s questions, concerns and suggestions, and help represent the PAC.

School/Community Center	Date/Time	Notes
Roosevelt MS	1/7, 6:00pm	
<i>SFUSD Town Hall on Student Assignment</i>	<i>1/7, 6:00pm</i>	<i>At Charles Drew Academy</i>
Support for Families, in Cantonese	1/7, 6:30pm	In Cantonese
SF Dept. of Children, Youth & Families, Community Conveners	1/8, 9:30am	At DCYF: 1390 Market St., Suite 900
Sheridan ES	1/11, 8:00am	
Grattan CDC and ES	1/12, 6pm	
Support for Families, in English	1/12, 6:30pm	
Sanchez ES	1/13, 8:15am	
Mission Head Start families - 362 Capp St.	1/13, 9:15am and 5:15pm	In Spanish
PPS African American Think Tank	1/13, 6pm	At Booker T. Washington Ctr., 800 Presidio Ave.
Vis Valley MS	1/13, 6pm	
Bessie Carmichael K-8	1/14, 8:45am	
Parent University - at Malcolm X Academy	1/14, 1:00pm	Inviting Malcolm X community
Carver ES	1/14, 6pm	Rescheduled - from Jan. 7
<i>SFUSD Town Hall on Student Assignment</i>	<i>1/14, 6:00pm</i>	<i>At Francisco Middle School</i>
Support for Families, in Spanish	1/14, 6:30pm	In Spanish
Rosa Parks ES	1/15, 8:00am	
Monroe ES	1/15, 8:30am	

➤ Teacher and Administrator Quality

Nancy, Natasha, Georgia, Stelly and Betty met in early December to talk about action steps the PAC can take to support teacher and administrator quality and accountability. Several people on this team met again and identified district staff to talk to and follow up on specific questions and issues, including:

- Chris Armentrout, the PAC’s liaison to the Board (and former teacher coach) about the Peer Assistance and Review program, which reviews and coaches teachers, to learn more about the PAR program’s capacity, the process for referring teachers who do not

meet standards, strategies for expanding the process of teacher referrals – and what the process is to support and hold accountable principals, as well

- Richard Maggi, at the newly-formed “Office of Family Voice,” to learn more about how that office works, what they do, and what their capacity is
- Deena Zacharin at the office of School Family Partnership, about making information more easily available to parents through the district’s website (including expanding access for parents to internet-capable computers, and training on how to use them)
- Bill Sanderson, who is in charge of implementing the new “A-G” graduation requirements, about ensuring that teachers and classes are in place, and that students are being taught to standards in elementary and middle school grades, as well as in high school, so they are able to fulfill the new graduation requirements.

The “TAQ” team is also reviewing the draft of the district’s Parent Engagement Plan to see whether it addresses some of the most burning concerns we’ve heard from parents. The group will follow up on these action items and report back to the PAC about next steps.

➡ **Community Engagement and the District’s Budget Process**

The PAC discussed the general issue of doing community engagement on the district’s process to address the drastic budget cuts from the state. Everyone agreed that this is an urgent issue, and that parents need to be informed and engaged in the process, but a few people felt the district should be leading this process, and expressed concern about the PAC’s capacity to do another community engagement campaign this year. Others mentioned that it’s a good opportunity to hear from parents, to help them learn about our work and promote the PAC – and to recruit new PAC members.

Another question is what community engagement in the budget process might look like. For example, the PAC could organize a few big community forums, or conduct smaller, site-based meetings like we’ve been doing about student assignment. A few people mentioned that the smaller, community-based meetings make it more possible for parents to speak up, and that organizing those kinds of meetings is our strength.

Ruth G. is meeting with Myong Leigh (SFUSD Deputy Superintendent for Policy and Operations), Gentle Blythe (SFUSD Office of Public Outreach & Communication) and Ellie Rossiter (Director of Parents for Public Schools) on January 8th to discuss the district’s timeline and process for addressing the budget cuts, and a proposed School Site Council Summit in late February that could launch the community engagement process. She will report back about this meeting at the PAC’s meeting on January 19th.