



San Francisco Board of Education Parent Advisory Council

Report to the Board of Education

September 27, 2011

The role of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is to represent parent voices and perspectives to inform Board of Education policy decisions. This report addresses the PAC's priority issues for this school year, and our process for developing action plans to work on these issues.

Priorities for the PAC in 2011-2012

SFUSD staff Gentle Blythe and Orla O'Keeffe came to the PAC's meeting on September 20th to present an update on the district's priorities for this year, based on the Board of Education's retreat earlier this month. Board Commissioners Hydra Mendoza and Sandy Fewer also came to address some of the concerns presented by the PAC in our report on September 13th.

These conversations were helpful to our process to set the PAC's priorities. This year, the PAC's priorities are to engage families and represent parent perspectives to:

- Address teacher and administrator standards, support, and accountability, in the context of the district's focus on the "Core Curriculum."
- Inform the district's focus on Restorative Practices to improve school climate and reduce student suspensions
- Understand and inform the district's budget process
- Monitor the district's redesign for providing Special Education services
- Monitor implementation of the district-wide Family Engagement Plan
- Expand access to quality afterschool programs, and inform the district's proposal to align the SFUSD's ExCEL and Child Development afterschool programs
- Support parent engagement in Bayview and Mission Superintendent's Zone initiatives.

The PAC's process to decide which issues to work on includes looking at student achievement data; the district's priority initiatives; and the questions and concerns we've heard from parents and community members during community conversations in the past few years.

One of the most important questions for PAC members is how our work will actually help support student achievement, especially the district's efforts to close the ongoing gaps in opportunity and achievement between different populations of children. Based on this, the PAC is placing a major emphasis on the district's initiative focused on the Core Curriculum.

Developing Action Plans

PAC members signed up for “project teams” to focus on the priority issue areas. Over the next month these teams will meet to begin developing specific goals and possible action plans for the PAC’s work this year.

As part of this process we’ll meet with district staff, as well as parent and education advocates, to look at ways we can work together to engage families and community members in these initiatives.

We also look forward to meeting with Board of Education Commissioners to discuss these issues in depth, to help shape our planning process.

Looking at Student Data

The PAC also wants to ground our work in data. We’re holding a Special Meeting next week to have a presentation from Assistant Superintendent Ritu Khanna about different indicators related to SFUSD student achievement, and a discussion with Deputy Superintendent Richard Carranza about the district’s strategies to support students and accelerate closing the achievement gap.

The PAC has invited our community partners to attend this meeting and we have found enthusiastic interest from parent leaders and advocates to participate in this conversation. We’re excited to be able to provide this opportunity to come together to talk about data from a parent perspective, and look forward to working with our partners throughout the year.

If you have any questions or comments about this report, or the PAC’s work in general, please contact the PAC at (415) 355-2201, or at pac@sfusd.edu. You can also visit our website at www.pacsf.org