



San Francisco Board of Education
Parent Advisory Council

Report to the Board of Education

August 11, 2009

This is an update on the PAC's work over this summer, and our plans as we head into the new school year. We look forward to another year of working together to close the gap in achievement, and to supporting educational success for all students in our district.

The PAC does not meet as a whole over the summer break, but members and staff have been working on several initiatives, including our own organizational development.

Developing a new SFUSD parent engagement plan.

- The PAC is working with SFUSD staff and the New Day for Learning project to coordinate development of a new, comprehensive parent engagement plan for the district. This process follows from the Parent Engagement Resolution passed by the Board of Education in the spring, and is infused with a sense of urgency to meet deadlines to apply for federal funding to support implementing key elements of the plan – including staff development and parent leadership development.
- As part of this process, the PAC is helping to coordinate a community summit to be held on Saturday, September 26 to engage families, district staff, and community organizations in developing the framework for a comprehensive parent/family engagement plan. The PAC is working to bring more partners into planning and participating in the summit.

Supporting strategies for student success. PAC members met with leaders of the National Urban Alliance, who are working with SFUSD staff to support professional development and new initiatives for student achievement at seven schools. The PAC is interested in seeing how families will be engaged in the process and specific programs at these sites.

Addressing the budget crisis. PAC members attended a hearing on the crisis in funding for public education, led by Assemblymember Tom Torlakson. The PAC is also considering working with our partners to conduct community forums to engage families, district and school-site staff in discussions to identify priorities and options for the district if there are additional cuts in funding from the state for next year, as we expect.

Strengthening the PAC's capacity and infrastructure.

- We have been working to recruit additional new members for the PAC's open seats, to support the PAC's ability to reflect the SFUSD's student population. We will present new candidates for appointment early this fall.
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- This summer the PAC moved back into our office at 135 Van Ness. After being displaced by the fire in May of 2008, we were housed temporarily (and generously) by SF School Volunteers. We are now back in our office on the first floor at 135 Van Ness, which is easier for parents to find and has access to meeting space. Feel free to come visit!
- The PAC is also submitting funding proposals to foundations, seeking continued support for our staff and operating expenses – including translation, outreach, and community conversations about district issues. The support of our funders is critical to the PAC's ability and success in reaching out to engage parents in education policy issues.
- We are getting ready for our first meeting of the school year, on Tuesday, September 1st. With a number of new members, and the continued leadership of our experienced members, we look forward to reaching out to hear from hundreds of families about issues before the Board, and to representing their voices in our reports to you.

If you have any questions or comments about this report, or the PAC's work in general, please contact the PAC at (415) 263-0308, or at pac@sfusd.edu.