



San Francisco Board of Education Parent Advisory Council

Report to the Board of Education

August 25, 2009

As the school year starts, the PAC is gearing up to welcome new members, continue our work on ongoing issues, and tackle new projects. We don't meet as a whole over the summer break, but PAC members and staff have been working on two key SFUSD initiatives: redesigning the student assignment system, and developing the district's parent engagement plan.

Redesigning the Student Assignment System.

- The PAC continues to work with SFUSD staff and Parents for Public Schools to plan and coordinate community engagement in the student assignment redesign process. We know that district staff have been working hard to consolidate data about both our own district's enrollment patterns and models from other urban districts across the country. Our joint team is meeting this week to develop a timeline and workplan for engaging families, students, educators and community members in conversations about possible models for a new enrollment system – which we eagerly look forward to hearing about at your Ad-Hoc Committee meeting on September 14th.
- Last week we met with Education Placement Center staff to talk about improvements to the enrollment process that can be implemented in the immediate future, and don't need to wait for the new policy to be adopted. We discussed information that should be included in the district's Enrollment Guide, including more details about Afterschool Programs and services for students in Special Education. We also talked about ways to reach families who have not been participating in the Round I application process, including working with city agencies and community organizations that serve families, and making it easier for families to pick up and turn in school applications at community centers across the city. *(Please see the PAC's full recommendations, attached.)*
- We were happy to hear about the district's commitment to improve assessment and counseling about placement options for children with a home language other than English. One idea we discussed was holding assessment and counseling sessions in community centers on weekends later this fall, so that parents don't need to leave work to bring their children to 555 Franklin on a weekday. We appreciate the EPC's interest in making these necessary but complicated procedures as easy as possible for families.

Developing a District-Wide Parent Engagement Plan.

- The PAC has brought other family involvement partners to work with SFUSD staff and the New Day for Learning project to strategize on developing a parent engagement plan for the district, following from the Board's Parent Engagement Resolution last spring.

- As part of this process, the PAC – along with other members of the Parent Involvement Coalition – 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 Summit will be held at Horace Mann Middle School in the Mission District, and will be a half-day event, from 8:30am to 1:00pm. Breakfast, childcare and interpretation will be provided. Flyers about the summit are being developed right now, and will be distributed to principals and through our community networks.

PAC Organizational Update.

- 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 anticipate presenting at least one candidate for appointment at your meeting in late September.

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.