



San Francisco Board of Education Parent Advisory Council

Report to the Board of Education

September 8, 2009

Last week the PAC held its first meeting of the school year, and welcomed our mix of new and continuing members. We took some time to review student achievement data, results of the district's recent student and family satisfaction surveys, the SFUSD's budget challenges, and other information related to district issues.

Since we have discussed it before, we weren't really surprised by the achievement data; but PAC members continue to be dismayed by the extent of the gap in test scores among different populations of our students. Working to close the gaps in achievement and access to opportunity is the clear priority for the district, and for the PAC.

Data from the satisfaction surveys was new to us, and we appreciated having access to it. The PAC is concerned that the statements, "Teachers make learning meaningful and joyful," and "Students at my school are respectful of those different from them," received such low ratings from middle and high school students. These are serious indicators of the need to improve school climate, and provide more positive experiences for students in middle and high school.

We are also concerned that the lowest rating for families was, "I know the California A-G course requirements for college," since those are the basis for our new graduation requirements. The PAC will continue to look at these issues, and discuss ideas for how to address them.

After discussing the data, the PAC also reviewed our projects continuing from last year, and affirmed the goals carrying over into the new school year.

PAC Goals for 2009-2010

- Engage parents/families to inform district policies, including changes to the student assignment system
- Advocate/follow up on our recommendations to expand access to high-quality afterschool programs
- Present reports at all regular Board of Education meetings & meet with individual Board commissioners, SFUSD staff and other district leaders
- Actively participate in the Parent Involvement Coalition, the San Francisco Coalition to Close the Achievement Gap, and the Afterschool For All Advisory Council
- Actively support developing the district's Parent Engagement and Partnership Plan
- Maintain / sustain / grow the PAC.

PAC Membership

Last week the PAC also voted to nominate a new candidate for Board appointment to the PAC, which we anticipate will be on your agenda for September 22nd. We still have several open seats, and continue to do outreach to fill them. We are committed to ensuring our members strengthen the PAC's ability to represent and reflect the student and family population of the SFUSD.

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 us at www.pacsf.org