



San Francisco Board of Education Parent Advisory Council

Year-End Report to the Board of Education

June 22, 2010

The role of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is to represent parent voices and perspectives to inform Board of Education policy decisions. This report summarizes the PAC's work and accomplishments during this school year, and some issues we will take up again in the fall.

Included as an appendix is a table showing the specific goals and achievements of the PAC over this year, and a graph presenting demographic data about participants in the PAC's community conversations over the past calendar year (spring 2009-spring 2010). Details about specific initiatives can be found in our reports of community engagement addressing student assignment (June 2009 and February 2010) and the budget (March 2010).

Engaging Parents in District Policy

The PAC's work is closely aligned with the priorities set by the district's Balanced Scorecard, and informed by what we learn through reaching out to hear from families across the district. In joint projects with district staff and community partners, during this school year **the PAC engaged over 900 parents to discuss education policy issues:**

- The PAC worked closely with SFUSD staff and Parents for Public Schools (PPS) to plan and implement community engagement in the student assignment redesign process. With PPS we conducted 36 community conversations that **directly engaged nearly 600 people** to discuss the district's priorities and proposed options for student assignment
- The PAC worked again with PPS and SFUSD staff to convene community forums about the district's budget crisis, and **heard from over 125 parents** and community members
- The PAC helped organize and lead workshops at a Parent Engagement Summit for families, school staff and parent advocates, where **175 people participated** in developing key elements for a new district-wide Parent Engagement Plan
- With only a week's notice, the PAC was able to **convene over 50 parents** and community advocates for a parent forum with US Department of Education Deputy Secretary Tony Miller, held in the Mayor's Conference Room at City Hall.

Representing Parent Voices

To convey what we learn from speaking with families across the district, PAC members present regular reports to the Board of Education, meet with individual Board Commissioners, and have been building working relationships with key district staff. Over this school year, the PAC:

- Attended and presented a report at all but one regular meeting of the school board
- Attended meetings of the Board's Budget and Rules Committees, and nearly every meeting of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Student Assignment
- Met individually with Board Commissioners, Deputy Superintendents Myong Leigh and Richard Carranza, and district staff leaders to discuss specific policy initiatives.

Participating in the Parent/Education Community Network

- The PAC plays a leadership role in the Parent Involvement Coalition, which is convened by the SFUSD's Office of School-Family Partnership. Members include Coleman Advocates, Parents for Public Schools, Chinese for Affirmative Action, the district PTA, Support for Families of Children with Disabilities, the CAC for Special Education, the SF Education Fund, and the SF Family Support Network. This year the PAC helped set agendas for the PIC's monthly meetings, and this led discussions on issues including changes to the student assignment policy and the district's budget process.
- Over the past year the PAC has broadened its network of connections with community organizations that serve public school students. These include the Afterschool for All Advisory Council, the San Francisco Family Support Network, the Parent University, Support for Families of Children with Disabilities, DCYF Community Conveners, and the Native American Friendship House.
- In addition to helping organize and lead the Parent Engagement Summit in September 2009, the PAC supported and led workshops at the district's School Community Summit in February 2010. Over 350 parents, school staff, and community members participated in the annual Summit, which focused on the district's budget process and school governance structures.
- The PAC also led a workshop at the first annual Mission Parents Summit in March 2010, organized by Mission Graduates and Mission High School. Many parents and community members participated in this event providing information, resources, and support for parents to advocate for their children's education and access to college.

Sustaining the Parent Advisory Council

With support from our major funders, the Walter & Elise Haas Fund and the Zellerbach Family Foundation, the PAC has been successful in building an active membership and strengthening its systems for planning implementing its program goals, and for reaching out to communicate with families. The PAC's organizational development achievements over the past year include:

- Continuing fiscal sponsorship by Community Initiatives, which is allows the PAC staff to focus on program efforts rather than on administrative issues

- Recruiting five new members to the PAC, and retaining nearly all of the current PAC membership whose terms had not expired (including two members who committed to a second two-year term)
- Improving the PAC's website at www.pacsf.org, which allows us to make more information available to parent (in English, Spanish and Chinese) while remaining linked to the PAC page on the district's website. In addition, the public is now able to donate directly to the PAC through the Community Initiatives website, with a link from our site.

Looking Ahead

The PAC is proud of our accomplishments this year, and we know the next school year will bring many opportunities to represent what we have heard from families. Based on what we have heard from parents over the past two years, priority issues for the PAC include:

- Monitoring implementation of the district's parent engagement plan, to ensure district leaders establish clear timelines, deadlines, and accountability measures for meeting specific standards for engaging parents at school sites and at the district level
- Advocating to ensure the district sets high standards, provides meaningful support, and holds teachers and administrators accountable for improved student learning outcomes
- Working with the Afterschool for All Advisory Council and SFUSD staff on plans to align district-managed afterschool programs, to ensure a collaborative effort that expands access to high-quality programs.

We look forward to working with the Board of Education, district staff and community partners in the next year, to address the challenges of implementing new graduation requirements, state-mandated education reforms among our most struggling schools, and supporting 21st century learning - despite the crisis in funding - to provide an excellent education for every student in 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.

Appendix I: PAC's Goals & Achievements -- School Year 2009-2010

Project / Issue	Goals/Objectives We Set	Achievements to Date
Engage parents/families in the process to redesign the student assignment system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of conversations: 20 • # of people to reach: 250 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of conversations: 26 • # of participants: over 500 • PAC attended 8 Ad-Hoc meetings
Support developing the district's Parent Engagement Plan.	Did not have # goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Engagement Summit: > 175 pple • Ongoing feedback to Plan
Engage parents/families in the district's budget process.	Did not have # goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # at SSC Summit workshop: 25 • # at three Forums: over 100 • PAC presented report to COW
Present recommendations for expanding access to high-quality afterschool programs.	Did not have # goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made recommendations to Afterschool for All Advisory Council • Report to BOE Curriculum Committee • Met w/Trish Bascom & Richard Carranza
Present reports at all regular Board of Education meetings, meet with individual Board commissioners & SFUSD staff to represent parent voices on district issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAC reports at 15 meets • Hold 4 meetings with Board & SFUSD staff leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAC at all but one BOE - total of 19 • Met with Sandra Fewer, Rachel Norton, Richard Carranza, Myong Leigh, Trish Bascom, Guadalupe Guerrero, Darlene Lim, Kevin Truitt and Deena Zacharin - total of 15
Participate in Parent Involvement Coalition, Coalition to Close the Achievement Gap, and Afterschool For All Council.	Did not have # goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended/helped set agenda for PIC • Attended AFA Advisory Council & presented recommendations
Stuff we didn't plan, but were given opportunity to work on	Did not have # goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bayview Initiative meetings/summit • New Day for Learning collab. meetings • Parent forum w/USDOE: 50 parents
Maintain/sustain/grow the PAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fill 9 open seats • Renew \$50,000 from Zellerbach and Haas Sr., and \$5,000 from SFUSD • Place 4 articles in media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filled 5 open seats • Renewed ongoing grants and contracts, plus share of additional \$10,000 from Zellerbach (split with PPS & SFUSD) • Highlighted in 3 articles (SF Chronicle, SF Examiner, NY Times) & on 2 KALW radio; placed 1 article (School Times)
Total # people who participated in events	<u>Goal for year:</u> 250 parents	<u>Achieved this Year:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total w/partners: 950+ people • Total by PAC directly: 700 people

Appendix II: Who the PAC Reached

Community Conversation\Forum Participants, Spring 2009 - Spring 2010

Number of people reached:

	<u>Participated</u>	<u>Did Survey</u>
Conversations on Student Assignment, April-May 2009:	270	137
Conversations on Student Assignment, Nov. 09- Feb. 10:	589	467
Community Forums on the SFUSD Budget, Feb. 2010:	125	55

Demographics of participants who completed a survey:

