

LAUSD Parent Advisory Committee
Chairperson's Report
May 16, 2019

To my esteemed PAC colleagues:

Since our last meeting on April 25th was jam-packed with things to do, in the interest of time, I chose not to read the Chairperson's Report. That report is in your packets and it provides updates on several topics I've mentioned to you at our previous meetings. Please take a look at it later today when you have a moment.

Also in your packets are the 51 LCAP comments we've generated and sent to the superintendent. While many are well crafted, thoughtful and actionable — which as you know has been our goal from the start — a few others are less than fully developed. Still, overall, these comments are solid and reflect a good understanding of the presentations we've seen in this room and at your Local District LCAP Study Group sessions. Responses to our comments have not yet been received from Supt. Beutner's office, so you should expect to see these at our next meeting on Thursday the 23rd. Once we've reviewed the responses, we will be generating follow-up comments on them. This is being done to get additional information but also to hold LAUSD accountable for implementing comments which have potential to improve the District's practices.

As you've heard before, our PAC has been significantly hampered in its role of generating LCAP comments by the forced change to its meeting calendar this year. I'm pleased to report that a new schedule has been worked out for next year, which will see elections to our Committee in the LCAP Study Groups held by the end of October, with our first official meeting in November. This is a major step forward and will allow us to dive into the six District LCAP Goals much more deeply than we've had time to do in the current year. You can expect to see our new 2019-2020 meeting calendar by the end of this month. Thank you, Dr. Lugo!

Another need I've been stressing is that of training. Two days ago several PAC members, along with parents from LAUSD schools, completed a four-day leadership course put on by MV Alianza Global. In my opinion, this course focused specifically on personal empowerment which, if you think about it, is foundational to true leadership. The group exercises we did were at times awkward and uncomfortable — ever try looking into the eyes of someone you don't know as they look into yours? How about standing in front of a group and telling them something about yourself? — though at the end of the final session, participants stood in a large circle and urged Dr. Lugo to offer Part 2 of this course. Feel free to talk with someone who was there.

One of our student subgroups has been left behind for years if not generations. As you may be aware, African-American kids are historically the lowest performing ethnic subgroup in LAUSD; only students with special needs score lower. Now a new book has highlighted this persistent problem. *The Black Zero Index*, by Dr. Michael Batie, reviews data from 2003 and 2018, to reveal that at a large number of District schools, *zero African-American students were proficient in Math — zero*. After so many years, is this *really* still happening?

Finally, I'd like to arrange an end-of-year celebration for the PAC, to recognize all the work you've done since we first gathered here less than three months ago. This event could be either a potluck or a catered affair with music, socializing and an opportunity for you to offer your thoughts on how we've done. Please let me know what would be the best way to wrap up our year. I'm at 310-997-5588 or PaulPACRobak@gmail.com.

I've said it before and I'll say it again: *We are better together*.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Robak
Chairperson, LAUSD Parent Advisory Committee