

**LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Office of Student, Family and Community Engagement**  
**Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)**  
**Thursday, January 30, 2025**

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 10:04am.

The chairperson welcomed all the members and the public in attendance.

**Flag Salute:**

Monica Arrazola, a member from Region West, led the flag salute.

**Public Comments:**

The following individuals addressed the membership:

Juan Jose Mangandi

Paul Robak

**Roll call and Establishing Quorum:**

Quorum was established with 41 members and alternates present. Maria Vallin joined the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

**Action Item: Approval of the minutes.**

The members voted by consensus to table the approval of the minutes to the next meeting.

**Action Items:**

**Vote to reaffirm the Approval Process for Comments from PAC Officers.**

The chairperson asked the membership for their consent and support so that the Committee's board members may meet with the District's board of education members. The PAC bylaws establish that no member of PAC shall participate in a closed session meeting with any District employee.

She clarified that the purpose of these meetings is to speak about concerns from the parents. Mr. Crown, vice chair, called for a vote to reaffirm the approval procedure to approve comments related to the LCAP.

He explained the proper way to approve officer's comments under the PAC bylaws.

He stated that during the 2023-2024 school year, the comments presented to

the Superintendent were not reviewed or approved by the committee.

Mr. Crown made the first motion.

I, Andrew Crown, move that we as PAC members reaffirm the official procedure to approve officer's comments, which must include the review and approval from the PAC committee.

Member Christian Ponciano seconded the motion.

The motion passed with 35 members in favor, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

The chairperson proceeded to talk about the importance of meeting with the members of the Board of Education.

Mr. Crown made the first motion.

I Andrew Crown, move that the PAC executive board be authorized to meet with LAUSD board members to discuss issues related to PAC's mission and parent involvement.

Member Calvin Mazlumyan seconded the motion. The membership was given time to debate the motion.

The motion passed with 35 members in favor, 0 against and 2 abstentions.

## **Chairperson's Report**

The Chairperson stated that Ms. Martha Alvares, Director of the Office of Legislative Affairs, did not present PAC's objections and concerns to the LAUSD Board of Education regarding the state's extension for LAUSD to hire classified staff who do not meet state requirements.

Through agreement with the PAC board members, she drafted a letter to officially inform the Board of Education about the committee's objections.

1. Staff who work with special needs students will not be sufficiently trained to do perform their jobs if they are not in the first 3 levels.
2. We feel that LAUSD is not really being responsible, by seeking to obtain this extension and lowering employee qualification levels.
3. The District is not working on specializing employees to move them up to the top 3 ranks and is not looking to solve the problem; instead, they continue to ask for extensions from the state.
4. We as parents want highly qualified staff to work with our students.
5. The District should offer training so that applicants reach the standards that the state requires.

## **New Business**

### **LCAP GOAL 1: Academic Excellence**

Ms. Karla Estrada, Associate Superintendent of Instruction, introduced herself to the membership. She mentioned the importance of students reading and expressing themselves using academic language, but teachers should also use this language to communicate with students. She said that she has seen growth in the SBAC State exam, as referenced by students reaching their grade level, she also mentioned that her data shows that there is still a large number of students that are still not reaching their grade levels.

Dr. Francis Baes explained the importance of having classrooms with an academic environment so that students can achieve their expectations. She also spoke about the programs they offer at schools such as STEM, STEAM and Athletics among others, so that students feel engaged and motivated to attend school. When asked about NAEP results, she said that 4th grade students maintained their levels in language arts, while their scores increased in math. She stated that LAUSD is at higher levels than other districts. Eighth-grade students showed a steady performance in mathematics, while they decreased in other districts.

Maria Sanchez, Executive Director of Elementary School Instruction, gave a presentation on the way the District implements instruction at the elementary level. She spoke about the services and supports that are provided to students.

She said that all the students are using the AMPLIFY CKLA program or Caminos in Spanish.

She also mentioned that since the pandemic, the focus has been on intervention and High Dose tutoring, and each school has an intervention specialist for literacy and numeracy.

Mr. John Vladovic spoke about instruction at the secondary level. He said that for students who need intervention, there is a robust program called Edgenuity, which allows students to retake a class they did not pass. He added that the focus at the secondary level is on critical thinking and literary analysis.

He spoke about the importance of implementing the iReady program, and how it helps by diagnosing and knowing exactly where the student is, having the results, from a personalized instruction. He explained that parents can see the iReady results for their students in the parent portal.

## **A to G Supports and Interventions**

Sean Eddington, representative from the Department of Instruction, mentioned that all their work is based on Pillar One of the Strategic Plan. He said intervention would be implemented in 3 levels.

They start at the lowest level, with a program called JUST IN TIME, [with] interventions that are designed and provided by the classroom teacher. At level 2 they call it ACE (academic course extension) which provides additional time so that students may increase their final grade when the end of the semester or the school year is approaching. Level 1 is credit recovery, it is only at high schools, for students who need another opportunity to retake a course.

He also explained how the NAVIANCE program helps students, he said it is a free online platform, a comprehensive resource for students to start exploring opportunities regarding what they would like to do after high school, by finding out what their strengths and skills are.

It also helps by providing an understanding about financial support and scholarships, as well as applying to colleges.

## **Greetings from Board Members**

Mrs. Rocio Rivas, member of the Board of Education, started by thanking all the parents who participate in these committees, she said that these committees are essential. She mentioned that this year her priority is connecting with the parent community. She attended Coffee with the Principal at different schools because she wants to listen to the parents.

She also spoke about the Citizenship Clinics offered to help by offering legal resources in these difficult times.

## **SFACE Update**

Mrs. Reina Diaz said that the district is working to make families feel safe during these difficult times. With the WE ARE ONE campaign, she said they are holding workshops and webinars in schools to make families aware of their rights.

The remaining items were moved to the next meeting as unfinished business. The meeting was adjourned at 1:36pm.