

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of Student, Family and Community Engagement Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Thursday, February 20, 2025. Minutes

I. Call to order:

The meeting opened at 10:04am

II. Flag Salute:

The flag salute was made by a volunteer from the East region, member Norma Gonzalez in Spanish and Lluvia Sainz in English.

III. Public Comment:

Monica Arrazola, MP, led the public comments in the following order.
Maria Palma.

IV. Review of materials:

Member Eva Jackson, Public Relations, went over the materials needed for the meeting with the members.

V. Roll Call and Establish Quorum:

Roll call was held and a quorum was established with 33 members and alternates present at 10:28 am.

VI. Report of the President.

The president began by acknowledging the good work done by Vice President Andrew Crown. He said he is an exceptional person, as he advocates and contributes to parents.

The president gave the floor so that he could address the membership.

Mr. Andrew Crown thanked the President for her words and the membership for the support. He said that we as parents do not have the freedom to carry out our own agenda without it having SFACE's approval.

He explained that Mr. Plascencia stated that the PAC committee works with the approval of SFACE.

We cannot give our requests or demands without the approval of SFACE.

On February 4th during the agenda planning meeting a SFACE member repeatedly gave his opinion on the motions on the agenda, specifically, for an email to be created for PAC and on the amendments to the bylaws. He said SFACE believes the amendments should be voted on or approved by SFACE's office. THERE IS NO SUCH LANGUAGE IN THE BYLAWS.

He shared with the membership that all this is an action to obfuscate, delay and confuse parents from exercising our voices.

He explained that SFACE also commented that the comments and actions made by Mr. Crown to protect the rights of parents' voices have created an environment that is neither safe nor welcoming.

These actions have threatened his position as vice president and his overall membership on the committee. She believes that from the beginning, SFACE has created an environment that is neither safe nor welcoming for parents. SFACE claims to be a partner in the education of our children, but obstructs communication between the committee, year after year they have not provided members with enough meetings, so that they can deeply and completely complete the work of PAC as mandated in the education code, SFACE declares that it is our partner but, He speaks to us and treats us like ignorant children, very often the information we ask for in our presentations turns out to be nothing we ask for. Causing delays in the feedback development process. When data is requested, it often requires many requests before we receive it, it takes weeks or months rather than hours or days.

SFACE continues to obstruct the work of parents who volunteer their time

All of these examples create a hostile and combative environment, while parents feel that they do not work with SFACE.

SFACE should no longer deny parents the right to use our voices.

Members were given time for questions...

VII. Approval of the minutes.

There were no minutes to approve at this meeting.

VIII. Pending matters. Vote to authorize the creation of a PAC executive board email.

Mr. Crown made the first motion to create an email address to expand direct communication between PAC board members and LAUSD staff, as well as the SFACE office, as well as give committee members and parents in general a direct channel of communication with PAC officers.

I, Andrew Crown, propose that the PAC membership formally request that SFACE, in coordination with the district, establish an email to the PC executive board that is PACBOARD@LAUSD.NET and that this new email can be sent to each of the PAC executive board members for this school year. That this email works in perpetuity to provide PAC members and the public with a consistent methodology of communication with the PAC executive board.

Carol Landaverde seconded the motion.

Members were given time to discuss the motion.

The motion passed with 33 members in favor, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

IX. New Matters.

LCAP Goal 2: Joy and Well-being.

Mr. Elward welcomed and summarized the vision on the focus areas.

Los Angeles School Police Department Deputy Chief Glenn Besunder said he would present on three things, talk about the number of units that patrol and service students during the day, talk about the average time to respond to crime during that time, and talk about partnerships that collaborate, this is defined as the accountability and response of their officers and their partners.

During the first quarter (July-September) LASPD deployed 67 units to the field daily to support the safety of students and staff throughout the district. He said that at this time they are below the goal, since for these moments, the goal should be 80 units. This is a method of reducing response time when a crime is happening, the response time is currently 6 to 7 minutes.

He gave members time for questions...

Members said they expected the department to show data on the level of crime in schools.

He shared that the department no longer criminalizes students who are under the influence of alcohol and drugs inside schools. He said that he does not keep this data in a comprehensive way, he would like the data to be displayed in a transparent manner and at intervals of time in future meetings.

He explained that officers are only assigned to schools when the school has already exhausted all available resources and everything is under the district's policy that is only for 5 days.

He was also asked if his personal opinion, he had the perspective that the district and his department believed they have the safety of students and schools under control, to which he replied NO. Insufficient security is being provided to students due to the lack of officers.

He reported that in the month of February alone, 14 weapons were seized within the school campuses, this figure is higher than previous years.

In the current school year, it is estimated that \$64,605,389 will be spent for school police. Including an increase of \$6,059,606 more than last year.

Goal 6: Support for English Learners.

At the request of PAC officers, the LAUSD tuition rate was submitted.

Enrollment is declining. In the district, the current enrollment rate is 408,026 students, with a decrease of 2.5% compared to the 2022-23 school year.

Dr. Jose Posada, Administrator of MMED, welcomed and introduced himself to the members.

I begin by presenting the guiding documents for the academic success of English learners. This guide is designed and provided by the California State Department of Education.

The district currently has 72,963 English learners, which are 18% of LAUSD's student population, of which, 10,766 (15%) are students with IEPs and/or receiving additional supports.

He showed a graph on the classification levels of students since 2009, this graph shows inconsistencies in the number of students who reclassify each year, highlighting the factors of why, such as the change of the state exam, the pandemic, etc.

In the LPAC exam, the number of students obtaining 4 as a grade, in the year 2022-23, was only 16.3% and in the year 2023-2024 it was 17%, that is, of the more than 88 thousand English learner students, only 14,395 reached this necessary criterion for reclassification.

Members were given time for questions...

According to metrics shown by Mr. Elward, only 48.4% of English learners in the year 2022-23 showed expected English language progress, based on ELPI levels.

The PAC president asked a question, as it was not specified in the presentation of the goal, where the district had said that 158 million was allocated for English learners, 24 million was allocated for English learners.

The district received \$800 million in grants to support all 3 categories, English Learners, Foster Students, and Low-Income Students. He said 24 million is too little for the poor academic performance shown by English learners.

X. Greetings from the Board Member.

Scott Schmerelson, a member of the board of education, thanked members for being at the meeting.

I notify members that this is your last term as a board member of education.

I speak from his experience as a teacher, counselor and principal in schools, he knows what is going on in schools and that it is important for board members to know what is going on in schools, because the purpose of the board of education is for students to feel safe in schools.

One of their projects is to ensure that safety in schools is put into practice. He said that as a principal, you can't have academic achievement if you don't have security in your school.

He gave members time for questions...

He said that he supports school police, that school police have the right to be inside schools, that everyone has the right to make unions and present data to be able to request the police inside their schools.

Schools that do want police in their school, they should be able to have them.

He also spoke about the BSAP program, saying that African-American students scored on SBAC, which positions them at the level of other groups in the district. Additional funding for BSAP helps to have social-emotionally healthy students. He also clarified that this program and its services are available to all students.

XI. Clausura.

The meeting closed at 2:11pm.