

# LAUSD Parent Advisory Committee

## Chairperson's Report

### *May 23, 2019*

To my esteemed PAC colleagues:

It makes me sad to tell you that I'm alarmed about three things. In a few minutes I will try to explain why.

First, at our meeting on April 25th, we approved the LCAP comments you all created, asking PCS staff to transmit these to the Superintendent. That was four full weeks ago. As I write this report on Wednesday morning, PCS still has not received any responses to our comments — nothing, zero, nada. They've not even been advised on when we might expect responses to be forthcoming. In my view this is taking far too long.

As you know, this year our Committee has been forced to operate within a severely compressed timeframe. I have nothing at all against the Local District LCAP Study Groups; in fact, I welcome the addition of these groups to our family. My concern here is that the PAC did not reconvene until nearly all study groups had finished their meeting schedules. This kept us from completing the work we've always had at least three more months to do. Next year our first meeting is set for November, so going forward we will have more time.

The second thing that has me alarmed is this: To date, we've not been given any information at all on the LCAP budget. Yes, we've sat through presentations on the six District LCAP Goals, but this information did not include either specific dollar amounts or evaluations on the effectiveness of LCAP expenditures. The only way we can truly determine how well funds allocated have increased or improved services to students is by reviewing data on the fidelity with which these services are provided throughout the District. Now we're so close to the end of the school year that whatever limited input we can give will likely be too late to help.

The third alarm bell I need to sound is that an LAUSD initiative with major implications for the distribution of funding through the LCAP has never been brought to the PAC for its review and advice. Allocations for targeted student populations or TSPs is affected by the Student Equity Needs Index. In a very unusual move, the *Equity is Justice* Board Resolution was rushed through to approval late last year after the Board of Education voted to suspend one of its own rules and allow this resolution to be brought up for a vote on the very same day it was first presented. The PAC was never consulted during this process, nor even invited to join the working group which met several times to finalize what is now known as SENI 2.0. *Why the rush?*

While we do have a SENI 2.0 presentation on the agenda today, most likely it will not touch on a critically important factor, the so-called "hold harmless" funding. The problem with SENI 2.0 is that in order to direct additional support to what it calls the "Highest Need" school sites, it pulls funding from other schools which are every bit as needy. So two schools with virtually identical population data are sometimes arbitrarily placed in different need categories. Whether a school is "Highest Need" or "High Need," for example, can amount to many thousands of dollars more or less. Yet the PAC has never been given this information. *Why not?*

At this late date, we've had far too little time to truly examine the programs and services provided to LAUSD students, and my fear is that the 2018-19 school year will end without the PAC fulfilling its role of advising on the District's draft LCAP. *We don't have all the information we need*, and yes, I am alarmed. *Are you?*

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Robak  
*Chairperson, LAUSD Parent Advisory Committee*