

LAUSD Parent Advisory Committee

Chairperson's Report

March 21, 2019

To my esteemed PAC colleagues:

First, I want to say a few words about our last meeting. *You did a great job!* I was impressed with the rich conversations I heard, as well as the hard questions you were asking. This is the first time in the PAC's five-year history that members got down to business, to our real work, from the start. Though a bit uncertain at first about what to do, you all should be very proud of what you accomplished. Let's build on that work today.

Another thing we did at our last meeting was to form six *ad hoc* subcommittees focused on the District LCAP Goals. The idea was for each of these groups to coordinate with PCS staff and meet separately from the full Committee in reviewing the past two years of LCAP Comments. Unfortunately this plan does not seem to be working as well as we had hoped. On Thursday the 13th, the first of two days reserved at PCS, no one showed up, and on Monday the 18th, only four members showed up, representing three of the six *ad hocs*. One of these groups, *Proficiency for All*, produced a draft report which is in your packet. We've given this new process a try, but we may find it's more practical to have our Comments created in committee meetings.

Next, I found a crucial bit of legalese last week in the California Education Code, that big blue book you may have seen PCS staff using. According to Section 51101(a)(14) of the 2018 Ed Code, at page 1317:

*"... [P]arents and guardians ... have the right ... to participate as a member of a parent advisory committee [or] schoolsite council In order to facilitate parental participation, **schoolsite councils are encouraged to schedule a biannual open forum for the purpose of informing parents about current school issues and activities and answering parents' questions. The meetings should be scheduled on weekends, and prior notice should be provided to parents.**" (Emphasis added.)*

The language of Ed Code Section 51101(a)(14) must be added to a new version of LAUSD BUL-6745.1, *Guidelines for the Required School Site Council and English Learner Advisory Committee*, without delay.

Finally, I heard from several PAC members after our last meeting. A few had questions or suggestions about our committee structure or LCAP work, though one person shared a sad story that I hear far too often. Her daughter is struggling in two high-school classes and this mom wants to know how she can help. I suggested that she go to the counseling office and schedule classroom visitations. She did so, but encountered the usual resistance from office staff. She was first told that parents are only allowed to visit classrooms for 20 minutes, but after she pulled out LAUSD BUL-6492.2, which states, "*The law prohibits schools from setting arbitrary time limits regarding frequency and duration of visits,*" she was finally allowed to sit in on the classes, though only after much delay and frustration. Why is it that parents who attempt to assert their rights are labeled as "troublemakers" and mistreated at their kids' schools? *This is unacceptable, it's outrageous, and it must stop.*

Here again is the e-mail address I'm using to better serve you, so get in touch: **PaulPACRobak@gmail.com**

We are better together.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Robak
Chairperson, LAUSD Parent Advisory Committee