



**Los Angeles Unified School District  
Office of Parent and Community  
Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)**



**Thursday May 17, 2018**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Welcome/Call to Order:** Mr. Cornejo, PAC Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:03am and welcomed those in attendance.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. Cornejo asked Ms. Vivian Ekchian former Interim Superintendent to lead the flag salute. She mentioned it was her first time leading the pledge at a LAUSD meeting.

**A Conversation with LAUSD School Board Vice President Nick Melvoin:** At 10:06am Mr. Melvoin introduced himself by going over the fact that his great grandfather was a Jewish immigrant. His last name was complicated, so the current last name was given to him by a kindergarten teacher. He is a product of public schools, and though he graduated from Harvard, unlike many of his classmates who went on to law school or chose other careers. Mr. Melvoin decided to teach English and ESL in South LA. He was appalled at the low test scores and low graduation rates. It was a time of budget cuts 10 years ago and he was let go like many other new teachers.

He was elected to the Board one year ago yesterday, representing the 4th District and 150 schools in LDW and LDNW. Our district has many FY kids, immigrants and low income. I have met many Principals and I encourage parent participation.

He stated "you shouldn't have to go to downtown LA to have your voices heard." I am aware of the problem of bullied students and the frustration with the fact that most of your fights are over 1% of the budget.

Member Robak asked why parent engagement was present in some schools but ineffective in others where even the minutes or agenda of parent meetings are hardly visible. Also at Board meetings, some board members are looking at their phones, others are walking back and forth, shouldn't parents be parts of the agenda instead of just public comment? He also thanked Mr. Melvoin for coming into the lion's den. Mr. Melvoin answered that it was not a lion's den but passionate parents whom he appreciated. He also acknowledged that much of parent engagement is compliance driven (checking a box), and at some SSC's teachers outnumber parents.

In response to another question on the subject, he said, board members are affected by parents coming into the meetings.

Parents elected me to represent them he said, not to represent the District.

Christine Mills, Vice Chair, said that the PAC was disappointed by the decision on Vivian Ekchian and she found there was a disconnect between the talk about poverty and the fact that \$10

million dollars was raised for Mr. Melvoin's campaign. In addition, Board members were given a raise from \$46,000 a year to \$125,000 a year. Mr. Melvoin replied that he was elected to work on behalf of parents and children. California is 46th in per pupil spending but #1 in per prisoner spending. We spend half as much money as New York. At Markham where he taught only 6% were proficient in math, at Jordan HS, only 18% completed A-G successfully while at the local charter 65% completed A-G. Ms. Ekchian has strived to bring the two sides together, we have not singled out charter schools, and in fact, we have denied some charter school applications and tracked the record of others.

Member Martirosyan raised the issue of Armenians in the District and how designating a day to commemorate the Armenian genocide would not only raise awareness of the issue among students but reduce absenteeism on that day at LA Unified.

Member Beckles mentioned that African Americans the lowest performing in the District and "6% of your district have 80% of the power". She said she represented Title 1 parent and the district received \$400 million annually and \$300million was carry over money. Mr. Melvoin responded that he hoped participation would increase as some board elections have recorded participation of under 10%. Moreover, President Trump is trying to reduce representation of minorities by adding additional questions to the Census to intimidate immigrant families, we are planning to introduce a resolution at the Board to prevent that. On Title 1 money, the financial office of the LAUSD is present and he can answer your questions.

There were 2 public comments on this item.

#### **Office of Parent and Community Services Update:**

Dr. Lugo re-introduced Ms. Ekchian who said that "we are here to do the right thing". She said she was not offended by the fact that the board did not offer her the job of Superintendent. She is super resilient, "don't feel sorry for me" she said as she is looking forward to having the time to attend meetings such as this PAC meeting. She was given a standing ovation and asked how many language she spoke. She responded 4 and proceeded to greet everyone in those languages.

Dr. Lugo announced that there would be one more PAC meeting on Monday May 21. She handed a written report to all the members.

Pedro will talk about Basic Services today and we hope to have the motion to accept the previous comments. Member Ortiz asked why PAC members are not invited to a meeting at Los Angeles County of Education (LACOE).

There were 3 public comments on this item.

**Establish Quorum:** Christine Mills had taken roll and at 10:59am, quorum was established with 38 members present. Four alternates were seated at 10:35am.

#### **Public Comment** (Five Speakers, two minutes each)

There were 2 public comments.

**Minutes Approval:** Member Robak moved to approve the minutes to the April 19, 2018 meeting, with all the additions, deletions and corrections. Member McIntyre seconded the motion. 26 approved, none were against nor abstained.

Member Fonseca raised the issue of why Evelyn Aleman Macias was voting since she had resigned. Mr. Cornejo and Ms. Lugo explained that according to the Bylaws, the resignation was not in writing, Ms. Macias could come back to the PAC.

There was no public comment on this item.

**Motion to approve comments on LCAP Goals:** Christine Mills made a motion to approve the LCAP comments on 100% graduation and school safety by the subcommittee of the whole with the caveat that PAC members be allowed to add additional comments by May 21st and seconded by Ari McIntyre. 23 were in favor and 3 against 1 abstained.

**Presentation: LCAP Overview:**

**Presentation on Basic Services**

As Chair Cornejo was leaving for another meeting, Pedro Salcido, Director of Finance Policy Office of the CFO, started his presentation at 11:59am. He said basic services was the foundation to support other goals like 100% graduation etc. At this point the District is at 99% but the goal is 100% regarding school facilities, teacher evaluations, staff attendance and so on. One billion Dollars a year is spent on Basic services. He finished his presentation at 12:19pm and took questions. A member asked why Principals don't ever post minutes nor try to reach out to parents. Another said that while exteriors are painted, classrooms are cleaned only once a week. Regarding teacher performance, Ms. Ekchian intervened to say that the system was now uniform and streamlined.

There was a motion by Member Beckles, seconded by Member Ortiz , to extend the meeting by 15 minutes to allow for comments, it was passed by 23 for and 3 against.

**Development Comments: LCAP Goal Basic Services**

At 12:43, members were given 30 minutes to develop comments. Leah Brackins, PCS Senior Facilitator explained the process to members. Members were divided into their local districts.

Two public comments were given on this item.

**Announcements from Members/Alternates and PCS Staff:**

There was an announcement about a car show at West Adams on June 23, and a meeting with East LA Progressive Democrats with Board Member McKenna present on Sunday May 20, 4 to 6pm at 1285 Hill Drive, Eagle Rock, 90041. A member thanked Mr. Alvarenga and Angie Cardenas for their support during this difficult time she is experiencing and thanked members for their support.

**Adjournment:** Vice Chair Christine Mills adjourned the meeting at 1:15pm