

## **Parent Advisory Committee Minutes**

**Date:** November 19, 2015  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
**Location:** PCSS Auditorium

### **WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER**

Rachel Greene, PAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mario Castillo, PAC Member, led the Flag salute.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Paul Robak, PAC Parliamentarian, introduced three speakers for public comment.

1. Gemina Cueva is ELAC Chair at Bravo Magnet. She is disappointed that there are so few parents in attendance today. LAUSD is doing town halls on the LCAP but these presentations should also be given to SSCs at each school site.
2. Octavia Hernandez attended the convening and is disappointed not to see the representatives elected in attendance at the PAC meeting today. Also there is a meeting at Dorsey HS today about charters with the hope that parents will defend LAUSD schools and not go to charters. The speaker expressed some ambivalence about this.
3. Luz Montoya is also disappointed that PAC representatives are being elected then not attending meetings. She urged PAC members to share this information with our schools. She believes money intended for the schools is not getting to the schools.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Ms. Greene asked if members participated in the Superintendent Focus Groups and urged members to participate in the calendar survey, online through Dec 1. Local District LCAP sessions are underway. She originally hoped to review 7 schools and their budgets, comparing their funding from former years through the present. Instead, we are covering budgets for 3 schools today. We are curious to know whether schools are receiving more money under LCFF, and to help PAC members understand the relation between the Equity Index and school budgets. Future topics will focus on the SBAC and a review of programs designed to assist our students and the metrics used to measure how they are working. Please continue to add comments to the whiteboards in the back of the room: one for the "Parking Lot" another for Future Topics. The PCSS update will be presented at the end of the meeting.

At the suggestion of CAC members, PAC members participated in a grounding activity where members stood in a circle and stated a particular quality they bring to this committee.

## **ROLL CALL/ESTABLISH QUORUM**

Kathy Kantner, PAC Secretary, conducted roll call. At 10:50 28 members were present, and quorum was achieved without alternates being seated.

## **LCAP UPDATE**

Pedro Salcido, External Affairs Officer, Office of Government Relations, provided a presentation. (See handout). Multiple (22-26) LCAP community forums have been held with stakeholders throughout the District within the last 2-3 weeks. He thanked PAC members who have attended these sessions for supporting these efforts.

LCFF has put a spotlight on how we do this work, set priorities, have conversations about our budget and how to support student success. We ask: what's the vision our community has for our schools, and how can we ensure that we are providing accountability?

Q: This presentation shows goals (100% graduation, 100% attendance, etc.) that do not seem realistic. A: These are aspirational goals that we are aiming for, and then we set year-to-year growth targets that we believe are achievable. Q: Parents know the District's proficiency rates; these goals are unrealistic.

Changes: The Local Control Accountability Scorecard replaces the Performance Meter. Feedback from the community last year advocated for supporting A-G, providing greater investment in the arts, addressing bullying, providing more counselors -- and this input was reflected in the current budget. Additional funding was also used to hire EL Coaches, support Early Education, Foster Youth, etc. Incremental investments are being made.

Q: We say the Special Education money is there, but it's not reaching my kids. Surrogate parent training/identification happened late this year. When the data comes out next year and students in Special Ed have failed, it's because we did this too late.

Q: Many 8th, 9th and 10th grade students won't meet A-G benchmarks. What are we going to do? A: We think 50% won't make it, so we are doing intercessions: offering credit recovery over winter break, which is available online at the school site. Q: Is this [asking students to give up their winter break for credit recovery] fair to parents and students? A: It's one of the things that, as we move forward, the investment will pay off. Q: We should prioritize investments in Kinder.

Q: What are the base, supplemental and concentration amounts for Elementary Schools? A: This is covered in the next presentation.

Q: Feedback from the LCAP community forums and from the PAC is that principals aren't always engaging their communities in budgeting decisions. This flies against the intent of LCFF. A: This year principals will have to be more transparent about how they are spending money at the school site. A new Targeted Student Population (TSP) form has been created and principals will use this to spell out how much of this funding a school receives, how they are spending it, and which outcomes they expect to meet.

Q: If the School Site Plan for Student Achievement is under the purview of SSC, don't they review this information there? A: No, this is separate. The TSP form is being introduced this year, to encourage these conversations.

Q: It sounds wonderful on paper, but students in SpED aren't receiving sufficient academic support. The support has to be provided in a timely manner, and if parents aren't on top of it and advocating, then nothing gets done for these students, which isn't right; they have the ability. A: I don't have all the information to walk you through what we are doing in Special Education. But LCFF put a spotlight on our students in Special Education, and we have put resources into identification -- proper identification, not simply referring a student to SpED when the real issue is that they are an English Language Learner.

## **PRESENTATION: 2015-16 BUDGET**

Sam Gonzales and Tess Pineda of Budget Services provided an overview on school site budgets and how to find specific information online. (See handout.)

Q: LCFF brings us back to 20007/8 funding - it doesn't provide additional money. What is the State going to do to fund us going forward? A: LCFF is digging us out of the hole from the recession. We still need to think in terms of how California's State ranking compares -- we are 35th in the country -- and in terms of adequacy.

Affiliated Charters are pulled out of LCFF; each is considered its own LEA.

Q: When Affiliated Charters are listed in the Equity Index -- and receive funding for Assistant Principals, etc. -- this money comes from the set-aside for charter funding, not the LAUSD TSP share, correct? A: Yes.

When we talk about LCFF we have to take a holistic approach: are Title I funds, IDEA funds targeting the youth they need to reach and how can we provide equity to youth?

Q: How much of LCFF is going to school sites? A: About 70% of LCFF goes directly to schools, but when we add those resources that are administered centrally (Foster Youth Achievement programs, Restorative Justice, programs to support homeless youth, etc.) then about 90-93% of overall funding goes to schools.

Mr. Salcido requested that broader, more complex questions be held for the end of the presentation, but if there are quick, clarifying questions related to the Power Point slide on display, these can be addressed now.

Budget Spending reports are also available online and these provide greater detail.

Q: For Pilot schools, how is the funding calculated according to the new funding formula? A: The revenue LAUSD receives is divided up and given to those schools actually earning it -- this is revenue that a school would generate directly from the State, depending upon enrollment, unduplicated students, etc. Then we look at their expenditures. We calculate a share of these central costs. If their revenue is higher than what they are making we provide an additional allocation (the line item for this is 10397).

Q: When schools have students that meet multiple identified categories (FY, low income, ELL), does the District give the school what is actually needed to serve these students? A: We rank the schools based on these projections, and we give to the schools with the highest need.

Q: The "hold harmless" item for Title I appears in LAUSD investments to support targeted youth and also in the 2015/16 budget under Title I. These are the schools that fall just below the Title I cutoff, but why is this included as part of the total investments of LCFF when it's really Title I? A: In 2014/15 they swapped it out so it was cleaner. I'm not sure why it appears in both places, we will have to look into that. Q: Schools in the middling level of need come up short; is there an effort by Budget Services to look at the range in terms of highest and lowest per student allocations: does it change over time, and what can we do to avoid huge swings over time? A: That's impacted by enrollment. The Student Equity Index is a straight ranking, but based on enrollment these rankings can change from year to year. To prevent schools from losing positions one year to the next, we are using a three year averaging to minimize the swing. Pilot schools receive allocations based on projections; if enrollment changes, the District would have to take some funding back, unfortunately. That's not what we want to do: give and take away. Consistency is best.

Q: Special Services, OT: is this position funded centrally or by each school site? Most Elementary Schools don't have OT or PT onsite. A: This is centrally funded, yes. If the need for these services is generated through an IEP the District will send the OT or PT out as needed; It doesn't come out of the school's budget, unless there is a lot of need at a particular school, then they would have discretion.

Q: Are these school budgets representative examples or randomly selected? Is there a way to look at budgets and the performance information to see what impact the funding has on schools? A: We received a list of 10 schools the PAC was interested in, and from this list an ES, a MS and a HS were selected. We will also demonstrate how each of you can access this information for your schools online. Q: But if there's no master

index to compare funding to performance, how can we make sense of this data? A: There are multiple resources to help evaluate a school's performance: the School Report card, etc. A combination of strategies are used to help students: curriculum, the decisions made at schools -- it's hard to separate out the effects of one strategy. In some cases, you can see more clearly the impact of a particular program -- Restorative Justice, for example. In other cases, it's less clear: attendance doesn't always improve when a PSA position is funded. Multiple factors relate to student attendance: how the teachers are teaching, the school climate. This is a really good question.

A demonstration of how to find information online was provided. Go to [LAUSD.net](http://LAUSD.net), Find a School, Search page. Typing the name of a school directs the user to the District's portal page or the link to the school's standalone website. Select the portal page for Budget reports. Magnets are collapsed into each home school site. Demographic information is updated annually or more often, the budget information is updated monthly. Parent Engagement may be consolidated under materials and supplies, or it may appear on other line items, depending on how the school accounts for it.

A General Fund program manual (Estimated Rate Sheet) is available annually during budget season, and includes updated information for salaries.

Q: I don't see the LCFF codes in this budget? A: This is a rough summary. LCFF will fall in this unrestricted category; we will give you another report in greater detail.

Q: Is there a way to find the codes that link to this so we can talk with our principal? A: Refer to the School Spending Report listed on the school portal. Q: Can we track how much went to Professional Development? A: If a school pays for this from Title I funds, yes; otherwise this is centrally administered.

Q: Many positions can be paid for a variety of ways: a TA can be paid out of Title I or out of TSP, for example. A: Yes. Q: Is there an area we can refer to so that we know what a specific program is for? A: In this case it's best to ask the principal.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

AmberMarie Irving-Elkins made a motion to approve the Minutes of May 21, 2015 with any additions, deletions, or corrections. Rosa Andreson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The vote was called: there were no objections and no abstentions. The motion carried.

AmberMarie Irving-Elkins made a motion to approve the Minutes of September 17, 2015 with any additions, deletions or corrections. Brent Anderson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The vote was called. There were no objections and no abstentions. The motion carried.

## **PARENT COMMUNITY STUDENT SERVICES UPDATE**

Rowena Lagrosa, Director, PCSS noted that Michelle King, Chief Deputy Superintendent of Schools and Frances Gipson, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction plan to attend a future PAC meeting. Dr. Ruth Perez is leaving to become Superintendent of the Norwalk Unified School District. Mr. Jose Huerta is the new Local District East Superintendent. An OpEd in today's Los Angeles Times expresses how difficult the telephone survey for the instructional calendar is to understand. PAC members received a demonstration on how to complete the survey: visit the LAUSD Home page, select School Year calendars; enter your phone number and click on the link for calendar. Mrs. Lagrosa thanked everyone who attended the community forums for the LCAP and the Superintendent selection. Overall there was poor attendance at many of these forums, which shows that parents are more interested in what happens directly at their school sites. To this end PCSS has been providing a series of weekend trainings for SSC members. The last one will be held this Saturday at Roybal Learning Center; anyone is welcome to attend.

School Report cards will be distributed before Winter Break. The School Experience Survey will go out to families in January. Your input is important. While there are several report cards related to LCFF, SQI, etc., it is the School Report Card that provides the best picture of how school communities feel about their schools. PCSS is receiving many calls from principals, so the SRC has their attention and will provide great baseline data. The SSC trainings and the SRC address the two Parent Engagement goals established in the LCAP. Next month our Chair, Rachel Greene, will attend the Early Childhood Education and Parent Engagement Committee and will provide a report.

Q: How is MiSiS doing this year? A: Most issues with MiSiS have been resolved and it seems to be on-track. PCSS is involved with the new PASSPORT system, which is being piloted at 20 schools; the entry point through the grade book will be available through MISIS. Schoology is the vendor. We can't hold our families accountable, or our schools, unless we give them the data to do so. Contact Mr. Alvarenga if you have problems with PASSPORT login.

Q: The information we receive here is valuable. Many people at our schools want to understand the budgeting breakdowns. As a representative of my Local District, how can I let other parents know this information? A: The role of PAC members is to comment on the LCAP. Our goal as PAC members is to understand how LAUSD's LCFF funding and categorical funding supports students. PAC members are a resource and can answer questions, however it's up to each principal to communicate with school communities about these issues. Principals have received a Toolkit to help with this.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

AmberMarie Irving-Elkins, PAC Vice Chair, urged PAC members to try to spread the word about this last SSC training. Members were encouraged to fill out the evaluation form for today's presentations.

Rachel Greene acknowledged the new DELAC and CAC officers and hopes to coordinate efforts among the committees. Also, she announced on behalf of Brent Anderson, who had to leave, that there is an Anti-bullying Star Wars program available free of charge to schools. Contact Brent for more information.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:57 p.m.

These notes are respectfully submitted by Kathy Kantner, PAC Secretary.