

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
GOVERNING BOARD OF THE LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

PARENT ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

333 South Beaudry Avenue, Board Room
4:00 p.m., Thursday, February 20, 2020

Committee Members

Mr. Scott M. Schmerelson, Chairperson
Dr. George J. McKenna, III, Board Member

District Staff

Mr. Antonio Plascencia, Interim Administrator,
Office of Parent and Community Services
Ms. Diane Panossian, Director, Office of Parent and Community Services
Mr. Gonsalo Garay, Administrator, Parent And Community Engagement
(PACE) Unit, Local District Northwest
Ms. Patrizia Puccio, Administrator, PACE Unit, Local District Northeast
Ms. Katrina M. Campbell, Chief Business and Compliance Counsel,
Office of the General Counsel
Ms. Pia Escudero, Executive Director, Division of Student Health
and Human Services
Mr. Marcos A. Hernandez, Principal, Ellen Ochoa Learning Center

External Representatives

Ms. Letetsia Fox, CSEA President
Mr. Paul Robak, Parent
Ms. Yolanda Ford-Swinton, Parent
Ms. Laura Baz, Parent

NOTES

The meeting convened at 4:07 p.m.

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. George McKenna, III, Board Member, announced Committee Chair Scott Schmerelson will be late. He opened the meeting on behalf of Mr. Schmerelson. Dr. McKenna asked that the committee members and external representatives introduce themselves. Mr. Schmerelson arrived at 4:23 p.m.

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

Mr. Roberto Fonseca, Committee Chair of the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC), provided a brief update of the committee and expressed his concerns about PACs relationship with the schools. Ms. Diana Guillen, Chairperson of the District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC) expressed her concerns about DELACs relationship with the schools. She spoke about the budget development process, the lack of proper budget training for parents, and providing a stipend for the DELAC members.

Mr. Schmerelson apologized to the parent representatives for arriving late. He discussed the importance of parent representatives. Dr. McKenna expressed his concern about whether the concerns of the parent representatives are being addressed. Mr. Antonio Plascencia, Jr., Interim Administrator, Parent and Community Services, responded to Dr. McKenna's concerns. He provided a brief update on some of the actions taken by the Parent and Community Services Division. Dr. McKenna expressed his concern that there should be consistency with every school regarding the District guidelines.

Members of the committee shared comments regarding parent engagement.

Mr. Fonseca and Ms. Guillen responded to a question from Ms. Ford Swinton regarding the strategy in a utopian world with involved parents. Mr. Hernandez invited Mr. Fonseca and Ms. Gillen to visit his school site. Ms. Diane Panossian, Director, Parent and Community Services, responded to a question from Ms. Fox regarding a way for parents to develop their own guidelines.

Members of the committee continued a brief discussion on parent engagement.

CULTIVATING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE HOME AND SCHOOL: PARENT & FAMILY CENTER LEADERSHIP

Ms. Guia Kaplan, Personnel Manager, Classification and Compensation Branch, introduced Ms. Karla Gould, Personnel Director, and Ms. Donna Barrow, Assistant Director, Personnel, Classified Employee Services Branch.

Ms. Gould stated the Personnel Commission is a type of civil service board. She provided a brief history of the Personnel Commission and its role. The Personnel Commission oversees the employment process for classified employees. Its goal is to provide a fair, equitable, and competitive classified employment service.

Ms. Kaplan discussed the various classifications that are parent related. She provided a brief history of the community representatives. Because of State Bill 2261, Education Code 45258 was revised to say employment of community representatives in an advisory capacity will now belong in the classified service. She provided clarification of the roles and history of the central office-based classifications and school-based classifications.

Ms. Kaplan and Ms. Barrow responded to questions from the committee regarding the difference between a Community Representative A and Community Representative C, the assignment and recruitment of community representatives, and the seniority of community representatives. Mr. Roback inquired about the Itinerant Parent Center Director or Itinerant Community Representative positions. He asked if the positions were District funded rather than site funded. Ms. Barrow stated staff will research the genesis of the position and report back at a later time.

Mr. Plascencia introduced Mr. Bryan Davis, Community Representative, Woodcrest Elementary School, Ms. Maria Parra, Parent Liaison, Legacy STEAM High School, and Ms. Victoria Huizar

de Mares, Community Representative Cleveland Charter High School, to share best practices regarding parent engagement and to share their experiences.

Members of the committee shared comments and expressed their thanks to the community representatives. The committee continued discussion regarding parent engagement. The community representatives discussed some of the challenges they face.

WE ARE ONE: MAKE LOS ANGELES UNIFIED COUNT IN CENSUS 2020

Ms. Pia Escudero, Executive Director, Student Health and Human Services, expressed her thanks to the committee for helping to lift the voice of parents. She briefly discussed the We Are One Campaign and shared a video regarding the We Are One Workshop public service announcement. She discussed the importance of why the District should get involved with the census.

Mr. Antonio Plascencia shared a map of the District and highlighted the hard to survey populations. He discussed the confidentiality of the census and changes to the census, such as the internet option. He discussed the resources provided to parents, family centers, and schools to assist with the census questionnaire. In addition, he discussed the Districts census outreach efforts such as the campaign posters for all schools, school based and regional workshops, and questionnaire assistance centers at the Office of Parent & Community Services, Adult Schools and Skill Centers.

Mr. Plascencia responded to questions and concerns of the committee.

Mr. Schmerelson announced the next Parent Engagement Committee Meeting will be April 16, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. (which was subsequently canceled).

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following speakers addressed the committee on the subjects indicated:

Mr. Allan Kakassy, Community Member	Random wandering policy
Mr. Juan Godinez, Parent	Parent engagement
Ms. Monique Bacon, Community Member	Parent engagement
Ms. Maria Daisy Ortiz, Parent	Parent engagement
Mr. Cicelio Lopez, Parent	Parent engagement

Dr. McKenna asked if a staff member could speak with Ms. Maria Daisy Ortiz regarding her concerns.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. McKenna expressed his concerns about the issues the speakers addressed during public comment and inquired about what steps will be taken to ensure the issues are addressed by staff. He asked to adjourn the meeting in memory of Ms. Rita Walters, former Board Member and Los Angeles City Council Member. Mr. Robak asked for an update on the Family Empowerment Rubric. Mr. Schmerelson adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

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Materials related to an item on this Agenda distributed to the Board of Education are available at:
<http://laschoolboard.org/02-20-20Parent>