

LAUSD Parent Advisory Committee

Chairperson's Report

May 19, 2022

Hello, colleagues:

With the end of this school year closing in, I wanted to review a few things we've done. First off, we sent 62 LCAP Comments to the Superintendent last month and received his responses. Then we used ThoughtExchange to provide feedback on those responses. This feedback has been transmitted to the Office of the Superintendent, and his reply to our feedback is scheduled to be delivered at our final meeting. You all have done a fine job of carrying out your responsibilities.

With Ms. Ortiz Franklin today, we have now seen six of the seven LAUSD Board Members. Board President Gonez will be attending our May 31st meeting, along with our Student Board Member, Parish Kanuga, I hope, both through a prerecorded video presentation. Over the past two years, PAC is the only one of the three District-level committees to regularly host Board Members.

As we prepare for the usual end-of-year culminations, graduations, celebrations, and other events held at our kids' schools, please take some time to reflect on everything we've done together as a Committee, both on Zoom and in person. Along with the many presentations on programs and services provided by the District for students as well as parents and families, we have both learned from and taught each other. The relationships we have formed this year, and the information we've shared, made us better advocates, better parents, and better people.

That said, much work is still to be done. At too many of our schools, students continue to struggle and fall behind, since long before the pandemic began two years ago. The number of students who suffer from teasing, exclusion, and bullying is still far too large. Likewise, some parents and families feel unwelcome on their children's campuses, prevented from volunteering or observing in the classroom, and trying to overcome the politics of SSC and ELAC often leads to frustration.

Supt. Carvalho seems to have empathy for parents and families, and Miami-Dade County Public Schools, which he led for 14 years, has a long-running, successful *Parent Academy* program. He's a compelling public speaker but, even more important, he's open about where he came from and what he's gone through since immigrating to New York from Portugal at the age of 19. While many leaders have a story, no one in recent memory has stayed on the job nearly so long in a major school district — based on enrollment, Miami-Dade is number four, after Chicago and LA.

I'm optimistic about our new Superintendent. Now we need to see how his *100-Day Plan* works.

At your service,

Paul Robak

Chairperson, 2021-2022
LAUSD Parent Advisory Committee
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