

LAUSD Parent Advisory Committee

Chairperson's Report

April 21, 2022

Hello, colleagues:

Officers have been preparing our LCAP Comments for delivery to the Superintendent, and I'm pleased to tell you that this was at last finished on the Saturday before Spring Break began. Now Supt. Carvalho's staff has these Comments and is working diligently to draft responses, which the Superintendent will be sharing with us in person next Friday, April 29th, at 10:00, live from Roybal Learning Center in Downtown LA. This is the same high school campus where he met with all three District-level parent committees on March 25th. The meeting will be "hybrid" on Zoom.

Our new Superintendent clearly has some bold ideas to get things moving in LAUSD. Two of his proposals are that all schools will be open over the summer, and that credentialed staff and administrators working at the District's Beaudry headquarters as well as all six Local District offices will be 'deployed' to fill open classroom teaching positions through the end of this current school year. As you might imagine, these proposals will involve a massive effort, though certainly Supt. Carvalho has made abundantly clear from the start that he intends to focus on what is best for **students** rather than for adults. This is a radical departure from what we've ever seen in LA Unified that I know of, and an authentic focus on students is precisely what's needed to increase student academic achievement. It's truly refreshing to see a superintendent stand up for kids.

On a different topic, the engagement of parents and families in LAUSD, late yesterday morning I sent an e-mail to all six Local District Superintendents and their PACE Administrators. While being careful to state that my message does not in any way represent the opinion of our PAC, I wanted them to know about what many of you and countless other parents believe is a communication practice which leaves us as parents feeling we are *not* the so-called "equal partners" that District leaders often tell us we are. This issue is Community of Schools Administrators or COSAs holding Zoom "town hall" events as **webinars**, so we are unable to see, hear, or interact with each other.

Finally, one thing I've realized while helping parents solve problems at their children's schools is that far too often, we are thought of less as an *asset* and more as a *problem*. While of course not every principal holds this misguided, outdated belief — the "site admin" at your child's school may well be a real leader who thoroughly understands the benefits of engaging their parents and families — too many still do not. When we see such deficient leadership in action, parents usually have no idea how to bring this to the attention of someone who cares about their concern and is actually in a position to do something about it. This, I strongly believe, is a big part of the problem.

At your service,

Paul Robak

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