

LAUSD Parent Advisory Committee

Chairperson's Report

January 20, 2022

Hello, colleagues:

Happy New Year, everyone! I hope you and the family are healthy. Now, welcome to COVID-22.

Just when we thought things were calming down, maybe even looking good, going into the winter break and heading into January, *Omicron* showed up to ruin vacations and wreak havoc on what was supposed to be a restful, rejuvenating time of being thankful. Our family of 4 is all vaccinated and boosted, but still my dear wife, a nurse on her facility's COVID team, reminds me to wear a mask and stay away from crowds. Will we be in *COVID-23* next year and *COVID-24* after that?

Anyway ... reflecting on our first "training" meeting of December 9th, I believe this session went very smoothly and we accomplished much. While it would be nice if we could spend all our time focused on the work at hand in every one of our meetings, being a real committee with a formal structure, we do need to deal with what I call the "housekeeping" aspects of the PAC, such as roll call, approving minutes, seating alternates, discussing motions, and listening to reports. At least with this new format which alternates between "business" and "training" sessions, we should be more productive than in years past. *Please let me know what you thought of our last meeting.*

Today we will be reviewing and developing comments on District LCAP Goals 3, 5, and 6 — *Excellent Attendance, School Safety and Climate*, and *Basic Services*, respectively. Maybe one of these Goals is something you're passionate about. If so, go ahead and join its breakout session. You can always pop into a breakout for the other two later if you like. We're also trying something new today: Anyone who's watching our meeting over Zoom or listening on the phone can join a breakout. So members of the public may feel free to join us in these rich discussions.

Speaking of "joining," I've noticed in our meetings that while many of you do speak up to voice your opinion, ask questions, bring up concerns, or offer suggestions, some of you don't. It makes me sad that a few voices among us are heard only when answering in roll call or when voting on a motion. Friends, for what it's worth, we all went out of our way to be elected as members of this committee, or were invited by our Board Member. So there was a reason we wanted to serve on the PAC. In my humble opinion, we should be taking full advantage of this opportunity. Some people say, "I just want to be informed," and keep to themselves. But parent leaders have an obligation to represent the parents who voted for us, or a Board Member who appointed us. *Staying silent and only listening is not representing anyone.* Please speak up and let us hear you!

At your service,

Paul Robak

Chairperson, 2021-2022
LAUSD Parent Advisory Committee
paulPACrobak@gmail.com