

LAUSD Parent Advisory Committee

Chairperson's Report

February 2, 2023

Hello, colleagues:

Our subcommittees met this past Monday, January 30th. The English Learner Subcommittee hosted Multilingual and Multicultural Education Dept. (MMED) staff; Div. of Special Education (DSE) presented to our Special Education Subcommittee; and Black Student Achievement Plan (BSAP) admins talked with our African American Student Subcommittee. These sessions were so powerful, and everyone who showed up got a lot of information while asking pointed questions and expressing many serious concerns. The Two-Way Communication Subcommittee had an important discussion about the needless frustration parents experience in getting information about events and programs, not only at their children's school sites but throughout our District.

This past Tuesday, I attended the Black Family Summit, presented by the National Assn. of African American Parents and Youth or NAAAPY. I was already very familiar with the historically low achievement of our Black students; however, this event was for me a unique window on the sadness and anger felt for so many years by parents in our Black community. The conference ended with a "call to action" session which made me realize that we have only begun to hear the chorus of Black voices *demanding* that LAUSD do so much more for these students. Stay tuned.

Several years ago, I realized that all three District-level parent committees — CAC, DELAC, and PAC — must begin to collaborate and speak with one voice on problems many of us see with what can best be described as a broken system of "parent and family engagement." Too often this crucial practice is left to principals and community reps who are not properly trained on how to *truly* engage families, who harbor negative stereotypes that families supposedly "don't care" to be engaged, or even worse, who view us as potential "problems" to be "managed." FACTS.

I've reached out to John Perron and Diana Guillen, CAC and DELAC chairpersons, to brainstorm ideas on how our committees might advocate for what all LAUSD parents and families need. Both CAC and DELAC have Special Education Subcommittees, while our Committee and CAC each have an African American Student Subcommittee, so these are two possible areas of collaboration. I believe the time has come for parent leaders to be unified on issues of importance to our families.

Finally, I've asked PCS to give us a full listing of COSAs, with e-mail addresses and phone numbers.

At your service,

Paul Robak

Chairperson, 2022-2023

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