

**Parent Advisory Committee  
Training Notes  
Thursday, March 31, 2022**

**I. Welcome / Bienvenida**

Chair Robak opened the training at 10:00 a.m.

**II. Norms / Normas**

The meeting norms were read by Judith Padilla, Parliamentarian

**III. Purpose of Training / Propósito de la Capacitación**

Derrick Chau reviewed all things LPAC including our goals and schedule

\*See PAC LCAP Presentation Engagement & SENI slide deck for more details.

To review or obtain copies of materials, please visit the Office of the Parent and Community Services at <https://achieve.lausd.net/Page/10284>

**IV. Greetings from LAUSD Board Vice President / Saludos del Vicepresidente de la Junta de Educación**

**Nick Melvoin, Board Member District 4**

District has recently expanded. Town Hall on Monday featuring Superintendent Carvalho. Details TBD

Recovery from the pandemic is notable regarding attendance and mental health and trauma. Wants to acknowledge all the hard work that has gone into the safe reopening of schools. Supports school site control and funding flexibility regarding hiring personnel. Instruction and academic support is important. Retention of teachers and other professionals with salary increases. Green space, outdoor learning, greening of schools, schools as parks.

Q- Billions were given to LAUSD to mitigate effects of school closures. Money is there but there are problems hiring ppl. What are the milestones and benchmarks to get our kids back to where they need to be?

A- Re hiring: how can we use one time funding for ongoing costs of new salaried positions? Tutors are harder to find. Working with schools to determine what best works for their communities. Testing is important and so the suspension of testing over the pandemic makes it difficult to identify learning milestones and benchmarks. Schools can use other forms of assessments like STAR, DIBELS, etc. Ask your school to make sure they are assessing students and sharing data.

Q- Are there ways to determine if the money is being spent effectively?

A - Answer focused on repeating what the said about academic assessments.

Q- 75% of elementary school students are not vaccinated. What are you going to do in the fall about vaccine mandates?

A- No vax mandate for students under 11. Won't happen before the fall. Governor has said there wouldn't be a mandate for students unless they are fully authorized. Talk of a personal believe exemption, but ultimately LAUSD must follow state law.

Q- What is your plan to make a difference? We need more parent inclusion and transparency. How can you make a change re LCFF and LCAP? ESSR-SENI funds and ELO funds specific for parent engagement. How can schools engage parents better to close achievement gaps?

A- Invitations like his to this meeting. Blanket policy that principals are hired with the help of parent interview and hiring committees in his board district. He wants to push for things like that this because he values parent involvement.

Q- We're not supposed to have school police, but school police are always there. School climate officers seem ineffective. Mandates and masks seem to have taken away self-confidence.

A- Doesn't want to eliminate school police. But we need to hire the right ppl to address the right problems.

Stay in touch with LAUSD Board Member Melvoin!

Facebook, Twitter, IG: @NickMelvoinBD4

Apr 4 at 4pm Wilshire Area Town Hall: <https://bit.ly/BD4Wilshire>

Apr 4 at 5pm Reseda Area Town Hall: <https://bit.ly/BD4Reseda>

Superintendent Town Hall recording:

<https://www.facebook.com/nickmelvoinBD4/videos/992780094976231>

Newsletter sign up: <https://www.boardmembermelvoin.com/signup-for-our-newsletter>

Contact: Rachel Sherman, Community Engagement Manager, [rachel.sherman@lausd.net](mailto:rachel.sherman@lausd.net)

## **V. Student Equity Needs Index (SENI) Presentation / *Índice de Equidad para las Necesidades Estudiantiles (SENI)***

Presented by Karen Long. \$700 million (\$400 mil from Local Control and Accountability Plan) to SENI to close equity gaps and improve services for targeted groups of students. Equity assessed over the years. Funds have generally increased over time. Funds go to address specific Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) goals.

SENI indicators - school demographics, academic indicators, school climate indicators, and community indicators including covid case and death rates.

\*See PAC LCAP Presentation\_Engagement & SENI slide deck for more details.

### **• Q & A Session / *Sesión de Preguntas y Respuestas***

Q- Re: SENI funds and their impact, why in schools have there not been ways to close the achievement back? Why is consultation not done w parents and why is this not progressing?

A- PCS and LCAP has worked on parent training and worked with the SENI task force to identify strategies that need to be implemented at school sites. Latest funds were received late, so it's difficult to see the latest results. COVID has made it hard to track student progress. Acknowledgement that parent participation is needed and valued.

Q- Looking at the chart showing allocated monies, how much is being used to help AA students? Money should be allocated to all schools regardless of the number of African American students at the school. Schools need tutoring.

A- Acknowledgement of the importance of supporting Black students. Black Student Achievement Plan (BSAP) is focused on helping Black students. We must follow rules from the state about how we need to spend SENI funds, for low income, EL, and students in foster care, not specifically for Black students, though some will fall into other categories.

Q- Re benchmarks of 6th and 9th grade students, what are our proficiency rates?

A- State has postponed many assessments but there are plans to return to regularly scheduled standardized testing. The latest of that type of data that we have is old because of the pandemic. Interim assessment data has been shared and we know that overall students are far behind, attendance is an issue too. Trying to provide resources like tutoring. Please check the open data portal for the most up to date data at <https://achieve.lausd.net/opendata>

Q- Parent student and community engagement budget is always the lowest and our last allotment wasn't spent, probably because of the pandemic, but why is it the lowest and what can we do to increase parent involvement and engagement? Investing in these things will help all other goals.

A- Working with PCS to come up with examples of services that school sites can implement to get more parents engaged. Acknowledges the importance of parent involvement on student achievement. Communities of Schools are working on this too. We should include this in our comments to the Superintendent.

Q- Are SENI funds given to charter schools too?

A- Yes, affiliated charters. Not independent charters.

## **VI. PAC Training: LCAP Goal - Engagement / *Capacitación del PAC: Meta de LCAP***

### **Goal 4: Parent, Community and Student Engagement / *Involucración Meta 4: Involucración de los Padres, la Comunidad y los Estudiantes***

#### **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT**

Dr. Branda Manuel and Sarah Mihon member of supt. Student advisory council. Spoke about several student leadership and empowerment opportunities.

Dr. Manuel is retiring from LASUD after 43 years of service. She will be missed!

Focus groups, orientations, leadership programs. Targeting students from SENI categories. Increasing participation.

Check out the student led podcast: Education Empowered

#### **• Q & A Session / *Sesión de Preguntas y Respuestas***

Q- How can we get more water to students?

A- Students can bring up issues like this to the Supt. in the council.

Q- Regarding student participation and outreach, can there be something for elementary schools? We have a student council at our elementary schools, and all should have them.

A- Agreed. We need more people in the department to do more work in the schools. Please advocate for more funding to hire more people.

Q- What is the first step for a student to get involved?

A- Anyone can attend conferences to learn about leadership and job opportunities. Starting in 8th grade students can apply to the Supt. student advisory council. Email Dr. Manuel to learn more about specific programs.

Q- How can you do outreach for EL students and students in East and South LA?

A- We try to reach out to all schools. Just email me if there is a specific school.

**Dr. Manuel - [brenda.manuel@lausd.net](mailto:brenda.manuel@lausd.net)**

### **Parent and Community Engagement**

District gets monies to pay for personnel and programs to support parent and community engagement.

3 Strategies - 1) family voice and leadership and advocacy, 2) building triad capacity mindset for families and educators 3) Home, school, district communication

\*See PAC LCAP Presentation Engagement & SENI slide deck for more details.

- Comment Development on LCAP Goal 4 / *Desarrollo de Comentarios sobre la Meta 4 de LCAP*

*Lots of Q&A - See zoom recording at the PCS website.*

*Many parents express the need for more opportunities for parent involvement and collaboration in parental engagement policies and opportunities.*

*General advice is to contact schools directly with any issues and if they are unresponsive bring it to PCS and COS staff.*

*PCS does not train school site staff directly. Maybe it can start?*

Q- *Where can we get most up to date infographics and access to line items?*

A- *District website, call Dr. Chau for district line items, SSC for school site.*

Q- *Old schools need support.*

A- *Funding is for schools not facilities.*

**VII. Review PAC Chairperson's Presentation to the Board of Education / *Repaso de la Presentación del Presidente del PAC ante la Junta de Educación***

- Mr. Robak reviewed the presentation with the members and entertained questions.

**VIII. Announcements from PAC Membership and PCS Staff / *Anuncios de los miembros del PAC y personal de PCS***

**IX. Closing Remarks / *Comentarios de Clausura***

\*PAC LCAP Presentation Engagement & SENI slide deck was sent to PAC membership via email on 3/30/22 in an email from Leah Brackins.

Notes taken by Tara Kroeger, Assistant Secretary