

LAUSD Parent Advisory Committee

Chairperson's Report

May 20, 2021

Hello, colleagues:

Students are back on campus! Well, some are, at least. Only 30 percent of elementary students have returned to school in person, 16 percent in middle schools, and a paltry 7 percent of high school students are now using the so-called “hybrid” model. **Seven percent.** Think about that.

For the Special Board Meeting this past Tuesday, a small yet significant item appeared on the agenda. This was shown as “Path to Recovery Ad Hoc Committees” followed by a trio of bullet points: *Accelerated Learning*; *Student Wellness*; and *Family and Community Engagement*. Upon seeing this item, I sent an e-mail to all Board Members, urging them to please consider selecting parent leaders from our PAC, as well as CAC and DELAC, to serve on those *ad hoc* committees.

My concern, shared by colleagues on all three committees, is each time a new Board committee, task force, working group, or other body is formed in LAUSD, how are parents chosen for these bodies? Too often, we see parents who are not on any District-level committee, who are not known to us, appear out of nowhere and attend meetings with Board Members, helping to craft recommendations to the Board of Education. *Who are these parents, and how did they get there?*

Also, the Board last week approved a resolution, *Equity is Justice 2021: A New Standard for Public Education Centered on Racial Justice and Equity for the Highest-Need Students in Our Most Impacted Schools*. This “reso” clearly was crafted with the best of intentions. The problem is that *Equity is Justice 2021* also seemed to come out of nowhere, surprising even some Board Members who knew nothing of it prior to the meeting. Notably, discussion on this resolution required the Board to suspend one of its own operating procedures, known as “Board Rule 72.” This rule requires that a Board Resolution be submitted 13 days prior to its initial announcement.

Since *Equity is Justice 2021* controls how Student Equity Needs Index (SENI) funding is allocated among school sites — and since SENI is connected to LCFF dollars through the LCAP — it should have been opened up for stakeholder engagement. It wasn't. For this reason, I asked PCS to give us a presentation on *Equity is Justice 2021* as well as its effect on the SENI. We also need to provide input on the *Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant*. Per LAUSD, stakeholder engagement on the ELO Grant program must be completed by **today**, May 20th. *Have we been engaged?*

LAUSD needs to be fully transparent if families are to trust in our District. **On this we must insist.**

At your service,

Paul Robak

Chairperson, 2020-2021
LAUSD Parent Advisory Committee
paulPACrobak@gmail.com