

LAUSD Parent Advisory Committee

Chairperson's Report

November 18, 2021

Hello, colleagues:

To you new arrivals on the PAC, welcome, friends! To our “returning champions,” welcome back!

It goes without saying that we're living through a crazy time: COVID-19 since March of last year, with no end in sight. Masking, social distancing, virtual learning and learning loss, Zoom, quarantining, vaccines, and God knows what else is coming down the road before we can get back to something remotely resembling “normal.” We're anxious and we're exhausted. Is it possible that e-mail messages will forever begin with, “I hope you're doing well and staying safe”?

So here we are, trying our best to put all that aside and focus on the task at hand: Watching and listening to presentations from the different parts of LAUSD which combine to educate our kids and all students. We have the best of intentions, and we're eager to come up with a set of comments on the District's draft Local Control and Accountability Plan or *LCAP*, which we will deliver to whomever occupies that big corner office on the 24th floor of a skyscraper at 3rd Street at Beaudry Avenue in Downtown LA — the new LAUSD superintendent. Stay tuned, sports fans!

I always say that every day I learn something is a good day. This philosophy keeps me from getting bored with all the seemingly routine stuff that goes on in the second largest school district in the United States. What it doesn't prevent is me getting upset when I hear about yet another injustice done to a student or to that student's parent. While there is so much truly outstanding work being done in classrooms, in School Site Council and ELAC meetings, and throughout LA Unified, things are far from perfect. We must highlight not only the “glows” but also the “grows.”

Over the next six months, we will learn about the many moving parts of LAUSD: Instruction, school climate, Special Ed, gifted and talented education (GATE), “A-G” graduation requirements, parent and family engagement, analyzing student data, and more. As we move through these presentations in a series of “business” meetings, we will alternate between those sessions and “training” meetings to review what we've learned, crafting thoughtful and actionable Comments on the six District LCAP Goals. By early May, we will be presenting those Comments to the Superintendent for his or her responses. We will review those responses, generate feedback, and then ask the Superintendent to reply to our feedback. In this way our voices *will* be heard.

As Dr. Maya Angelou reminded us, “When we *know* better, we *do* better.” So, let's get to work.

At your service,

Paul Robak

Chairperson, 2021-2022
LAUSD Parent Advisory Committee
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