

LAUSD PARENT ENGAGEMENT TASK FORCE
Parent and Family Center Accountability Working Group

Summary Notes from Break-out Groups on February 2, 2011

Los Angeles Unified School District

333 S. Beaudry Avenue, Room 2-202

Los Angeles, CA 90017

9:00 am to 11:00 pm

Attendees:

Laquitta Ashley (guest), Cuahutemoc Arroyo (member), Goldie Buchanan (member), Mary Campbell (member), Angie Cardenas (LAUSD/notetaker), Francisca Carole (guest), Clara E. Chavarria (guest), Reyna V. Corral (member), Randy Delling (member), Patty Ecker (guest), Brittany Estrada (member), Lupe Hernandez (member), Gina Hughes (member), Lizza Irizarry (member), Zella Knight (guest), Peter Kuhns (member), Araceli Simeon (member), Bonnie Stillwater (guest), Beatriz Solis (member), Susan Tadevosian (member), Rosa Villegas (member), Ethel Watson (guest), Linda Williams (guest), Kristina Zhamkharyani (guest), Iris Zuniga (member), Gwendolyn (guest), Peter Rivera (CCF); Sandy Mendoza (member and sub-committee chair)

Breakout Discussion Group 1 – Reyna, reporter

- Process must have integrity – how and by what means will this really happen?
- Measurement is critical.
- Who will be taking the school experience surveys?
- Incentives needed to encourage greater parent response to survey.
- Who is the focal person at school sites for parent activities?
- Need to get beyond the usual parents and try to recruit new parents to be involved with their child's school. Example: Elementary children in LD 7 were asked to make presentations to the school site council. They continued to be invited back and the Council saw a dramatic rise in parent participation.
- Collaboration must be intentional and not just for collaboration sake.
- Community voice should be reflected in plan and measured.
- Need to include student voices.

Breakout Discussion Group 2 – Randy, reporter

- Communication is critical
- Parent involvement (in plan) can be measured by agendas/sign-ins, etc.

- Resource allocation needed on front end and is non-negotiable
- Need to shore up gap in Translation Unit (huge # of non-English speaking parents in meetings). Recommendation is to have parents interested in translating to get certificated as this could fill one key resource gap.
- Bilingual / multi-lingual staff needed at Parent Centers.
- Parent Centers need to be held accountable. Parents don't know their rights and there is a handbook at the Centers that can be shared. Parent participation can be measured by attendance at number of monthly school activities and progress made on toolkit.
- Bottom line is knowing, who should be held accountable?

Breakout Discussion Group 3 – Brittany, reporter

- Single plan should be assessed more regularly (e.g. quarterly) and serve as a living document—with a flexible timeline in order to respond and improve things in a more timely manner.
- Have benchmarks to review against – not just about compliance.
- How specific do we want to be? We need to do a good job of keeping schools on the same page across the District.
- Backward mapping needed – end product should not be reduced to a “checklist.”
- Let's not assume principals know how to make this plan work.
- Recommend we meet as a small group in between meetings to refine this.
- Need to know what worked before and what didn't.