

Los Angeles Unified School District
Local District 7 Parent Community Advisory Council (PCAC) October 22,2009
Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC) 9:00 am-11:00am
10950 S. Central Avenue Los Angeles California 90047
Local District 7 Superintendent Dr. George McKenna III

Meeting called to order at 9:16 am by Ms. Gloria Powell Parent member.
Welcome by Flora Obie Ombudsperson.
Flag Salute by Virginia Hughes, Parent member.
Roll Call done by Acting Secretary Renata Campos.
Special Presentation Dr. Brenda Manuel Administrator of Instruction.

Dr. Manuel discussed the Single Plan for Student Achievement and the data contained testing, Uniforms, Different Programs in each of our schools in Local District 7, universal problems (District wide) and or Local District 7 problems

Dr Manuel talked about Parents have a voice, for solicitation and involvement in our schools. Parents should act professionally and respectfully.
For the various problems, a list will be provided to Dr. McKenna to know how to tackle each situation.

Frances Pasillias Principal of Weigand Ave. School discussed how the former L.D.7 Superintendent Ms. Truscott, form a Parent Advocacy group especially in the spring. A sub-committee was created looked at the concerns and how were they going to be received and resolved from the current councils. Have the problems at the forefront.

Solutions (Brainstormed):

- >June meeting needs to be revisited.
 - >A word of caution: ELA, Math (differentiated curricular areas) culminated with classroom visits.
 - >10week course to show how a standard based instruction looks like, but it needs to be structured and purposeful with goals to help support teachers in getting good instruction.
 - >Help principals with the seniority list for hiring and keeping good teachers to help with the needs specific to the needs of our students.
 - >To Dr. Manuel: You could also help pressure teachers who shouldn't be here because you hear in the community who is good for our community and who is not
 - >Support those parents that do and there is a lot parents can do
 - >Mentoring groups of 10parents , this will help schools a lot
 - >We want to walk in classrooms and know what to look for and what it should feel like
 - >If your students want to come to school you know something good is happening
 - >Find out what schools have been affected by the R.I.F's with a plan in mind
 - >Get Legislative information to know when to advocate for our District at our Board of Education because we don't have a voice otherwise
- Political pressure /conspiracy to take over our schools which I believe is to throw us off course. We need to remain focused centered and purposed, not embracing too many issues but focusing one at a time and being successful for our students.

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Mr. Brown (Parent): suggested we lookup an article, to learn a system that is applied in the South.

Rosalba Adame –Leon (Facilitator): We will miss Ms. Pasillias . She is a wonderful leader and advocate for our children. Thank you for strengthening us.

Ms. Hughes thanked her also.

Ms. Vega: I want to present my concern : I don't think we weren't given the respect ,but if it's a promotion we support yo and we are behind you, but if it is political, then we feel jaded.

Clarification:Personal matters have made her make that decision. She is leaving in good terms. Healing will happen and change is necessary so that the school and the district can move forward in ways She can't at this time.

Ms. Burg (President):Thank you Dr. McKenna for your openness and empowerment to continue strengthen the voice of the parents.

Community Assests are Parents to help redefine what value of education is wanted for our children.

What we do: We talk about solutions.

>Years of experience helps us know how to skillfully and politically organize and formulize solutions that are best for them (Parents)

Rosalba Adame-Leon: small groups are best because they (PCAC Parent members) were elected as an advisory council with the Superintendent

>LD7 communication is passed via this council

CADRE:

When do you meet? Tuesday and Thursday 6-8pm

The Parent Academy :organizes sets goals, talks to teachers involved with school reporting periods culturally relevant curriculum (film list, book list)

>Focus: 2007 D.F.P. (Positive Behavior Support) how do we combat issues happening in our District?

>P.B.S.: specifically need to do before suspension behavior/ acting out

>Set policy and protocols in classrooms to decrease dropout rate

>Organize parents for adult to adult accountability, as you have what the District needs to be part of the process of educating your child. Come with solutions and plans.

>CADRE supports P.B.S. but parents need to help with solutions

>Parliamentarian: Mr. Brown

>Ms. Simmons from Markham spoke of the whole child and how schools must look at it this way

>Mr. Rob McGowen: Lead Organizer-CADRE- Parent Empowerment

(323) 752-9997 Fax (323) 752-9993 rob@cadre.la.org 8510 ½ S. Broadway (85thSt.)

>Meeting :once a week Free Legal Clinic 1x a month Tuesday:6-8pm Please call as time may change, issues with education only

>Ms. Burg (President):Dr. McKenna will be discussing the Report Card and how the parents responded to the survey

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Dr. McKenna thanked Mr. McGowen for his presentation.

District Discipline Plan: I don't agree because it is not specific and define what we as a district are going to do. There are non- negotiables but suspension should only happen if they are in danger of hurting themselves or others. Policy is for parents' input too. What do we do if we don't suspend? Personal Responsibility: every student that commits an offense the student must repair or redeem for the offense(s) that was committed.

Community Service may be an alternative.

School Report Card: Results: Parent section: challenge how do we get people that want to work for our children. A parent group organized by the principal to address the staff and faculty to express issues on the viewpoint of the parents . Develop a process for parents to have a voice in the schools. Develop a forum where parents can speak and see where it leads the school.

>P.C.A.C. guidelines for school visits: What can you do when you get there?

>Without parents on campus.? Budget cuts have hurt us. Parents worked out of Title 1 funds (in the past)

>Homework is an essential to growth and an extension of learning and structure into the home. Things they need to become productive adults.

Surveys show trends i.e. parents feel more comfortable about the school than the faculty. There are parents that never show up. Organize a strategy for parents to interface with other parents. Create a video with parent strategies.

>Teachers still don't contact parents. If they don't then you can say it's one of Dr. McKenna's expectations.

We need to market and we need to help and confront people in a loving respectful way that are looking for help. We can identify the students that do well based on their children. The same can be said about the children that don't do well, but the question is if the parents want help.

Study the Report Card. Dr. McKenna was not surprised with it's outcome. I want suggestions and I want to give suggestion and work with small committees.

>Guidelines: ID'S (similar to ID system used at Edison MS)

Dr. Brenda Manuel (Administrator of Instruction LD7):Note the number of parents, teachers, staff and students. We need a good representation for the next survey. The website on the 2nd page of the insert of the report is to access the Spanish version. Thank You's for moving forward with Dr. McKenna. Let us identify and tell one another what we are willing to do? Write your questions down and talk to Dr. McKenna.

We need to empower ourselves with information to know how to advocate with power and resiliency. A good group that is committed so we have an opportunity to make change happen. What can we do to get more accurate representation for data collection? As a committee recommend at your local school for parents to complete the survey.

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Dr. McKenna: For being the 1st time for the Report Card there are glitches but we can focus on getting everyone to complete it the next time around.

Q: How can we find out what's going on in schools and what are other alternatives to suspension?

A: Dr. Manuel: Numbers look good but discipline starts in the home but if we empower the students to understand how it is for their benefit to learn, but I suggest you go to the school and speak to the Principal and say what you can do to help. What are resources that can be brought to the school? We need to work together.

Q:I have a concern about my child's school because there are two classrooms without any teachers. My worry is that it happened with my son and his grades went down at Miller Elementary School, so I advised parents to join together and bring it to Superintendent McKenna.

A: Substitutes don't want to come to LD7, but we need to find good substitutes to take our classrooms. Most want another district because of the many issues on behavior we have.

Each school has a director that is there to assist.

Recovery Day helped us see the needs of our community and the need to motivate those that didn't finish school and reach that goal.

Announcements: November 18th 2009 Principal Walk Parents are invited (10 Parents)
2 per School: 1 High School 1 Middle School 3 Elementary Schools

Dr. McKenna will not be present for the 11/19/09 meeting of the PCAC.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Ms. Powell and seconded by Ms. Peggy Nash-Jones.

Adjournment: 11:24am