

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

Summary Notes from January 24, 2011
Los Angeles Unified School District
333 S. Beaudry Avenue, Room 2-202
Los Angeles, CA 90017
11:00 am to 1:00 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), Adrian Sandoval (substitute 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)

Agreement on Expectations:

Process

- Sign Commitment Letter to accept and meet aggressive timeline and responsibilities
- Stay focused on goal
- Meeting notes to be sent out to group immediately after each session
- Strong facilitation throughout the process
- Need to be informed of the discussions that are taking place with the other sub-groups (Parent Engagement Curriculum, Family Support Network and Parents Bill of Rights and Responsibilities)
- Parents must be part of this work
- What will this finished product look like in the end?
- Look beyond the parent and look toward the eco-system around the school itself
- To advise this work we need some basic information –
 - o How many parents in LAUSD?
 - o How many parent centers are established in ES, MS and HS?
 - o Are job descriptions available for F/T and P/T staff (one job description is not necessarily a one size fits all parent centers)

Intended Outcomes

- Accountability matrix that is measurable and realistic for principals, teachers, and the central office who are engaging parents and is documenting what was done well or needs improvements.
- Alignment of the Strategic Plan for Parent Accountability with Resolution
- Accountability needs to reflect the change in school climate, child/student success, a significant improvement to a meaningful system mechanism that will address quality assurances for family engagement
- This is not a report for report sake—this is about taking real ACTION
- Include instructional aspects of how our children are going to learn and how we (community/parents/schools) will hold each other accountable
- Process or mechanism in place for parent/community/school redress around emerging issues including cultural competency and inclusion issues.
- Suggested measure: administrators provide professional development for teachers on parent engagement (e.g. cultural competencies); also, measure how administrators create a welcoming environment that is authentic and not a check-off list item
- A parental needs survey or assessment.
- What should be non-negotiable? What will be better and improved because of this process?

School Level

- Work with and build upon the existing framework of accountability – the Single Plan
- The handout “End of Year Report” is intended for those schools that have parent centers. It is produced at year’s end in collaboration with school community liaisons to demonstrate accountability for the school site and the school community liaisons at the school site.
- Review/understand what models are working and can be better supported
- School needs to have welcoming environment
- Vulnerable children (foster/group home) are not left out and are provided appropriate advocacy supports at the school site
- Parent Center Directors need to be treated as equals
- Is there monitoring going on at the Parent Centers and what does that look like? Is it incorporated into the Year End Report?

Charting Out the Action Plan:

Landscape and Barriers:

- Fear by some administrators to empower parents too much
- Examine the collaboration issues that hold us back
- We are too compliant driven – changing the true scope of parent engagement
- Resources must be front-loaded to support implementation of this plan. For example: why is texting turned off at ConnectEd? USC and UCLA effectively use this and LAUSD has this capability but chooses not to use it. Why?
- Parent engagement not valued by administrators across the system
- Consider the relationship between accountability, mandates, and implementation (don't assume it will get done).
- District needs to improve Roll book – parents can go online to pull up their teacher's role book to see if child passed test; online parent and student access; Calls to parents on regular basis aren't as effective because data base needs improvement
- Parents tell stories – we need to listen to their stories.
- There is a knowledge divide...how do we define our starting point? What should parents know so they can function at the next level? How can they participate in the system of accountability? The system is hardened. Professional development is needed at the bottom.
- Parent engagement is an afterthought. Think tactical. And speak in a language that all parents will understand.

Next Steps:

1. Summarize questions and submit to LAUSD staff.
2. Send minutes out to group

Public Comment:

Incorporated throughout this document as parent/public comments was encouraged to inform discussion throughout.

Adjournment at 1:10 pm.