

District Advisory Council Annual Report to the PUSD Board for 15-16

District Advisory Council Executive Board

Lydia Idem Finkley, Chairperson
Bernadette Cole, Vice Chairperson
Jennifer Higginbotham, Secretary
Julie Flad, Assistant Secretary
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Who is the DAC?

The DAC (District Advisory Council) is a district-level committee comprised of parents, staff and community members from each school's Site Council (SSC) who consult with the district on the Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA). PUSD has had a District Advisory Council since at least the mid-1970's. One of the responsibilities of the DAC is to report annually to the Board of Education.

What is the purpose of the DAC?

The main purpose of the DAC is to participate in the development and review of the Local Education Agency (LEA) or District Plan and the district's Parent Involvement Policy. Additionally, the DAC supports and mentors School Site Councils at each of our schools. The Site Councils are on the front lines, developing and monitoring district-aligned school goals to increase student achievement.

Our Accomplishments: 2015-2016 DAC Activities

DAC had 10 scheduled meetings September – June in the 2015-2016 school year. Regular attendance is a primary goal for the DAC. People attending the meetings regularly receive valuable information to share with their school's leadership and community. The average number of attendees is 29 representing 19 schools. Attendees are not only SSC members. They are members of DELAC, ELAC, AAPC, CAC and PTA with students in elementary, middle, and high schools. They are certificated and classified staff. They are administrators and board members. At least 15 schools are represented at our meetings on any given night.

With sweeping changes in funding and curriculum in full swing, SSC became the defacto group at most school sites to supplement classroom materials, receive feedback on professional development, monitor the implementation of the new Smarter Balance tests, and support teachers and students alike in preparation for new tests and new curriculum. SSCs require district-level information to help develop and monitor their site-level goals and strategies. It, therefore, became imperative that the District communicated information around Common Core implementation and LCFF funding to SSCs.

To address the critical need for information, DAC meeting topics this year included Parent Engagement, Open Enrollment, SSC Communications, Human Resources, the Personnel

Commission, School Safety Plan, LCAP, LCFF, Budget Training and Assessments. District staff remain open to presenting to the DAC on the areas of interest (or concern) that stakeholders have at their schools. We thank Dr. Shawn Bird, Chief Academic Officer; Mercy Santoro, Associate Superintendent; Bernadette Griggs, Chief Business Officer; Dr. Meg Abrahamson, Assistant Superintendent, Planning, Innovation Accountability, Support Programs; Tendaji Jamal, Executive Technology Officer; Theresa Doran, Coordinator of Office of Enrollment; Kathleen Sanchez, Chief Human Resources Officer; Dr. Cy Chukwumezie, Director of the Personnel Commission, and Mr. Eric Sahakian, Director of Child Welfare, Attendance and Safety. These individuals demonstrate collaboration that we, as school stakeholders, have come to expect for the success of our children. DAC members continue to benefit from this direct contact with district staff.

The DAC updated its bylaws again this year. This was done to clean up wording, add the address for the PUSD Ed Center as the meeting location and to make clarifications on terms for elected officers on the DAC Board.

Attendees also have the opportunity to build relationships with their SSC counterparts at other schools. Best practices are shared. Members advocate for one another. This year, schools led by DAC members, supported other schools in efforts to maintain SSCs for true collaborative leadership. The DAC took a proactive stance and provided astute guidance to SSCs and feedback to the district on a number of issues this school year.

Prior Year Recommendations and Results

For each, DAC listed whether the recommendation was **implemented, not implemented or partially implemented**. This year, DAC worked hard with staff to address these issues and enjoyed much more success than in previous years. Here are the recommendations made in last year's Annual Report for this school year:

1. **The LCAP PAC should be the DAC. (Also in 2013-2014 report)**
(**Not implemented**. The PAC is currently changing over to be a self regulated body. They have their own charter and set the agenda for their meetings. They are also currently accepting new member applications.)
2. The DAC believes that by preserving the greater inclusion of parent, teacher and student input in the development of school site plans, the funds allocated to schools will not only be spent in line with the goals set out by the District's LCAP, but will also engage our community in achieving school goals. **The DAC requests that the funds from the LCFF supplemental and concentration grants that are sent to the school, formerly known as EIA/LEP categorical funding, be under the oversight of the SSC at all schools. (Also in 2013-2014 report)**
(**Implemented**. The school district has continued to follow the status quo from the previous Board resolution from the 14-15 school year. This has allowed the continuance of a collaborative approach to school planning and meaningful budget oversight that includes all stakeholders.)

3. The DAC recommends the Board **maintain SSCs** as collaborative teams at the site-level able to monitor, not only student performance but also how well teachers believe they are prepared, for successful implementation of the Common Core and the Next Generation Science Standards. **(Also in 2013-2014 report).**
(Implemented. SSCs at all schools sites in the district have been maintained through the 2015-2016 school year. We are pleased that the district continues to deliver school site allocations to both the SSCs and principals.)

4. DAC **requests greater inclusion of stakeholders, including teachers, parents and staff, in the opportunity to write policy language.** This allows for all stakeholder input to be given equal consideration early in the policy adoption process.
(Partially implemented. This has been accomplished at some of our school sites and with some of the district groups. Some of our groups just seem to be going through the motions.)

5. As the Board is considering its list of unfunded budget priorities, the **DAC fully supports and highly recommends the funding of:**
 - Increased Unrestricted Funds to principals
 - LDRTs at every school site
 - Retain Security at schools
 - Additional teachers at the high schools
 - Middle school librarians
 - Elementary school library coordinators
 - Campus aides
 - Health clerks at every school site
 - RtI Coordinator
 - Technology support at school sites**(Also in 2013-2014 report)**
(Partially implemented. LDRTs were partially funded for the 2014-2015 school year and will be fully funded for the next school year at each site. The district also funded Health clerks at every school site. An attempt to hire Middle school librarians was made this school year and these positions will hopefully be filled in the coming school year. Technology support has been better this current school year, but there is still a need for more staff involvement at school sites as well as a need to bring the chrome books count up to the 1:1 status. The High schools still need additional teaching staff, especially if the new graduation standards are to be met by the class of 2019. This current school year none of the district high schools offered the required Health class. The elementary schools still have to fund their own library coordinators.)

6. DAC continues to request Board support of effective SSCs. In the past, the DAC has recommended and received SSC trainings and a revised SPSA template. **To continue the development of best practices for School Site Councils to ensure both compliance and effectiveness, the DAC recommends:**
(Also in 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013, and 2013-2014 reports)
 - *Provide principal mentoring/coaching/training on writing goals for the school plan.*

(Partially Implemented.)

- *To continue mandated collaboration in development, approval, implementation and monitoring of the school plan as facilitated by SSCs with supportive board policy;*
(Partially implemented. Need to foster more collaboration and transparency at some school sites.)
 - *To determine a set of benchmarks and metrics that can be used by all schools to accurately reflect and measure student achievement under the new Common Core Standards and project-based learning model.*
(Implemented. New district assessments were developed for the 2014-2015 school year and Dr. Bird provided preliminary results for all grade levels at the April DAC meeting.)
 - *Additional forms included in the SPSA template that facilitate monitoring of the SPSA throughout the school year.* **(Not Implemented.)**
 - *An online repository of all PUSD school plans at the DAC website.*
(Implemented. This was accomplished on the districts website this year. Will continue to monitor due to the implementation of another website.)
 - *An on-site SSC training where SSC members are trained on actual month-to-month duties that occur in SSC meetings.*
(Partially implemented. There are trainings in the fall for all SSC members, but not all members take advantage of them. These trainings need to be attended by *all* members. Even if they have attended in the past members should attend so as to get new information, such as the month-to-month duties of the council.)
 - *Require communication by SSC to school communities and stakeholders with a designated section on each school website for minutes and the SPSA*
(Partially implemented. With the launch of the new website this has had to begin again. Some school sites transition to the new site went smoother than others.)
7. With the latest May Revise budget from California, significant additional money has been allocated to school districts. As part of this process, some of the money was even applied to previous years. **DAC requests a report of the revised calculation of school site allocations with both old and new numbers.**
(Implemented. Bernadette Griggs has brought the budget numbers to DAC and answered questions at more than one meeting this year. The new website has the current year Summary Budget Report up.)
8. DAC requests **a report on Title 1 spending for 2013-2014 year and 2014-2015 year, including Parent Involvement.**
(Also in 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013, and 2013-2014 reports)
(Not implemented. DAC received the Title 1 expenditure tables for 14-15 school year at our meeting in December, which is different from the actual Title 1 spending report for this

school year.)

9. DAC requests **a report on LCFF targeted funds spending for 2013-2014 year and 2014-2015 year.**
(Also in 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013, and 2013-2014 reports as EIA funding)
(Implemented. As stated above information pertaining to the various budgets has become much more transparent.)

Our Recommendations: DAC Recommendations and Requests for 2016-2017

1. DAC continues to request Board support of effective SSCs. In the past, the DAC has recommended and received SSC trainings and a revised SPSA template. **To continue the development of best practices for School Site Councils to ensure both compliance and effectiveness, the DAC recommends:**
(Also in 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 reports)
 - *An online repository of all PUSD school plans at the DAC website.*
 - *An on-site SSC training where SSC members are trained on actual month-to-month duties that occur in SSC meetings.*
 - *Provide principal mentoring/coaching/training on collaboration with site councils and writing goals for the school plan.*
 - *To continue mandated collaboration in development, approval, implementation and monitoring of the school plan as facilitated by SSCs with supportive board policy;*
 - *To determine a set of benchmarks and metrics that can be used by all schools to accurately reflect and measure student achievement under the new Common Core Standards and project-based learning model.*
 - *Additional forms included in the SPSA template that facilitate monitoring of the SPSA throughout the school year*
 - *Require communication by SSC to school communities and stakeholders with a designated section on each school website for agendas, minutes and the SPSA*
2. DAC request that training for all noon aides, project aides and behavioral aids occur for this coming 2016-2017 school year (preferably before the start of school) and continue with each subsequent new hire in these positions.

3. The DAC believes that by preserving the greater inclusion of parent, teacher and student input in the development of school site plans, the funds allocated to schools will not only be spent in line with the goals set out by the District's LCAP, but will also engage our community in achieving school goals. **The DAC requests that the funds from the LCFF supplemental and concentration grants that are sent to the school, be under the oversight of the SSC at all schools. (Also in 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 report).**
4. The DAC recommends the Board maintain SSCs as collaborative teams at the site-level able to monitor, not only student performance but also how well teachers believe they are prepared, for successful implementation of the Common Core, the Next Generation Science Standards and the coming History Framework.
5. **DAC requests greater inclusion of stakeholders, including teachers, parents and staff, in the opportunity to write policy language.** This allows for all stakeholder input to be given equal consideration early in the policy adoption process.
6. As the Board is considering its list of unfunded budget priorities, the **DAC fully supports and highly recommends the funding of:**
 - Academic Counselors
 - Retain Security at schools
 - Additional teachers at the high schools
 - Middle school librarians
 - Elementary school library coordinators
 - Campus aides
 - RtI Coordinator
 - Technology support at school sites**(Also in 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 report).**
7. DAC requests **a report on Title 1** spending for 2015-2016 year, **including Parent Involvement.**
(Also in 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 reports)