

Palisades Forum Reflections

Great public schools ensure students achieve their fullest potential, not only by providing great classroom teachers and principals, but also by engaging parents, families, and community partners to collectively move the school forward. With this in mind, LAUSD Board Vice President Nick Melvoin hosted a community forum on April 11 at Paul Revere Middle School in the Palisades community with the purpose of discussing the strengths of the community of schools, opportunities for improvement, and vision for the schools that serve families in the Palisades Complex.

Nick and his team invited all stakeholders in the Palisades Complex community – parents, teachers, principals, administrators, and community partners – to contribute to the conversation about their vision for the future of public education in this community. The forum also included an overview of key data, which included current and historic enrollment trends, student demographic and attendance, and academic achievement.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- Brentwood Science Magnet Elementary
- Canyon Charter Elementary
- Palisades Charter Elementary
- Kenter Canyon Elementary
- Marquez Charter Elementary
- Topanga Charter Elementary

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

- Paul Revere Charter Middle School

HIGH SCHOOLS

- Palisades Charter High School



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What We Heard

PROMOTE INNOVATIVE INSTRUCTION BY INCREASING AUTONOMY

Parents and stakeholders envision innovative instruction that serves students from elementary school through high school with high-quality school options and specialized pathways (e.g., STEM, music, dual-language immersion). Parents and stakeholders expressed that they would like to see an increase in local decision-making within the elementary and middle schools, with a goal of increasing innovative instruction and ensuring high-quality teachers for all kids. Participants shared that:

- **They would like to see more autonomy in curricular decisions** to augment the high level of academic achievement already existing throughout the Palisades Complex.
- **They would like to see increased differentiation in instruction** to meet the individualized needs of students.
- **They would like to see increased collaboration and communication between the schools who make up the Palisades Educational Complex.** This collaboration would ensure the Palisades complex becomes an innovative educational hub that thrives on best instructional practices.
- **They would like to increase incentives, resources, and professional support** to attract and retain high-quality teachers and staff.

IMPROVE PARTNERSHIPS AND BUILD COMMUNITY

Parents and stakeholders envision a school system with strong partnerships to support their local schools. In addition, they shared that the school system should move away from compliance driven (i.e., "red tape") to impact-driven (i.e., "what's best for students"). Participants shared that:

- **There is a high level of parent engagement and involvement** at many schools with opportunities to participate in volunteer service and fundraising efforts.
- **They would like to see policies streamlined to remove barriers and bureaucratic hurdles** in the school system that often make it hard for parents and community partners to maximize their support of a school.

ADDRESS THE UNDERFUNDING OF SCHOOLS

Parents and stakeholders envision their schools being well-funded and well-resourced enough to provide the best learning opportunities for every child. Stakeholders shared that:

- **Their schools are underfunded and/or under-resourced** and, as a result, they feel pressure to raise funds to support critical programming, facilities repairs, and modernization projects at their schools. They would like to see increases in funding to better resource schools and ensure vital programming and opportunities are provided to students.

Going Forward

1. SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

Share additional thoughts in our community survey here: <http://bit.ly/survey-melvojn>

2. SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

Sign up for the latest information here: <http://bit.ly/signup-melvojn>

3. JOIN THE PARENT PARTNER COMMITTEE

Sign up for the Parent Partner Committee here: <http://bit.ly/parent-melvojn>

4. CONNECT WITH US

Email Clayton Rosa at clayton.rosa@lausd.net or Allison Holdorff Polhill at allison.holdorff@lausd.net with any questions or comments.



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