

West Hollywood 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 18 at West Hollywood Elementary School 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 West Hollywood community.

Nick and his team invited all stakeholders in the West Hollywood 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

- Gardner Street Elementary School
- Hancock Park Elementary School
- Melrose Avenue Elementary Math/Science/Technology Magnet
- Rosewood Avenue Elementary School
- West Hollywood Elementary School

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

- Bancroft Middle School / STEAM Magnet / Performing Arts Magnet

HIGH SCHOOLS

- Fairfax Senior High School / Visual Arts Magnet

SPAN SCHOOLS

- Laurel SPAN School

EARLY EDUCATION

- Laurel Early Education Center

CONTINUATION / COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOLS

- Walt Whitman Continuation School
- West Hollywood Community Day School



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What We Heard

CREATE GREAT OPTIONS AND PATHWAYS

Parents envision not only strong pathways that serve their kids from elementary school through high school, but also high-quality options (i.e., different school types) at every grade level. Parents expressed that there are high-quality elementary school options in this community, but they would like to see improvements in the middle and high school options to ensure parents feel confident in the K-12 pathway for their kids. Parents and stakeholders shared that:

- **They would like to see investments to ensure the West Hollywood community has a strong and high-quality middle school option.**
- **They would like to see increases in arts, music, and physical education programming** to minimize the demand on parents to fundraise to provide and/or supplement these programs.
- **They would like to see more differentiation in instruction** and investments in strategies to meet the individual needs of students.
- **They are appreciative of the committed staff at schools in this community** and the important role these teachers and administrators play in their children's education.

IMPROVE PARTNERSHIPS AND BUILD COMMUNITY WITH PARENTS AND OTHER GROUPS

Parents and stakeholders envision a school system with strong partnerships to support their local schools. 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"). Parents and stakeholders 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** that often make it hard for parents and community partners to maximize their support of a school.
- **There is a lot of diversity – racially, ethnically, and socioeconomically** – when compared to other parts of Los Angeles, which contributes to a strong sense of community and identity that is reflected in these schools.

ADDRESS THE UNDERFUNDING OF SCHOOLS

Parents envision their schools being well-funded and well-resourced enough to provide the learning opportunities for every child. Parents and 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 at their school. Parents 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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