

Westchester and Playa Vista 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 March 22 at the Westchester-Loyola Village Branch Library 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 Westchester/Playa educational community.

Nick and his team invited all stakeholders in the Westchester/Playa 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

- Cowan Avenue Elementary
- Kentwood Elementary
- Open Magnet Charter Elementary
- Playa Del Rey Elementary
- Paseo Del Rey Elementary
- Westport Heights Elementary

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

- Bright Star Stella Middle Charter Academy
- Katherine Johnson STEM Academy
- Orville Wright Engineering & Design Magnet MS

HIGH SCHOOLS

- Bright Star Secondary Academy
- Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnets
- WISH Academy HS

SPAN SCHOOLS

- OCEAN K-8
- WISH K-8



[@boardmembermelvoin](#)



[@boardmembermelvoin](#)



[@nickmelvoin](#)



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What We Heard

CREATE PATHWAYS AND STRENGTHEN REPUTATION

The community envisions strong pathways that serve students from elementary school through high school with high quality options (e.g. different school types) at every grade level. Stakeholders shared that more can be done to develop aligned and clear instructional and programmatic pathways between grade levels and they expressed they would like to see improvements in the middle and high school pathways. Stakeholders shared:

- **They are appreciative of strong community partnerships supporting academic endeavors** and the role they play in providing resources and support to our schools.
- **There is a high level of parent engagement at many schools;** parents are regularly involved with their school through volunteer service and fundraising efforts.
- **They would like to see great options and pathways for all students;** academic achievement has increased at some schools and needs to improve at other schools.
- **They would like to see a concerted effort to highlight the innovation and success** of many schools within the Westchester/Playa community.

IMPROVE FACILITIES, ACADEMIC OUTCOMES, AND PATHWAYS

The community envisions a school system with state-of-the-art facilities and an intentional plan valuing diversity and enticing parents and community partners to support their local schools. The community is striving for noteworthy pathways, moving away from compliance driven (e.g. "red tape") to impact-driven (e.g. "what's best for students"). Stakeholders shared that:

- **Many school facilities are in need of repair and modernization** – this often makes it hard to promote schools to parents and ensure opportunities are available to students.
- **There are barriers in the school system that often make it hard for parents and community partners to support a school.** They would like to see policies streamlined (e.g. cut red tape) to increase collaboration and the benefits parents and community partners bring to school communities.

ADDRESS THE UNDERFUNDING OF SCHOOLS

The community envisions their schools being well-funded and well-resourced enough to provide the 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 at their school. The community would like to see increase 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-melvoin>

2. SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

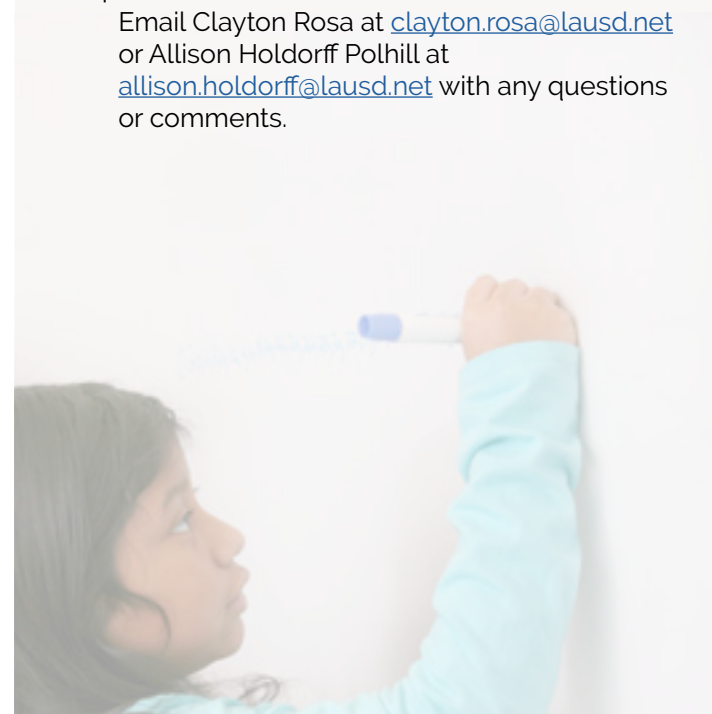
Sign up for the latest information here: <http://bit.ly/signup-melvoin>

3. JOIN THE PARENT PARTNER COMMITTEE

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

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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