

# West Los Angeles 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 May 2 at University High School with the purpose of discussing the strengths of schools, opportunities for improvement, and vision for the schools that serve families in the West Los Angeles community.

Nick and his team invited all stakeholders in the West Los Angeles 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

- Brockton Avenue Elementary
- Community Magnet Charter Elementary
- Fairburn Avenue Elementary
- Nora Sterry Elementary
- Richland Avenue Elementary
- Westwood Charter Elementary
- Warner Avenue Elementary

## MIDDLE SCHOOLS

- Daniel Webster STEAM Magnet Middle School
- Emerson Community Charter Middle School

## HIGH SCHOOL

- University High School

## SPAN SCHOOLS

- Citizens of the World K-8
- Magnolia Public Schools #4



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# What We Heard

## CREATE COHESIVE EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY AND PATHWAYS

Parents and stakeholders envision strong pathways that serve students from elementary school through high school with high quality options (e.g., STEM, dual-language immersion, arts) at every grade level, with a spirit of collaboration across schools and with partners. Participants shared that:

- **There is a high level of parent engagement at many schools**, which could act as models for improving parent engagement at other schools.
- **They would like to see more efforts to develop aligned and clear instructional and programmatic pathways** from kindergarten through 12th grade for all students. In addition, parents shared that more investments have to be made to improve academic outcomes at underperforming schools. This would help ensure every student has access to a great public school.
- **They would like to see increased collaboration and communication among schools**, where schools share best practices regularly and support each other in accelerating student learning. This would help ensure the community of schools becomes a strong, cohesive educational community.

## REDUCE RED TAPE TO IMPROVE FACILITIES AND BOOST PARTNERSHIPS

Parents and stakeholders envision a school system with state-of-the-art facilities and strong partnerships to support their local schools. The community is striving to move away from compliance driven (i.e., "red tape") to impact-driven (i.e., "what's best for students"). Participants shared that:

- **Many school facilities are in need of repair and modernization**, which often makes it hard to promote schools to prospective parents and ensure opportunities are available to students.
- **They are appreciative of strong community partnerships** supporting academic endeavors and the role they play in providing resources and support to our schools. Parents want to ensure that these partners are welcomed, and their contributions valued.
- **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.
- **They would like to see an increase in arts, music, and sports programs** to minimize the demand on parents to fundraise.

# 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](mailto:clayton.rosa@lausd.net) or Allison Holdorff Polhill at [allison.holdorff@lausd.net](mailto:allison.holdorff@lausd.net) with any questions or comments.



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