



African American/ Black Parent Advisory Committee

**General Meeting
March 5, 2025
5:30 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.
Family Resource Center
1661 Pacific Ave., Stockton, CA 95204**



Minutes

Vice-President, Karehsa Boyd asked for a motion to start the meeting at 5:40pm. Letricia McLaren made the first motion, Liz Day seconded it. All members voted in favor, none were opposed, none abstained. Motion passes.

1.0 Welcome - Vice-President, Karesha Boyd, welcomed all members, presenters and guests.

1.1 Greeting - Dr. Michelle Rodriguez gave a brief welcome and yielded her time to Vice President of the School Board, Sofia Colon.

Vice-President Colon told us about an upcoming event the District is sponsoring marking the 5 year mark of the stay-at-home order and the transition to distance learning. The event is a chance for the community can come together and heal. It is called the Journey of Strength and Hope on Thursday, March 13th at American Legion Park. There will be music by SUSD students, Stockton's Poet Laureate will recite a newly crafted poem for the occasion, and an art activity. A restorative and reconnection event.

Q: What are we coming together for?

A: in a restorative way to acknowledge what we went through when we had to go to distance learning. We separated and isolated ourselves for almost two years. And after coming back, it was said that we never acknowledged the effects. How do we come together again? A lot has happened in the last 3 years and people are still looking for that acknowledgement and official marker that we are continuing on this journey. And that we will get through this. It took people 10 years to recover from the Spanish flu. At this time, we could just forge ahead and keep going but it is important for some to acknowledge that we have come this far. And I think that in hearing from folks in the community making that stand is going to help us all move forward. There is a lot of work ahead that will require the community to come together and this is just another important step as a District to show that we are ready to come together.

Q: I think that is a great idea. But we as African-American parents in the community, we have a long way to go. Our community is not there yet and I can't sit here and tell you we are when we are priority 6 in the LCAP, and my questions and concerns are that there has only been \$4k spent to date on the focus of African-American students' needs. So I think that we will be creating an illusion to believe that we as a community are ready to move forward when there needs to be some structure that needs to be put in place. It's great if that is where everybody is but,

wholeheartedly, the questions and issues I am having today about funding, oversight, and misrepresentation. We can't move forward until some things are addressed. I wish you guys had addressed us with "are we ready to move forward" because this is just a farce. We are looking for stability when it comes to the Black Student Achievement Plan, which involves the SPSA. So now, not only are we focusing on African-American students but all students, which means we are still going overlooked, which has been going on for generations now. The Superintendent has stated that she wanted to help eradicate our systematic racism, and we can't move forward until those things are addressed. A lot of our parents across the board don't know the significance of MLK and even though we understand it, the funding that has come out of our AABPAC but it was beneficial for everybody. So until we start making those approaches and saying we're going to make those issues, how do you expect us to move forward when our children still can't read on grade level? Our children are still being underserved. We're still waiting for the contracts for SAP to be implemented. Several organizations have stated, they have not been made properly aware whether they have passed through the RFP when it has been stated in a public space. There are some questions that need to be answered before we can move forward.

This is the second year of African-American students being a priority. I did not know that you were bringing this item and I would like to redirect the questioning to Dr. Rodriguez and any cabinet members because there are some questions/concerns from the AABPAC.

- 1) we would like to see the expenditures for priority 6;
- 2) how much has been spent to date;
- 3) what has been encumbered;
- 4) would like to see updates on Sown to Grow. After more research, we would like to know what are the updates for the data. How are you addressing the students that are being flagged or stating that they need support? How is support being provided?
- 5) If so, we would like to see how funding is being spent to provide the support.

Dr. Rodriguez:

From the LCAP update, there were several questions regarding the different pots of funding we are going to use

It is not that we have only used \$4k, we are using other funding sources in addition to that \$4k Goal 6 has 8 specific action items

6.1 - AABSAP, we have brought to Black Students Thrive to work through, there are 10 elements to that plan

6.2 Does each school have their LCAP goal align with Goal 6. Now 100% of schools in the district has their SPSA align with LCAP goal 6

each school gets LCFF funding and they have to show how their SPSA aligns with goal 6

generate the PLC meetings and they meet monthly, which is the Equity team. The second data session occurred, each school had to talk about the frequency of the meeting and what data they were going to discuss during that meeting

6.3 Equity gap, Equity plan - with HR and making sure we are looking recruitment, hiring, placement and retention practices of diverse staffing. Two HR directors are assigned to this and review this and determine how we are doing that.

6.4 Professional Development - the work of Dr. Holley. We currently have 10 schools doing culturally responsive instruction. Initially, we were using LCAP funding, we always use the most restrictive funding first because if not, you end up returning money. So Dr. Holley's work was under the \$550K. A portion was going to Dr. Holley but we transferred it to SIM. SIM is a pot of money we received to help with our disproportionality. So it isn't that we aren't doing the work, we are just not using LCAP money.

6.6

We now have a program specialist to teach Ethnic Studies at both K-8 and 9-12 levels. has a team of teachers who are supporting unit development for K-8 to reflect what they learn at the 9-12 level.

Q: Is the Program Specialist specifically for African-American studies or is it all ethnic studies? If so, I want to make we know where funding is coming from because the issue is that when it comes to speaking to AAB students, its starts to encompass everybody and spreads the pot thin. And that is the cycle we have been in.

A: This is not paying for his position, it is paying for the unit development that is leading into our AAB studies courses that we have at the 9-12 level. This speaks to the teachers that are developing the units that will be implemented at the K-8 level.

Q: For clarity, are these teachers getting trained to teach this or are they already well versed?

A: Both. We had a presentation on of AAB studies course and on the work she has done elsewhere and where she travelled to to study. Two teachers to teach AAB studies, one at Edison and one at Chavez.

What we saw was we are not accurately showing the funding within the goals.

6.5 Partnership allocations and that \$552,456. Which may increase as other pots roll over. The RFP approvals were sent notifications last week.

6.7 Success Matrix - we are working with our own Counselors, our CWA, and our Restorative Practices group. This is the piece that speaks to the Sown To Grow. It was brought to my attention that at the last BST meeting there were some concerns voiced and I would like to address that when we have Dr. Murphy with us.

6.8 Specific Pilots with Community-based partnerships. We are trying to find right now what their capacities are. We had contracts approved at the last Board meeting and we have more in the works from the partners that were approved through the RFP process. We are using 3 pots of money that we have to use by June 30th.

Q: Back to Sown to Grow, we would like to know what is being done with the data being collected and how successful it has been. This program can be weaponized and we have yet to see a proven concept on what data has been collected and what they are doing with it. Are the teachers properly trained to deal with the students that need support based on the data. What red flags are arising and how are they being addressed? Are there changes in students' social-emotional skills? Who is there to address and direct the hand off to the appropriate staff?

C: We have been told that our AABPAC funds have dissipated from the MLK Day event. Since we have braided funds, all the funding won't come from one pot, we were told we may not be able to do the Parent Conference as a result.

A: There has never been a conversation that the funding was not there. MLK event was funded by ELOP so it didn't tap any of your funds. Mary Rogers confirmed that ELOP paid for the MLK event.

C: We were told that partial funding from FRC were being pulled back

A: I have never heard that money was an issue so we will make sure the conference happens.

We will do the Sown To Grow updates at the next meeting.

2.0 Changes to the Agenda

Wherever it say Sharee Wilburn, change to Karesha Boyd

8.0 - Change to Dr/ Lewis from Dr. Murphy

3.0 Norms - Read by Karesha Boyd.

4.0 Mission Statement - read by Karesha Boyd

5.0 Roll Call - Secretary, Letricia McLaren, asked everyone to be sure and sign in and for the attendees on Zoom to put their name and school site in the chat. The Secretary proceeded to take the Roll of Executive officers in attendance.

Sharee Wilburn, President (ABSENT); Karesha Boyd, Vice-President; Letricia McLaren, Secretary

1. Francisco Rodriguez - Peyton
2. Letricia McLaren - HKV
3. De'Marieya Nelson - Operation Scholars
4. Chauncy Martin - Operation Scholars
5. Deidre Graves
6. D. Molson
7. J. Nyung
8. G. Hall - PYA
9. Carmen Morado - Hazelton
10. Reggie
11. Patricia Martin
12. Sofia Colon - Board
13. Kana'sha Allen - FRC
14. Catherine Lewis - Research Dept.
15. John Gomez - SUDS
16. Tiffany Ashworth - SUSD
17. Monica Alvarado - Harrison
18. Monique Alvarado - Harrison
19. Claudia Cartagena - FRC

- 20. Sandra Gomez - LDO
- 21. Norma Mercado - LDO/Interpreter
- 22. Liz Day - PYA
- 23. Susana Ramirez
- 24. Mary Rogers - ELOP
- 25. Priscilla Anguiano - FRC

6.0 Read and Approve Minutes - Attendees were asked to read over the Minutes from the November 13, 2024 meeting and suggest any changes that needed to be made. The following changes were suggested:

Changes dates to February from December

Under 6.0 from November to December meeting date

Karesha Boyd made the first motion to approve the minutes, Letricia McLaren seconded it. All members voted in favor, none were opposed or abstained. Motion passes, Minutes approved with changes.

7.0 Old Business

7.1 NABE Conference Recap - presented by Karesha Boyd

- Great conference though minimized due to budget cuts in various districts
- Held at the Hyatt hotel where MLK gave his last speech/conference, formerly Hotel of Hope
- Essay contest where a Florida student wrote his essay in 3 languages, Creole French, Spanish, and English. He is learning English
- Student who told his story of being bilingual and learning Spanish through his friends stories.
- partnering with the workforce to help students get jobs and enter the workforce w/o college
- eye opening that some students who come from remote areas and no one speaks their dialect, have to learn a similar language before they learn English in order to communicate

8.0 - New Business

8.1 Research & Accountability Update - presented by Dr. Catherine Lewis

Previous parent survey indicated parents wanted to know more about iReady

- What is it?
 - iReady is an adaptive individualized diagnostic that measures your child's knowledge in reading and math
 - it is adaptive for English, Math, and Reading
 - helps us understand where a child is in those specific topics
- Why it matters?
 - personalized learning
 - on-going progress monitoring
 - State readiness and aligned with state assessments
 - teachers use it to gauge and re-teach curriculum

- boost confidence
- can be used at home and is empowering families
- How can parents help?
 - provide a place they can study
 - engage in learning together - games
 - ensure habits are good - good bedtime, eating dinner
 - good communication with teachers for support - stay informed
- Understanding scores
 - range is 100-800
 - bell curve explained: peak of the curve is at grade level, the left and right would students who fall below grade level or are exceeding grade level on the right
- Q&A:
 - Q: which grades take it?
 - A: K-8
 - Q: Do high school students use it?
 - A: EL students use iReady for 9-12
 - Q/C: Older students use the district given tech to be on Youtube. Kids have taken the younger kids laptop to be on Youtube after I have taken it away. Is there a way to remove access to Youtube on the devices?
 - Q: What resources are available for cyber security and educating parents on preventative measures?
 - Q: Which test changes the outlook for high school? I have heard that if you fail the state test you may get to pick up more classes than the normal high school student.
 - A: more so the state testing. This diagnostic is to gauge where they are and helps bridge their learning for the state testing.
 - C: Parents are ultimately accountable for our kids' usage. We have to be the ones to instill good habits and see that they do the iReady and challenge and reward them for it. The amount of time set by the District is the minimum. In actuality, most students should be doing iReady at least one hour per day. We collectively need to understand how valuable some of the resources our schools provide and how they heavily weigh on those programs.
- Preparing for State testing
 - based on State standards & National norms
 - practice and targeted instruction bridges learning gaps
 - builds skills and confidence over the year
 - provides ongoing progress data to adjust instruction

9.0 Reports

9.1 LCAP Mid-Year Update - Tiffany Ashworth

- the LCAP and the update is a collaborative effort with multiple people.
- Dr. John Gomez, the LCAP Coordinator, new to the team
- Rosie Fernandez - Family Engagement Specialist

- legislation requires a mid-year update, disclosing to educational partners current expenditures, and the status of the district's implementation of action items, meeting, metrics, and expending funds
 - mid-year update acts as a pulse check on the LCAP and the community
 - informational only
 - present regularly at scheduled board meeting
 - deadline: no later than February 28th
 - LCAP Federal Addendum due June 30
 - Budget Overview for Parents:
 - total LCFF funds = \$463,733,375
 - LCFF Supplemental/Concentrated Grants = \$114,048,906
 - no changes to LCAP overview since adopted in 2024
 - LCAP includes goals 1-8: 1-6 align with schools' SPSA, 7&8 are the equity multiplier goals that receive funding separate from the LCAP
 - Goal 6 stats
 - ELA has shown improvement
 - Math has declined
 - nearly 100% of all action items are implemented
 - some are still in the works because they are dependent on other moving pieces
 - Expenditures - actual vs. encumbered
 - We have expenditures that have been encumbered but not yet paid out.
- ⇒ Dr. Ramirez:
- there is urgency around ensuring there is support for AAB students
 - we still need to do more concerning the conditions about why AAB students are not excelling
 - kudos to Karesha and the team that came together together to get the base funding with Tiffany
 - Goal 6 is new and funded goal
 - Opportunity to get feedback on where funds need to be spent in the system
 - Continue to advocate for funds specifically for AAB students because we know there is a need

*****Motion to extend the meeting and leave it open. First motion made by Letricia McLaren, Liz Day seconded it. All members voted in favor, none were opposed or abstained. Motion passed*****

⇒ Dr. Ramirez (continued):

- Tiffany will meet with each cabinet member to ensure how funds have been spent and ensure what steps are next and they are coming from the correct funding source.
- will bring that information back to this committee
- Karesha Boyd:
 - we are working to get to a place we can trust what is being said
 - Do not want to be photo ops without real action

- we would like information to be presented in a professional manner i.e. amounts spent without proper codes or reports, how it affected students
- in years passed departmental reporting was not recorded properly and funding that sat
- requesting information on:
 - outcomes
 - funding not spent
 - funding taken away
 - what is the oversight?
- Q: Are these data points specific to AAB students?
 - A: Yes.
- C: be more explicit about closing the gap as opposed to raising the percentage. That is still inequitable because there is still a gap of achievement
- Q: Are each action item still going to be matched dollar for dollar if you are using braided funds? how are we keeping track of the money spent?
- C: Equitable funds not being spent on all PACs. Everyone is not doing equal work. The AABPAC has been the foundation for all the PAC's to tighten up and get funding. I take it as an insult and part of the trauma and cycle of systematic racism. We know there is a need for AAB students. Conditioning starts with a biased person. Please do not counter our parents with the unnecessary stress that you have no idea what they are already under.
- C: there is money still coming in and potentially increasing funds through the RFP process.
- C: there should be a new category to delineate braided funds
- C: Please complete your comment cards and we will answer those questions
- We need to teach people how to engage with us so please complete the survey
- QR code for the survey; can be done multiple times

9.2 Black Students Thrive Update - Presented by Dr. Dwight Rogers

- next meeting will be April 17th at 5:30 at SUSD Boardroom
- goal 6.8 is mentorship and some community members have answered that call and I yield my time to give them an opportunity to introduce themselves and their program
 - Operation Scholars - Derrick Graves, Chauncy Martin, and De'Marieya Nelson
 - Vision: to develop a relentless pursuit to identify purpose and greatness and teach youth how to establish attainable goals to graduate from high school with a plan for the future.
 - Mission: to provide youth a safe environment to discover their identity and character, develop and reach their academic and personal goals, and become lifelong learners.
 - Three-tiered implementation plan
 - build rapport with students, staff, and provide behavioral classroom support

- small group interactions focusing on social-emotional development, academics, goal setting, healthy peer relationships, conflict mediations, and targeted behavioral interventions
- 1 on1 check-ins, academic reviews, discuss peer relationships and home dynamics, review attendance, collaborate with relevant staff to support students, and serve as advocates
- When seeing services, we urge you to start here at FRC to build mentorship. It was talked about last month and here it is for our families to utilize.

10.0 - Announcements

10.1 District Advisory Committees - please see the packet we handed out.

10.2 FRC Announcements

- School Site Council & SPSA Workshop
- Save the Date June 1st, Black Grad w/ BEA

10.3 Public Questions & Comments - None

11.0 Adjournment - Next meeting will be April 9th. Vice President, Karesha Boyd asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:22pm. Letricia McLaren made the first motion, Liz Day seconded it. All members voted in favor, none were opposed or abstained. Motion passes, meeting adjourned at 7:22pm.