

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
GOVERNING BOARD OF THE LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT DATA COMMITTEE

333 S. Beaudry Ave., Board Room
10 a.m., Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Committee Members Present

Mr. Nick Melvoin, Chairperson
Ms. Mónica García, Board Member

District Staff Present

Ms. Veronica Arreguin, Chief Strategy Office
Mr. Rasheed Khan, Principal
Mr. Glenn Daley, Independent Analysis Unit
Ms. Sharon Thomas, Office of General Counsel

External Representatives Present:

Ms. Rachel Greene, Parent
Ms. Eva Pereira, Office of the Mayor
Ms. Taylor Campbell, Office of the City Controller
Mr. Chase Stafford, Partnership for Los Angeles
Schools
Ms. Colleen Schwab, Retired Teacher

NOTES

The meeting convened at 10:04 am.

OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Melvoin provided opening remarks and reviewed the meeting agenda. Each participant introduced themselves and suggested one “norm” or “agreement” that they would like the committee to follow. It was noted that Ms. García and Ms. Goldberg would be arriving late or not able to participate.

The following norms were suggested:

1. Presume positive intentions
2. Provide data and information in understandable chunks
3. Say just enough
4. Consider long term impact
5. Be helpfully and respectfully critical
6. Transparency and openness
7. Critique systems and processes, not people or programs
8. Listen first to understand
9. Respect student privacy
10. We are learners

Mr. Melvoin reviewed the committee purpose, proposed committee topics, expectations for monthly agendas, and a protocol for keeping discussions on track. Mr. Melvoin described the day’s guiding question: What do we know and what can we learn about where students enroll in school?

Participants suggested additional questions related to the guiding question to be taken up by the committee including enrollment patterns over time, and mid-year enrollment patterns.

OPEN DATA

Mr. John Pirone, Data Officer and Mr. Oscar La Farga, Executive Director, Office of Data and Accountability, presented to the committee regarding the District's Open Data website. They discussed the purpose of Open data to make information freely available, and that the purposes of Open Data in LA Unified are to demonstrate a commitment to transparency, build trust, fuel innovation and problem solving, provide standardized data in one place, and engender a culture of sharing. They reviewed currently available data sets, particularly available enrollment data, including for each school site.

Committee members asked clarifying questions including whether the upcoming budget data would look like what is available at San Francisco Unified School District that drills down to the school level. The Open Data is doing a first pass of budget data for the open data dashboard to be available soon. Some information is currently available as a data set in the catalog. The committee clarified that school data is also broken down by cost center, and that Open Data has a separate school page for each cost center separate from Unified Enrollment.

ENROLLMENT OF SPECIALIZED POPULATIONS

Ms. Denise Miranda, Division of Student Health and Human Services, presented to the committee regarding enrollment processes and policies for specialized populations (foster, homeless, and probation involved students), including immediate enrollment and the right to remain in the school of origin to improve stability.

Committee members and external representatives asked clarifying questions, including how to ensure equal access to services and programs, including GATE, and whether referrals to schools of choice are provided to address under-representation of this population. The committee may follow up further on this topic.

ENROLLMENT OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Ms. Dolores Kovalesky, Division of Special Education, presented to the committee regarding enrollment of students with disabilities in neighborhood schools and schools of choice. In most cases, application and enrollment is available in schools for students with disabilities, but registration requires additional steps and paperwork.

Committee members and external representatives asked clarifying questions, including whether the district informs students with IEPs regarding school options of choice. It was discussed that administrators answer questions but do not necessarily proactively advice regarding school options. It was discussed that this could be an item for follow up or referral as a question to the committee on special education.

UNIFIED ENROLLMENT DATA

Mr. George Bartleson, Executive Director, School Design Options, presented data regarding student enrollment through the Unified Enrollment platform. He described a summary of recent successes of the program including additional unique applications to District schools, an increase in parent accounts, increased efficiency of the online system, and more parents accessing applications to choice programs. He demonstrated that Unified Enrollment is the only mechanism through which district enrollment is increasing. Mr. Bartleson presented data suggesting that students of different ethnicities are traveling

different distances to attend a school of choice, on average, and that applications for schools of choice vary across Board District and Local District. He described that several schools are drawing large numbers of students from around the city.

Ms. Mónica García arrived at 11:06 and provided a norm for the committee to follow: We are learners.

Committee members and external representatives asked additional clarifying questions, including if there is a policy that sets a defining framework for what metrics to be tracked are and how to determine whether the Unified Enrollment system is succeeding? There is not currently a framing policy, the District has just begun to identify what data is possible to track. It was also discussed that the district does capture data of enrollment along lines of vulnerable populations and can dig further into that topic should the Committee wish.

Mr. Daley, Independent Analysis Unit noted that some of the graphics are difficult to reach conclusions from without additional information. The committee wants to make sure it fully understands and is reviewing accurate data, so requests that additional detail be provided to support slides presented, particularly on distance to enrolled school. Mr. Bartleson suggested he will provide follow up.

Because the data presented relates to application and not enrollment data, further clarification was requested regarding whether and why increasing applications leads to increased enrollment and what conclusions can be drawn from how parents are using the filters. Mr. Melvoin asked the Unified Enrollment team to come back to the committee with answers to these questions and to do a deeper dive on available data. The Committee anticipates a further discussion in November.

RESOLUTION: ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL: ANALYZING ENROLLMENT PATTERNS TO SUPPORT SCHOOL INTEGRATION EFFORTS (002-19/20)

Mr. Melvoin introduced the resolution for review. He referenced materials provided by the resolution’s author, Ms. Kelly Gonez, and summarized that the resolution commits the Los Angeles Unified Board to equitable access to schools, requests the district to compile and share specified enrollment data as allowable by law, asks the superintendent to convene a research collaborative to study and analyze that data and to provide recommendations related to enrollment policies and practices, and commits the board to an annual review of how the district is increasing equity in enrollment.

The following speakers addressed the Committee on the proposed resolution:

- Ms. Sara Roos
- Ms. Diana Mediola
- Ms. Alma Solano
- Ms. Allison Gonzalez

The Committee discussed the resolution. Principal Khan expressed interest in understanding if, even before this resolution, we know where students are attending school by school in comparison to application numbers and whether the District uses information to change programs or expand or contract seats. Ms. García wanted to understand what we know about changes over longer time periods of time.

Mr. Daley suggested that it is difficult to understand diversity without a common operational and measurable definition of diversity. Similarly, Ms. Campbell suggested that the terms “equitable” and

“diversity” be defined. Ms. Greene noted that a definition of “high quality school” could also be necessary to fulfill the task of the resolution

Mr. Melvoin expressed interest in better understanding whether students are using the Unified Enrollment system to move to schools in a way that increases achievement overall. Ms. García shared that she would like to understand what diversity and equity look like in a district that is primarily students of color. Committee members discussed the importance of hearing from the magnet program and understanding how those programs, specifically designed for integration, are using data and being evidence-driven, and whether and how LAUSD can reach its integration goals.

Mr. Stafford noted that the resolution itself is very limited, seeking to create a path to answer many of the questions being discussed by the Committee. Ms. Greene noted that one Whereas operates on an assumption that an integrated enrollment system is supposed to include all schools, but Unified Enrollment in its current iteration is only inclusive of schools of choice and expressed concern about implications for enrollment in neighborhood schools and suggested a clarifying amendment.

Mr. Melvoin called for the advisory vote of the external representatives. Ms. Pereira, Ms. Campbell, and Mr. Stafford voted yes to support the resolution. Ms. Greene proposed an amendment to clarify the scope of Unified Enrollment in the Whereas portion of the resolution, and voted yes, if amended.

Mr. Melvoin called for the vote of Committee Members. Ms. García and Mr. Melvoin voted to pass, without amendments. Ms. Goldberg was not present.

CLOSING REMARKS

Mr. Melvoin reminded committee members of the next meeting date and time and asked for participants to consider and share feedback for proposed topics and format of committee meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following speakers addressed the Committee:

Mr. Carl Peterson, Parent	Enrollment Data
Ms. Sari Rynew	Enrollment Data
Ms. Rose Reiss, Parent	Enrollment Data
Ms. Tracy Cook, Parent	Enrollment Data
Mr. Juan Mangandi, Parent	Enrollment Data
Ms. Diana Guillen, Parent	Enrollment Data

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Melvoin adjourned the meeting at 12:26 p.m.