

To PAUSD Board Candidates

We are a group of Palo Altans who would like to know each of your positions on weighted GPAs, AP courses, and laning. A short questionnaire is attached. Please return your answers to pausd.candidate.questionnaire@gmail.com by [date].

Thank you for your participation.

Signed,

[Your name will appear in a list here. Your email address will NOT appear here; it will only be used to send you the candidates' answers.]

Weighted GPAs

Background

In November 2016, the board passed a motion to make GPA reporting consistent between the two high schools. Under the new policy, weighted GPAs are reported on transcripts at both schools. Weighted GPAs are calculated with an extra grade point for honors and AP courses taken in 10th through 12th grade. Prior to November 2016, Gunn reported both weighted and unweighted GPAs, with honors and AP courses given an extra grade point in all grades. Paly only reported unweighted GPAs.

Questions

- 1) Did you participate in the board meetings before the Nov. 2016 weighted GPA decision? If so, what was your position at that time?
- 2) Do you support reporting weighted GPAs on our high school students' transcripts? Why or why not? Do you support weighting honors courses taken in 9th grade? Why or why not?

AP Courses

Background

Currently both high schools offer a wide range of AP courses, but there are significant differences between the two school. Both schools advise students to take at most two AP courses at a time but there is no limit.

Questions

- 1) Should PAUSD's high schools continue to have a robust offering of AP courses? Why or why not?
- 2) Should there be a limit on the number of AP courses students can take? Why or why not?

Laning

Background

Laning is the practice of grouping students by their levels and learning speeds and offering a differentiated curriculum. For example, there are several lanes of math at Gunn and Paly.

Questions

- 1) Do you support laning in general? Why or why not?
- 2) What is your ideal method to support students with different levels of mastery and different learning speed so that all students can achieve their full potential?
- 3) Do you support site level pilot efforts to delane classes at the high schools? How do you feel about the pilot programs to delane English at Paly and Algebra 1 at Gunn?