Minutes

Meeting with Foster Youth Council
February 16, 2023
11:30 to 1:00

via zoom video conference

Please join us for a video conference call via zoom on Thursday, February 19th at 11:30am. Here is the link: https://pasadena-edu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMscOmppjguH9JrRbrjR9cDvEYSv_DzH6BU Be sure to download the zoom app on a device that has video capability. If you are on your cell phone, you should not need to call the audio number. If your computer does not have a microphone, you will also need to call in.

I. 11:30am - Call to order

II. 11:30am to 11:40am- Welcome and introductions

Lily Bartenstein - Chair FYC, Resource Parent in PUSD with a student at PHS
Kim Hamon -
Kristi Lopez - Staff from Senator Portantino's office
Letty Hernandez - Foothill Family Services kinship support services
Marisa Wellington - RFA parent in Santa Clarita
Nancy Molina - Office of family engagement at PUSD
Regina Robinson - RFA caregiver, Lancaster
Robert Aceves - community schools, Muir
Yadi - community advocate
Ruthann Aull - community advocate- special education & foster youth
Judy McKinley - community advocate - special education & foster youth
Vanessa Perez - school liaison at Five Acres
Dr. Julianne Reynoso - Head of Student Wellness and Support @ PUSD
Aide Suarez - Community liaison for foster youth at PUSD
James Russel - Community liaison for foster youth at PUSD
Jeanette Navarro - High School Counselor for Foster Youth at PUSD
Cedric Johnson - Middle School Counselor for Foster Youth at PUSD
Lillian Avalos - Early Intervention Specialist with PUSD, hosts BID meetings
Kim Kenne - PUSD Board Member, Board Liaison to Foster Youth Council, Chair of Committee Attendance, Suspension and Foster Youth

III. 11:40am to 11:45am - Approval of Minutes from January 2023 meeting

a. Minutes were not provided in advance, so approval will be tabled to be approved in the March meeting.

IV. 11:45am-11:50am – Election of Officers

a. Ruthann Aull has been elected Parliamentarian.

b. No other members were nominated for open officer positions, so Co-Chair remains unfilled.

V. 11:50am to 12:00pm - New Issues of Concern to Foster Parents (no pending issues from January)

a. (please limit questions to 2 minutes and 1 minute for responses)

i. No new issues of concern were raised.

VI. 12:10pm to 12:30pm – Updates from PUSD

a. Student Wellness and Support

i. Lily Bartenstein thanks Aide Suarez and the Youth in Foster Care team for providing copies of their new print materials to share with parents and partners at last month's Building Bridges PTA Council event.

ii. Jeanette Navarro has been working with students to get successful college operations

iii. James Russel is meeting with high school students and connecting with their principals, developing goals related to job opportunities and planning a PCC field trip

iv. Aide Suarez + Lillian Avalos are working on welcome packets connecting new students to resources and teams at school sites

v. Dr Reynoso's Update

1. Youth in Foster Care team is going great work!
2. Ms. Avalos has been working on BID meetings and intake process

vi. Jeanette Navarro

1. A grant from Pasadena Education council has provided gift cards to incentivize the work that our students are doing

vii. Cedric Johnson

1. Working with middle school students on life skills & engaging with the process planning for their future
2. Students he's working with have also been encouraged with gift cards recognizing grades and perfect attendance

viii. May will be Foster Youth month

ix. Student Wellness and Support is working with a donor to make sure all of our seniors are supported in the senior activities, yearbooks, etc.

x. Pasadena Mental health under SWS may have a project for students to support Prom as well

b. PALS

i. Dr. Hernandez was unable to attend the meeting today, but we will attempt to follow up on the issue for a future meeting.

1. In an email follow up, Dr. Hernandez committed to attend the March and April meetings of the Foster Youth Council.

ii. Ruthann advocated for the attendance of staff who can speak to the current and future planning for the PALS program in this meeting. Ruthann described some of the challenges in advocacy for this student population and the need for improvements in our systems and resources to support them.

iii. A site visit could be helpful for us to better understand issues related to services provided.

VII. 12:30pm to 12:40pm Committee updates:

a. LCAP (Local Control and Accountability Plan)

i. Lily Bartenstein shared the summary document of the PUSD LCAP so that members of the council can see the intention and goals that have been included, including the foster youth specific goal and allocations in goal 6. In the case of our PUSD LCAP, a portion of this supplemental funding has been allocated to support staffing the Youth in Foster Care team.

ii. Kim Kenne - the LCAP document defines goals and metrics to measure, plus actions to meet those goals. These targets should also be aligned with our department plans.

iii. The last few pages of the full LCAP show how funding is specifically allocated to action items, and can be a useful reference.

b. Kim Kenne - Shared about the Board Committee on Child Welfare, Attendance and Discipline, which has as an identified focus the needs of foster youth.

i. This committee has had one meeting so far, which defined the scope.

1. Agenda for this first meeting linked here - Attached to the agenda is a report of district data on suspensions.

ii. Committee reviewed MTSS (Multi-tier system of supports)

iii. New policy limits reasons for expulsion and suspension in our elementary schools, so we reviewed the supports we provide to students and teachers, and we want to look at the data and see how the implementation is going

1. RTI wellness teachers have also been added to support school sites, which have provided valuable supports to classroom teachers and school staff

iv. Committee is scheduling a meeting in March

v. The committee is interested in identifying systemic issues that the board can provide support to address, and seeing how data allows us all to get better

VIII. 12:40pm –12:45pm – Resource Parent Toolkit developed last year is live. Please feel free to share this resource with caregivers or advocates who may find it useful.

a. https://sites.google.com/view/rfa-education-resources/home

IX. 12:45pm to 12:50pm – Marketing materials and new email address

a. The Foster Youth Council is transitioning from the existing email address, fycouncilpusd@yahoo.com to a new gmail account which will allow us to better manage resources and contacts. Our new email address is fycouncilpusd@gmail.com.

b. Nancy Molina described funding that has been allocated within the Office of family engagement to provide tabling resources to parent leadership groups like ours, including tablecloth, banner, popup tent, and print materials. Lily Bartenstein will follow up with the foster youth council membership for feedback on draft branding materials in the next week.

c. Deadline to provide details in order to produce items is the end of the month.

X. 12:50pm to 12:55pm - Announcements

a. Next meeting date: March 16, 2023

i. Workshop topic prior to meeting: **9:30am to 11:20am –** Using Prudent Parent Standard to Promote School Stability

b. LACOE Caregiver Training Series – Thursdays from 10am to 12pm

i. Feb 23

ii. March 30

iii. April 27th

c. May is Foster Care month

i. May 15th – from 9am to 1pm - FY Ally training (hybrid)

ii. May 18th from 3:30pm to 5pm – In Their Own Voices: FY Panel
iii. May 20th - 9:30am 1pm – Turning Dreams to Degrees conference for 11th & 12th Graders and caregivers
iv. May 23rd - 12pm to 2pm – Resource Fair

XI. 12:55pm to 1:00pm - Public Comment

a. Yadi raised the question of engagement with the Pasadena Police Chief regarding officers on school sites. This link was provided regarding the topic: https://www.pasadenanow.com/main/new-police-chief-wants-officers-back-in-public-schools-told-to-expect-pushback

    i. Kim Kenne clarified the current status of the relationship between PUSD and the Pasadena Police department, and that at this time nothing has been planned or decided.

b. Kristi Lopez provided fact sheets for relevant legislation proposed by the Senator Portantino's office this legislative session:

    i. SB 323 - Emergency Safety Procedures for Pupils with Exceptional Needs

    ii. SB 445 - Special Education IEP translation services

    iii. SB 509 - Behavioral Health: Training and Pupil Instruction

    iv. SB 691 - Mandatory screening for Dyslexia (fact sheet to come)