

BUSD Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting Minutes

Date: March 19, 2026

Time: 7:00–8:00 PM

Location: Virtual (Google Meet)

1. Call to Order & Welcome

- Meeting opened following participation in the Joint Advisory Committee session
- Welcome and acknowledgments to attendees
- Noted strong participation and engagement from earlier meeting

2. Attendance & Quorum

- Attendance: 7 of 11 members present at start
- Quorum not yet met at beginning of meeting
- Plan to revisit quorum status later for approval of minutes

3. Review of Agenda & Norms

- PAC norms referenced (relationships, equity focus, shared voice, awareness of power dynamics)
- Agenda overview:
 - Public Comment
 - SBAC (Superintendent's Budget Advisory Committee) Update
 - Budget Overview & Discussion
 - LCAP Mid-Year Update (Goal 4: Engagement)
 - Breakout Group Discussion

- Closing

4. Public Comment

- No public comments were made

5. SBAC Budget Update (Presented by Cielo)

Key Budget Context

- Initial budget reduction target: \$2.5 million
- Updated target increased to \$10.8 million due to:
 - Salary increases (BFT and classified staff)
 - Increased benefits costs
- “Us too” agreements extend salary/benefit increases across bargaining units

Additional Budget Factors

- Expiring Grants (June 2026):
 - Mental Health Grant (City of Berkeley)
 - Nutrition Services funding (~\$300K reduction impacting gardening/cooking programs)
 - Other one-time funds
- These programs currently support critical student services and may require replacement funding

Potential Offset (Uncertain)

- SPUDBUG Grant (~\$4.6M):

- Not yet confirmed and cannot be formally included in budget projections
- Could reduce deficit if received

Budget Scenarios

- Scenario 1: \$10.8M reduction target (no additional funding assumptions)
- Scenario 2: ~\$9.2M reduction target (if SPUDBUG received and expiring grants addressed)
- Multi-year impact noted (structural implications through 2027–28)

LCFF Supplemental Funds

- Primarily support unduplicated students:
 - English Learners
 - Socioeconomically disadvantaged students
 - Foster and housing-insecure youth
- Emphasis on protecting services that directly impact these focal groups

6. Decision-Making Framework Review

- PAC reviewed criteria for evaluating programs:
 - Equity
 - Impact
 - Sustainability
- Discussion highlighted key idea:
 - *“Equity without sustainability is harm”*

- Members encouraged to:
 - Apply rubric to budget decisions
 - Gather input from school sites, students, and families

7. Breakout Group Activity

Purpose

- Process information and elevate PAC voice

Guiding Prompts

1. What are you noticing? (Key takeaways, trends, concerns)
2. What are you wondering? (Questions, clarifications, implications)

Facilitation Notes

- Emphasis on open-ended discussion
- Encouraged collective sense-making and inquiry
- Note-catcher used to capture group thinking

8. LCAP Mid-Year Update (Led by Lena)

- Connected to LCAP Goal 4: Family & Community Engagement
- Mid-year survey data to inform:
 - District decision-making
 - PAC advisory role
- Reinforced importance of:

- Representation of school communities
- Grounding feedback in both data and lived experience

9. Key Themes & Takeaways

- Budget situation is complex, evolving, and uncertain
- Significant concern about loss of critical student services due to expiring funds
- Strong emphasis on equity-centered decision-making
- Need for community voice and site-level input
- Recognition of tension between maintaining programs and fiscal sustainability

10. Next Steps

- Additional budget and program presentations scheduled for April
- PAC members encouraged to:
 - Engage with school communities
 - Gather input from students, families, and staff
 - Apply decision-making framework to upcoming recommendations

11. Adjournment

- Meeting concluded following breakout discussions and closing remarks

Attachments / References

- SBAC Slides (March 18, 2026)
- Budget Documents (shared February 26, 2026)

- LCAP Mid-Year Survey Materials