

Public Comment for the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) for the Distribution of Donations for Staffing Meeting: March 19, 2025

Greetings! After listening to the previous meeting sessions for the creation of the replacement system for the previous LSF system, I have a few noticings that I would like to mention.

- The current system no longer has hundreds of unpaid volunteers to do the fundraising work that was previously available in the LSF system. Without the labor of unpaid volunteers (many of whom have significant experience with fundraising) the current system will need to take into account paid fundraising positions and marketing. If the desire is for the donations to continue coming in to support the new system, a portion of the \$1 million will need to be allocated to fundraising efforts. Many people have already shifted their fundraising efforts to their PTA or other local organization where they know exactly where the money will go (for example, money previously spent towards Alameda Foundation now goes towards the Grant Bowl fundraising). We have to assume that \$200,000 will need to be dedicated to fundraising efforts, maybe more.
- With \$200,000 donated to fundraising efforts, the remaining \$800,000 is available. It is not possible to distribute EA positions to the remaining schools in a way that will be felt as equitable by anyone or the desire for further donations. The online platforms would be preferable (focusing on the K/1 and 5th grade platforms) and would reach the largest number of students and fill a valuable need, but is unlikely to increase donations towards continuation of funds.
- The best way to spend the remaining money, which has not yet been proposed, is to divide the remaining \$800,000 equally amongst K-5 students. With roughly 20,000 students in K-5 that would be approximately \$40 per head. Schools would receive allocations based on enrollment for the principals to use however they see fit towards the individual needs of their own schools (similar to the previous equity grant program). Start with K-5 for the remaining \$800,000 and expand grade levels if additional donations are forthcoming in future years. A small amount of money to start can only fund tiny amounts of staffing and not even a ½ time EA, but could potentially grow if parents see a direct impact of where the money is being spent.
- Unfortunately, there are no easy answers for how to make the new system functional and productive and sustainable. But there are definitely ways for it to fail entirely. In order for it to be successful, every single parent will need to see value in the money donated towards this rather than a wide array of other donation worthy opportunities.

Thank you for your consideration,
Andrea Hoffelt