2024-2025 PAC CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT DIANA GUILLEN

"When times get tough, we don't give up. We get up." (Barack Obama)

Dear PAC Members,

Before we begin, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge and thank the entire membership and recognize all of the contributions that each one makes in their schools. Without their work, dedication and commitment [in] this district, these central committees could not exist!

I would like to share that I met with the PAC Board to discuss some points of concern. We decided to work on all the areas that unite us. One of them is our responsibility to this committee to give it a VOICE.

You recall that we had a meeting on December 9, 2024, where the Office of Legislative Affairs and Governmental Relations presented us with a request for state exemption to hire classified personnel who do not meet the state requirements.

It turns out that Ms. Martha Alvarez, director of that office, had said that she would present our objections and concerns to the LAUSD Board of Education. Something she did not do, on the contrary, the material presented to the LAUSD Board of Education did not even inform them that they met with our committee!

I consulted with the PAC Board, and we unanimously decided that we should present the committee's objections since our voice had not been conveyed by the director of the Office of Governmental Affairs, Ms. Martha Álvarez. Therefore, as Chairperson, I took on the task of writing a letter to the Board of Education and going to speak in public comments about this point for which I would vote.

The following objections were raised:

- 1. The staff who manage students with special needs are not going to be trained enough to carry out their work if they are not in the first 3 levels.
- 2. We think that truly, LAUSD is not being responsible by wanting to obtain this exemption and lower qualification levels for employees.
- 3. The District is not working on specializing employees to move up to the top three ranks and is not looking to resolve the problem, but rather, to continue asking the state for the exemption.
- 4. Parents want highly qualified staff to work with our students.
- 5. The district should offer trainings so that applicants meet the standards the state requires.

The outcome of this action is irrelevant at this time, because we are initiating a work commitment and recognize that success requires a collective effort, and we will set our differences aside to achieve our common purpose. Which is *"give a VOICE to the VOICELESS".*

"Together we are stronger, and we can achieve great things"

Thank you very much,

Sincerely: Diana Guillen PAC Chairperson LAUSD 2024-2025