

Oakland Unified School District

Office of the Board of Education

Student Directors' Report

September 11, 2013
Carmen Jimenez and Katebah Al-Olefi

All City Council (ACC) held trainings throughout the summer. The training series included Grounding on Meaningful Student Engagement's history and accomplishments. We talked about our leadership goals as individuals and as a group for the school year. New and returning members got a chance to build a relationship with one another in order to work as a group through the new school year. We got a chance to learn more about the work of Social and Emotional Learning and started planning our retreat and other student-wide gatherings.

During the summer from July 11th to July 14th ACC and Da Town Researchers (DTR) attended the Free Minds Free People Conference in Chicago, Illinois. We got a chance to build with other young leaders (BSAC, VAYLA, AYPAL, and Mexican American Studies Program) from different states and learned about their work. The workshops were very inspirational and insightful. We learned about the struggles and accomplishments of other youth leaders. We saw many similarities with the work of other youth throughout the country and ACC's work here in Oakland. This helped us and gave us many ideas to bring back to ACC. That was very useful because it gave us an opportunity to reflect and to see what we can do better and what we can avoid when trying to implement certain tactics. The workshops were a great insight into what was happening throughout the country, it gave me many great ideas on what to work on in Oakland, and how to work in Oakland. Many cities are going through the same issues of violence in the community, inequality in schools, lack of resources, schools shutting down, unprofessional teachers and a lack of support at schools. We also learned how they confronted those issues very successfully. These workshops provided a great resource on finding ways to tackle those similar issues in Oakland.

We also had an opportunity to share our research on social, emotional, and academic support for students and our work with our Making A-G Real campaign. We had the pleasure of making new relationships with other organizations. These new relationships between ACC, DTR and other organizations will help keep us updated and alert, not to mention the new support we have gained. Getting to know other organizations also gave us a sense of where we are right now. I personally learned that I need to work on my leadership skills, more specifically my communication skills. This conference really helped me and the rest of the All City Council Student Governing Board as leaders. It showed me what I need to work on in order to become a better leader and to help others become leaders.

From August 21st to August 23rd we had our MSE Youth Planning Retreat at Marin Headlands. ACC and DTR members, BayPeace, CFJ, Youth Together, Real Hard and LIBRE came to the retreat. During our retreat we talked about what our main focus would be for this year. We spent all three days talking about safety in our schools. We arrived at the conclusion that if there is no safety at our schools, then there is no meaning for education. Our focus this year will be around student and adult communication, relationships, and accountability. We feel that communication, relationships, and accountability between adults and teachers are key to having a safe school. MSE youth leaders also came up with some recommendations to improve social, emotional, and academic support for all students based on the findings. We had an opportunity to also talk about ways to connect our campaign focus with the Local Control Funding Formula, the Voluntary Resolution Plan, and the Social and Emotional Standards and how our voice as students can impact these major areas.

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ACC upcoming meetings include:

- All City Council Middle School – Student Leadership Retreat, September 17th, 10am-2pm at our ACC Headquarters (Lakeview campus - 746 Grand Ave.) in the Auditorium.
- All City Council High School 1 general meeting, September 19th, 12pm-3pm at ACC Headquarters (Lakeview campus - 746 Grand Ave.) in the Auditorium.
- If you have a group of students who want to come – please email me at jvalentina39@gmail.com or Aurora Lopez, aurora.lopez@ousd.k12.ca.us or 510- 273-1566