



All City Council Student Union's Student Director Report

Denilson Garibo, Mica Smith-Dahl

1/22/20

Good evening board members, Superintendent, students, families and community,

The All City Council Student Union Governing Board is excited to share with you all what we have been up to and what we are planning in the next couple of weeks:

On December 12, All City Council Student Union held the 3rd high school general meeting hosted by the student leadership at McClymonds. During this meeting the 41 ACC highschool delegates and adult allies from 11 schools including Oakland Tech, Life Academy, Castlemont, Ohigh, Fremont, Street Academy, Skyline, Rudsdale, Mack, Maddison and Metwest were present. As part of this meeting, delegates were able to obtain a better understanding of ACC's focus for 2019-20. We were able to recap our goal to activate student power in civic engagement and our progress and next steps with our Student Power Voter Registration drive. We also believe this is a powerful year for students. With budget cuts and so much happening in our schools, we want to engage in supporting more funding to our schools, really saving RJ, and protecting the safety of us as students. Also, here are some updates of our civic engagement data of the voter registration drive in the high schools: Oakland High, Mack, Tech, Life (planned), Rudsdale, MetWest (planned). We trained 17 student leaders who conducted 49 presentations on the history and power of voting and how to register to vote. So far we have collected 100+ voter registrations. We will be continuing our efforts throughout the spring. As part of the meeting, student leaders participated in deeper learning breakouts. These breakouts included LCAP and the Student Budget Priorities, and the Blueprint. Special thanks to Yvette Renteria, OUSD Deputy Chief of Innovation and her team as well as Justine Santos from Californians For Justice who supports our LCAP's Student Advisory Committee, for being present, answering questions, and sharing updates with our students. Our delegates were able to get a better understanding and help inform the principles for budget and decision making for LCAP and give voice to their concerns about the blueprint. We would like to personally give a big appreciation to none other than the Mack House for hosting our best high school meeting yet. As well as the staff who came to be present and hear the recommendation of students.

Moving on we also were able to hold our General Middle School meeting on January 14 hosted by Bret Harte. Each meeting, we receive school reports from the delegates. We then compile those reports to present at the board meetings. The following is a list of concerns and opportunities at the school sites. During our December and January meetings the schools that turned in their school reports were Edna Brewer, Bret Harte, Elmhurst United, Melrose Leadership Academy, Life Academy, Westlake and WOMS. Delegates from Edna Brewer noted that there are still working on changing their dress code and currently have a group of people working with PTSA to address any concerns they have. Bret harte mentioned many improvements that have taken place including less fights, less drama, less disrespect, improvement of school lunch and more students currently on the honor roll. As for Elmhurst students are still concerned about the cafeteria food and the graffiti outside of school. One of the improvements they mentioned is having new lockers. Melrose students acknowledge their new electives including drama, journalism and leadership. Although, their very excited to take part in these electives their concerns are that not all electives are open for every grade. Life Academy delegates also noted that they now have new science textbooks and are excited to be part of their Valentines day dance and day of solidarity. Westlake highlighted improvements over the last months currently having less fights, student celebrations, and more positive vibes. Students are meeting weekly to develop an RJ plan for their school. Finally, WOMS delegates are concerned about the bathrooms and are doing student awards to those who demonstrated their leadership.

We are excited to announce that our Winter Meaningful Student Engagement 2020 retreat was a success. We were able to break out into groups to discuss updates, reflections and next steps for our focus this year. The break outs were voter registration, Schools and communities first and restorative justice. We were also able to do some grounding and get training on representative leadership and strong messaging. Our students felt very empowered to see their passion and hardwork through their words motivating them to do the same. Most importantly, students identified ways on how we want to engage immigrant students and students who are not eligible to register to vote in the process. We were able to share our stories on the reasons of why we were doing the work that we do making us see civic engagement on a much more personal level. Overall, we were fortunate to have an opportunity to get out of Oakland and be in a space that can ignite our inspiration to continue our work together districtwide and citywide. We are excited to announce that in addition to voter registration we will also be doing canvassing for Schools and Communities First and other initiatives that support youth all starting this month. We encourage everyone to join us to gather signatures to make sure the ballot includes SCF that would reclaim \$12 billion dollars per year for K-12 schools, community colleges, and communities.

For flyers, permission slips or more information on any of the announcements above please contact All City Council Student Union via instagram [@allcitycouncilousd](https://www.instagram.com/allcitycouncilousd). Or email us at denilson.garibo@ousd.org and mica.smithdahl@ousd.org or our meaningful student engagement staff, Aurora Lopez at Aurora.Lopez@ousd.org

Thank you.

Student Directors Statement

Now we want to take a moment to read a statement in response to why we haven't been present in the previous Board meetings and to the shutting down of the previous board meetings.

Today, we are happy to be back in our elected seats here at our school board meeting. We are honored to be here in this position where we can support and uplift student voice.

We acknowledge that for many years communities have been overlooked however, as student directors the merging of Kaiser and Sankofa was an effort to spread the resources back to those communities that have been underserved. It is hard, it is sad, and it is painful. Sometimes hard decisions have to be made and sometimes we're not in a position to change them. As two black and brown youth growing up in East and West Oakland, with less access to education we take our job heavily. We don't see many students being represented in this space which is why we feel that our voice is even more important, especially in times where the real problems are decisions being made including budget cuts and charter approvals. During our last board meeting, we as student directors felt ignored and disrespected when we tried to speak our point of view. No one turned around to listen to what we had to say. We want more clarity on what is the purpose of shutting down every board meeting. As students of color we encounter daily negative interactions in our neighborhoods with the police without media presence. This issue is very important to us and I can speak to this based on my own experiences.

In response to the situation between the police and community members, we are disappointed. While it seems the police were purposefully aggravated, there was no excuse to have treated community members this way. Because of the consistent shut down of every meeting, we feel that it has become dangerous for us as student directors to be present. At the last meeting we attended we felt attacked when many people came up to us asking us to step down from the stage and when we tried to express how we felt, we were pressured and we didn't see the need in going down as we had the mic, we felt belittled by adults. Student power is an essential key to the movement of fighting for equality in education. At the end of the day we as students are the ones affected by every decision that this Board makes.

Being able to put yourself in a position where you can get arrested and not assaulted by an officer is a privilege. Many people within our communities that we serve do not have that privilege. I want everyone here to ask themselves where was this energy with Roots? Because some of you were there but those of you who weren't won't feel threatened by us saying this-- *where was that same energy?* Placing yourself at the front of a radical movement has so much power but it has to be done correctly, with intentionality and including all impacted groups--many don't seem on board with this movement and they have a say to this as well.

We want to hear more from those parents who are not present in these meetings and uninformed about the decisions that are currently being made for them. Our historically underserved communities and schools have always been pushed to the side. This decision to merge the schools was an attempt to give resources and supports to a school that has been neglected for so long. Overall, we want to hear every person in the building, but if that's not even allowed. How are we as students going to be heard. We respect the purpose but we don't see the cause.

Thank you.