

Interview Availability: UNITED PARENTS OF HADDON

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OFFICIAL STATEMENT FROM THE UNITED PARENTS OF HADDON

HADDON PARENTS DECLARE VICTORY

Parents of the United Parents of Haddon (UPH) have officially ended their successful petition campaign to transform their school, authorized under California’s Parent Empowerment Act. The campaign, which has been “paused” since early 2013, successfully sparked in-district reforms that resulted in the adoption by Haddon Avenue Elementary School teachers of a Local Initiative Schools (LIS) plan [include link to plan] to transform the school.

“Against many odds, Haddon parents worked tirelessly with the support of the community on behalf of their children to make their voices heard, urging reform at Haddon Avenue Elementary School. We feel that our community also deserves top quality education like many other areas within LAUSD and are proud of the progress achieved as a direct result of our parent petition campaign,” said **Martha Martinez**, parent leader within the United Parents of Haddon.

Last Thursday, scores of UPH parents were joined by many of the community allies who supported the parents’ campaign to achieve this historic in-district reform. The community came together to celebrate their campaign victory and the brighter future ahead for the community school.

On the heels of last week’s victory celebration, UPH today announce that all petitions will be returned by mail to Haddon parents in recognition of the advances made at the school and in expectation of the improvement plan to be implemented this upcoming academic year. More details about the plan can be found below.

Parents are pleased that the three autonomies to be implemented under LIS in just a few weeks will focus on improving educational outcomes for the Haddon students who need it the most. To that end, the parents are ready and willing to continue collaboration with school officials and teachers to help make this reform a success.

Looking forward, Haddon parents plan to advocate for the addition of other LIS autonomies to continue making Haddon Avenue Elementary an even better school, with a vision of move toward more equality in education within the San Fernando Valley community and all of LAUSD.

(MORE)

Local Initiative Schools

The Local Initiative Schools (LIS) process allows teachers and LAUSD to bring about more local autonomy and reform. Within LIS plans, teachers propose to adopt specified autonomies that will allow them to better meet the needs of the students.

In their plan, Haddon teachers stated: "The autonomies of scheduling, professional development, and mutual consent will provide Haddon with the flexibility to accomplish the mission and establish the vision for a school culture of high expectations that motivates all children to be successful scholars and leaders throughout their academic careers and beyond." (page 7-8 of LIS Plan)

These autonomies and their desired effects overlay cleanly with the objectives laid out by the UPH parents:

We need better academic results for our children at Haddon Elementary School. Only 45% of the students leave the school able to read on grade level, meaning that more than half of students will not be prepared to succeed in middle school. Our reclassification rate for English Language Learners is only 21%, far below the already bad LAUSD average of 29%.

Furthermore, our children do not feel safe, motivated, and inspired at school. We need substantial and rapid improvements in both the academic performance and culture of our school.

United Parents of Haddon believes that we need four substantial changes to help make this vision a reality:

- 1. Better school leadership*
- 2. Better teaching in the classroom*
- 3. A strong school culture of safety and high expectations*
- 4. Decisions that put our kids' interests first*

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