

## **UPDATE ON STATUS OF PARENT TRIGGER PETITION**

**January 11, 2011**

We wanted to provide an update regarding the status of the Parent Trigger petition for McKinley Elementary School. The District received the petition on December 7, 2010, and the District immediately began processing it. Since then, fourteen business days have passed - the District was on winter break from December 18th to January 3rd. District staff is presently coordinating the verification of parent signatures. We anticipate that this process will be completed within 10 to 15 or so business days. District staff will then complete an analysis of the petition before the matter is presented to the Board for further review.

In terms of the timelines, the statute does not contain a specific timeline for review of signatures or action on the petition. However, as a comparison, the Parent Trigger regulations that were proposed by the California Department of Education on December 15, 2010, and which are pending before the State Board of Education, call for at least 25 business days to complete verification of parent signatures, and then 20 business days thereafter to take action on the petition for a total of 45 business days from the date of submittal of the petition. As just noted, only 14 business days have passed since the District received the petition, so although the regulations are not even in effect and many stakeholders believe the proposed regulations do not allow enough time for processing of a petition, we are well-within the timelines contemplated by the Department of Education.

In terms of school district efforts to obtain rescission of parent signatures, the District has not made any effort to do so. The District does not and cannot control the efforts of individual parents, union members, residents, or other stakeholders, who have various rights of speech and assembly.

With respect to complaints, several persons spoke at the December 2010 Board meeting, complaining about being misled by the Parent Trigger proponents. Others have submitted complaints on "Parent Revolution" forms, complaining that teachers have sought to persuade them not to support the petition. These latter complaints are being processed by our Human Resources department.

In summary, the Parent Trigger petition will be reviewed and processed in an orderly and fair manner. We will have additional updates for the Board and public at upcoming Board meetings.