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|  | PRESS RELEASE | JANUARY 18, 2013**FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION** |
| **HADDON PARENTS “PAUSE” PARENT TRIGGER PROCESS AS TEACHERS, DISTRICT MOVE FORWARD WITH PROGRESS TOWARDS COLLABORATION** |
| **Los Angeles – January 18, 2012 –** The United Parents of Haddon, the parents’ group that launched a parent trigger petition campaign to transform Haddon Avenue Elementary School, have “paused” their organization’s campaign as the teachers at their school and Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) have taken significant and meaningful steps towards reform of the school in the last few weeks. Teachers at Haddon recently voted to institute LAUSD’s newest reform model, Local Initiative Schools, to bring about more local autonomy and reform, and are involving parents in the creation of the ultimate plan. In the spirit of collaboration, the parents are pausing their collection of parent trigger petitions and focusing on working with teachers and administrators on that plan in order to (1) ensure better school leadership and classroom teaching, (2) instill a culture of safety and high expectation, and (3) put the kids’ interests fist. Only 45% of students at Haddon Avenue Elementary leave the school able to read on grade level. This means more than half of students will not be prepared to succeed in middle school and beyond. Testing averages of children classified as English Language Learners, who constitute 46% of total students, are even lower than LAUSD’s already low 29% average. With no solutions in sight, Haddon parents organized their community to force real change. They formed the United Parents of Haddon 18 months ago, and more recently had initiated the petition-gathering process required by California’s Parent Empowerment Act of 2010, more commonly known as the parent trigger law. The decision to pause the parent trigger campaign comes with progress recently made in the Local Initiative Schools (LIS) process begun by the school’s teachers. The LIS option for transforming schools was established through an agreement between LAUSD and United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA). LIS offers teachers the opportunity to establish greater local autonomy and choice for tailoring educational solutions to the actual needs of their students. As discussions continue, the United Parents of Haddon remain hopeful that the LIS process will yield tangible and immediate results for their children. In the event this process fails to achieve kids-first changes for the school, the parents are prepared to restart the parent trigger process.**END****For further information:** David Phelps, Parent Revolution communications 213-718-4660 or dphelps@parentrevolution.org    |