

MINUTES

I. Call to Order:

Mrs. Elena Reyes, DELAC President, called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

II. Welcome and Introductions:

Mrs. Reyes welcomed all present and introduced District staff and special guests.

Mrs. María De Melo and Rosalba González provided interpretation services.

III. Attendance: Mrs. Lucrecia Alonso reminded everyone to sign the attendance roster.

Schools represented:

Alle at Steinbeck, Almaden, Anne Darling, Bachrodt, Canoas, Carson, Empire Gardens, Galarza, Gardner, Grant, Graystone, Hacienda, Hammer Montessori, Horace Mann, Los Alamitos, Lowell, Olinger, Reed, River Glen Terrell, Trace, Washinton, Willow Glen Elem., Bret Harte, Burnett, Hoover, Willow Glen MS, Lincoln HS, San José High and Willow Glen High.

Schools not represented:

Booksin, Schallenberger, Simonds, Williams, Castillero, Broadway, Gunderson, Leland and Pioneer.

IV. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was reviewed. Mrs. Ana María Ramírez made a motion to approve the agenda as presented and Mr. Gabino Martínez seconded it. All were in favor and the agenda was approved.

V. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from December 12, 2011 were reviewed. Mrs. Mireya Mora made a motion to approve them and Mrs. Danelia Gutiérrez seconded it. All were in favor and the minutes were approved as presented.

VI. Correspondence

Mrs. Lucrecia Alonso announced that the post office returned an invitation. She reminded everyone to keep contact information up to date in order to receive the correspondence on time.

She also reminded members that they may write to the DELAC Committee if they have suggestions, comments or questions.

VII. Committee Reports

Voluntary Integration Plan (VIP) Committee

Mr. Ian López asked for a volunteer to report on the VIP meeting held on January 9, 2012.

Mrs. Elva Arciniaga offered to give the report. She shared that the VIP Committee provided an update on the new District's Strategic Plan. They also presented the new vision and mission, as well as the new District strategies to be put in place.

They were informed that the District has taken into consideration the feedback gathered from all stakeholder meetings and are doing this with the goal that all students achieve academically.

Parent Brown Bag Meeting

Dr. Matthews reported that Ms. Ann Jones presented the budget for the 2012-13 school year. The Governor has recently released the budget and it includes more budget cuts for education. He mentioned that there is an initiative to be included in the November election but indicated that even if the initiative gets approved, there would still be cuts for education. If there are more cuts to education, some programs for children might be affected.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 26th, 2012 and Mr. Chris Funk will be speaking to parents about the District's instructional program and direct instruction.

Mr. Ian López announced that transportation is available for parents interested in attending this meeting.

They need to contact Verónica Lara to request the services.

(Pending Item)

A parent recommended changing the time for the Parent Brown Bag meeting to the evenings since it is very difficult for parents to participate if they are working during the day.

VIII. Old Business

No old business.

IX. New Business:

A. Funding for English Learners by Rosanna Mucetti, Manager of the Curriculum, Instruction and EL Services PK-5

Before beginning her presentation, Ms. Rosanna Mucetti announced that she has resigned and would be leaving her position as manager this month. She thanked the committee for their continued support.

Ms. Mucetti began her presentation by providing the parents with an excel sheet containing EL funding information for 2011-12 school year. Parents had the opportunity to review the document and identify the percentage of EL students at their school sites and the funding allocated for these children. After parents reviewed the funding, Ms. Mucetti explained the purpose of categorical funds. She indicated that schools receive categorical funding from state and federal government specifically to improve student achievement. Schools must use these funds to provide additional services for EL students with specific needs, improve the instruction and curriculum and provide additional professional development for teachers. Ms. Mucetti reviewed the differences between general and categorical funds and provided specific examples of appropriate expenditures using these funds.

Some of the categorical funds for English Learners include EIA-LEP (State) and Title III-LEP (Federal).

The District received \$4,635,313 in EIA-LEP funds for 2011-12, which is an average of about \$288.25 per student.

Ms. Albarrán added that there are other funds that benefit ELs as well for example Title I. Some students are eligible for both.

A parent shared a concern about the TutorWorks Program. He indicated that the tutoring started late in the year. He recommended starting it at the beginning of the school year.

Dr. Martínez-Palmer explained why these programs start late in the year. There are specific requirements that must be followed in order to ensure parents had the opportunity to choose the program for their school.

A parent asked how schools choose students to participate in the tutoring program.

Dr. Martínez-Palmer explained that there is criteria schools use to select students.

Ms. Mucetti continued with her presentation and shared that the District received \$899,537.00 in Title III-LEP funds to support English learners, which is an average of \$105.75 per student for 2011-12.

Ms. Mucetti explained that before schools plan their expenditures, they must ensure that all expenditures out of LEP funds are aligned to the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) goals of learning English and meeting grade level and graduation standards. Schools must also use these funds to pay for programs and services that are supplemental to the core program and are specifically targeted for English Learners.

Ms. Albarrán added that schools and the District are responsible for informing parents about how they are using these funds and they need to make sure parents have the opportunity to give their opinion, ask questions and be informed of how the money is being spent. All parents have the right to speak with the principal and School Site Council about these funds.

A parent asked if reclassified students participate in LEP programs and Ms. Mucetti explained that only EL students are benefited.

Several parents shared concerns and personal experiences about combo classes and asked why there are many combo classes throughout the District.

Ms. Albarrán provided a detailed explanation of why schools continue to have combo classes and the criteria that schools use when making decisions about these combination classes. She also explained the benefits of a combo class. She encouraged parents to check with the teachers and principal about the criteria used.

Ms. Mucetti continued her presentation by explaining the purpose of the Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) and how this plan is used at the school sites. All schools must use this important plan to review current programs and student achievement results, determine strengths and opportunities for improvement, establish goals, plan action steps and assign the funds that will be used.

A parent asked how often the SPSA is revised and Ms. Mucetti indicated that it is revised every year.

Ms. Albarrán added that it is very important that schools review school data and needs to ensure the programs offered are working. The fact that some programs have been in place for a long time doesn't necessary mean they are needed.

At the end, Ms. Mucetti explained how expenditures are monitored. All school expenditures are reviewed by a District budget administrator, and all of these must follow categorical and District guidelines before they are approved.

Parents had the opportunity to participate in a Think-Pair-Share activity with the purpose of learning more about how funds could be used appropriately. After the activity, parents shared out.

(Pending Item)

Ms. Albarrán asked if parents would be interested in obtaining a list of all student interventions provided to English Learners at their sites and parents showed great interest for getting the list. It was agreed to provide the list at the next meeting

B. Funding for English Learners/Parent Activity by Ms. Nancy Albarrán

Parents had an extensive dialogue with Ms. Albarrán, where she answered specific questions about the funds available for English Learners and how parents could support their children. Several parents shared their personal experiences about volunteering at school and the importance of being involved in their child's education.

Ms. Albarrán emphasized the importance of keeping open communication with the school about their children's academic progress as well as instilling the idea of going to college from an early age.

To close, Ms. Albarrán informed the parents that it is within their right to seek a rationale for decisions made at their schools regarding the budget.

X. Announcements

A. Parent Education and Involvement by Lupe Mendoza-Ramírez

Ms. Mendoza-Ramírez reminded parents to sign up for the parent conference scheduled for March 24th from 8:45am to 12:15. The main topic will be career and college planning. Mr. Damian Trujillo will be the guest speaker.

She also announced a Financial Aid Night for senior students scheduled for February 29th from 4:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m. at the District Office.

B. Meeting evaluation

All members completed the meeting evaluation.

XI. Adjournment:

Mrs. Laura Alonzo made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Danelia Gutiérrez seconded it.

All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Minutes respectfully presented by Verónica C. Lara