

**San José Unified School District**  
855 Lenzen Avenue, San José, CA 95126  
District English Learners Advisory Committee (DELAC) Meeting  
October 17, 2011  
6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

- I. **Call to Order:** Mrs. Mara Herrera called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.
- II. **Welcome and Introductions:** Mrs. Herrera welcomed everyone.  
Ms. María De Melo and Ms. Rosalba Gonzáles provided interpretation services.
- III. **Attendance:** Mrs. María Elena Ramírez reminded everyone to sign the attendance roster.

**Schools represented:**

Allen at Steinbeck, Almaden, Anne Darling, Bachrodt, Canoas, Carson, Empire Gardens, Galarza, Gardner, Grant, Graystone, Hacienda, Hammer Montessori, Los Alamitos, Lowell, Olinder, Reed, River Glen, Schallenberger, Terrell, Trace, Washington, Willow Glen Elem., Bret Harte, Burnett, Hoover, Muir, Willow Glen MS, Broadway, Gunderson, Lincoln, Pioneer, and San José High.

**Schools not represented**

Booksin, Horace Mann, Simonds, Williams, Castellero, Leland, and Willow Glen High.

IV. **Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was reviewed and amended. An icebreaker activity was added under section IV-Approval of the Agenda and the name of Mr. Jason Willis was added as the presenter under section IX #B.

Mrs. Laura Alonso made a motion to approve the agenda and Mrs. Lucrecia Alonso seconded it. All were in favor and the agenda was approved as amended.

All representatives introduced themselves and had the opportunity to meet other members at their table. After that, all District staff members present introduced themselves.

V. **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from May 16, 2011 were reviewed. Mr. Efrain Córdova made a motion to approve them and Mr. Gabino Martínez seconded it. All were in favor and the minutes were approved as presented.

VI. **Correspondence**

Mrs. Nancy Valdés announced that no correspondence had been returned by mail.

VII. **Committee Reports**

**Voluntary Integration Plan (VIP) Committee Report**

A parent reported that the VIP Committee on September 12<sup>th</sup> presented data, which showed the achievement gap that currently exists between Latino students and students of other ethnic groups. She mentioned that the results continue to show that Latino students have the lowest academic performance. She also mentioned that Dr. Matthews gave a presentation and explained what the District is doing with regard to the achievement gap between these groups of students.

**Parent Brown Bag Meeting by Dr. Matthews**

Dr. Matthews shared that at the Parent Brown Bag the same topic on the Strategic Plan was covered. The District is meeting with internal and external stakeholders and reaching out to all committees in order to reset the strategic plan. The main focus is to provide 21<sup>st</sup> century skills to all students and prepare them for college.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 27, 2011 from 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

## VIII. Old Business

## IX. New Business:

### **A. Review Meeting Calendar, Procedures and Interpretation Guidelines by Rosanna Mucetti, Manager, Curriculum, Instruction and English Learner Services PK-5**

Ms. Rosanna Mucetti reviewed all meeting materials. She explained that the Robert's Rules of Order and the interpretation guidelines would be covered after the new officers are elected.

### **B. Resetting the Strategic Plan Presentation by Mr. Jason Willis, Assistant Superintendent**

Mr. Willis welcomed all members, explained the purpose of his presentation and outlined the expected outcomes. He shared current academic data, which reflected the achievement gap between White and other ethnic groups. He mentioned that this gap has only closed 9% in 6 years. Mr. Willis shared some data showing the senior A-G UC/CSU completion rate with a C or better, suspension by grade level and ethnicity. He also shared District dropout rates and other District-level comparisons on academic engagement. The data presented showed that only 27% of Latino students in the District are graduating with the necessary A-G requirements that are required to attend a university. The data also showed that the majority of the students being suspended were Latinos and that 18% of them were dropping out of high school.

Ms. Albarrán informed the parents that Dr. Matthews had met with all employees of the District on August 12 and had shared the same data and statistics. He asked every employee in the District to really look at what they were doing as adults in the organization and to see what changes they would make in order to obtain better results.

Ms. Herrera thanked Dr. Matthews for the great idea of having all employees listen and learn about the current problems students are facing in the District.

After the data presentation, parents had an opportunity to discuss about the data presented. Parents formed groups and each table answered the questions provided, which gave them the opportunity to give feedback and recommendations as part of the process to reset the strategic plan.

After the activity, parents chose a question to be answered at the next regular DELAC meeting. The following questions were shared:

1. Is suspension mandatory or optional? Students miss important content when they are suspended and this contributes to their low performance.
2. What would be the best way to motivate parents?
3. If suspension needs to happen, then students should be given work so they don't fall behind.
4. What can parents do to motivate their children to go to college?
5. Need to find strategies that parents and teachers could use to help children reach their goal. There must be a way to raise the performance level.
6. What is the District doing to close the achievement gap? The tests are in English and the students don't have the necessary English proficiency to do well. How can the District expect a child to perform well when they don't possess the required English proficiency?
7. As parents, they must support and motivate their children to pursue a college degree.
8. Change the suspension rule and avoid pulling students away from their school obligations.
9. It is very depressing to see the big difference in performance between Latino and other ethnic groups. There is not enough student motivation to go to college. Many high school students are undocumented and feel there is no purpose in pursuing a college degree.
10. How can parents be involved and participate in classes at the middle school level? Some schools do not allow parents to visit the classrooms. Parents need to meet more often with teachers. The fact that parents and teachers meet only once a year is not enough.

Mr. Jason Willis thanked parents for their feedback and questions and explained next steps.

- 1) Ms. Herrera would collect all questions, which would be answered at the next meeting.
- 2) There will be other community meetings and he encouraged parents to attend and invite other parents or community members to be part of the conversation.
- 3) The process will continue and the District will announce its plan in the winter.
- 4) Parents or community members were encouraged to submit their individual or group feedback via the District's website: <http://www.sjusd.org/school/district-new/info/C8177/>

### **C. DELAC Officers Nominations**

Ms. Herrera requested a motion to extend the meeting 10 minutes in order to conduct nominations for the new officers and the committee approved the motion unanimously. She announced that the elections would take place at the next meeting scheduled for November 14, 2011.

The following parents were nominated:

#### **President:**

Laura Alonzo-Canoas  
Marisela García-Galarza  
Elena Reyes-River Glen

#### **Vice-President**

Ian López-Los Alamitos  
Santlí Rendón-Bachrodt  
Hortensia Romero-Terrell

#### **Secretary**

Efraín Córdova-Washington  
Susana Suarez-San José High  
Lucrecia Alonso-Empire Gardens

### **X. Announcements**

#### **A. Parent Education and Involvement by Lupe Mendoza-Ramirez**

Ms. Mendoza-Ramirez encouraged everyone to attend the Parent Leadership Institute scheduled for Saturday, October 22, 2011. This conference is a training for parents who are serving in a school committee or are interested in becoming leaders at their schools. ESL parent classes were announced.

#### **B. Meeting Evaluations**

The committee filled out the meeting evaluations.

### **XI. Adjournment:**

Ms. Mercedes Mancera made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Francisca Montes seconded. All were in favor and Mrs. Mara Herrera adjourned the meeting at 8:13 pm.

*Minutes respectfully presented by Verónica C. Lara.*