

**San José Unified School District**  
855 Lenzen Avenue, San José, CA 95126  
District English Learners Advisory Committee (DELAC) Meeting  
December 12, 2011  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

- I. **Call to Order:** Mrs. Elena Reyes, the new DELAC President, called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm.
- II. **Welcome and Introductions:** The new elected officers introduced themselves and welcomed members, District staff and special guests.  
Interpretation services were provided by María De Melo and Rosalba González.
- III. **Attendance:** Mrs. Elena Reyes reminded everyone to sign the attendance roster.

**Schools represented:** Allen at Steinbeck, Almaden, Anne Darling, Bachrodt, Canoas, Carson, Empire Gardens, Galarza, Gardner, Graystone, Hacienda, Hammer Montessori, Horace Mann, Los Alamitos, Lowell, Olinder, Reed, River Glen, Schallenberger, Terrell, Simonds, Trace, Washington, Williams, Willow Glen Elementary, Bret Harte, Burnett, Castellero, Hoover, John Muir, Willow Glen Middle School, Broadway, Gunderson, and San José High Academy.

**Schools not represented:** Booksin, Grant, Leland, Lincoln, Pioneer and Willow Glen High School.

- IV. **Approval of the Agenda**  
Mrs. Reyes reviewed the agenda and amended it. Mr. Chris Funk was added as the presenter for Item A under the Old Business section.  
Mr. Gabino Martínez made a motion to approve the agenda as amended and Mrs. Laura Alonso seconded it. All were in favor and the agenda was approved.
- V. **Approval of Minutes**  
The minutes from November 14, 2011 were reviewed. Mrs. María Marcelo made a motion to approve the minutes and Mrs. Danelia Gutiérrez seconded it. All were in favor and the minutes were approved as presented.
- VI. **Correspondence**  
Mrs. Lucrecia Alonso announced the correspondence returned by the post office. She reminded everyone to keep contact information up to date.  
She informed the members that they may write to the DELAC Committee if they have a suggestion, comment or a question.
- VII. **Committee Reports**  
**Voluntary Integration Plan (VIP) Committee**  
Mr. Ian López asked for a volunteer to report on the VIP meeting held on November 7, 2011. There was no report.
- Parent Brown Bag Meeting**  
Dr. Matthews reported that the San José Teachers Association president spoke to the parents and answered their questions about teachers' rights and how teachers feel about education in general.  
The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 15, 2011 at noon and the topic will be the state budget.  
Mrs. Ann Jones, Chief Business Officer, will be present to explain the budget situation and how it might affect the District.
- Mr. Ian López encouraged members to attend this important meeting on December 15<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.  
Transportation will be provided as needed.

## VIII. Old Business

### A. Responses to Latino Student Performance Data by Mr. Chris Funk, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

Mr. Funk provided answers to the questions parents had after the Latino student performance presentation at the DELAC meeting on October 17, 2011.

Two of the main concerns were the achievement gap that exists between Latino and White students and the number of Latino students being suspended compared to other ethnic groups.

He indicated that the District is very concerned about these issues and would like all students to excel and advance academically. The data shows that Latino and White students are improving academically, but they are doing it at the same time.

As a first step to address these issues, the District adopted the Equity Board Policy 0210.

He indicated that Dr. Matthews is presently working with all stakeholders to reset the District's Strategic Plan. The plan is being updated based on the feedback from all stakeholders.

Mr. Funk explained that the District has now identified new objectives and key performance measures to ensure students do not fall behind academically.

He shared some of the new strategies and goals.

Mr. Funk answered a parent question about how parents could motivate their children in school.

As a District, they want parents to be involved so their children can be successful; however, the District understands that not all parents can provide for their children. He indicated that the District is responsible for providing the best education possible regardless of what the students have at home. The District is aware of the achievement gap and it is the District's responsibility to do everything possible to support all children.

He added that the District needs to do a better job at making sure all schools have bilingual staff to support parents.

Some schools are conducting their morning assemblies in English only. Announcements should be made in English and Spanish. Interpretation should also be provided during Principals' Coffees, PTA, School Site Council (SSC) where there is a large number of parents who do not speak English. Mr. Funk encouraged parents to contact the school principal or the Parent Education and Involvement Office if this is happening at their school.

Parent recognition is also essential to make sure they are motivated to collaborate with the school.

A parent asked what the district is doing to motivate principals to work with parents.

Mr. Funk indicated that different principals have different ways of working with adults at their sites. The District works with principals during their leadership network meetings.

The District has also changed the interview process and hiring practices. The interview committee now includes school personnel and parents. This is done so that the committee representatives can get a better understanding of whether or not they could have a good relationship with the candidate.

A parent asked why some schools have a morning assembly and some schools do not and Mr. Funk clarified that it is up to the principal to have a morning assembly or not.

A parent shared that there are not enough interpreters in the District and some meetings are held without interpretation. She was told that interpretation is the District's responsibility.

Mr. Funk indicated that schools have specific funds to cover interpretation costs and it is the school's responsibility to provide these services.

Mr. Funk explained different ways parents could motivate their children to go to college.

With regard to the concern about less parent participation in middle school and high school, Mr. Funk answered that parents have the right to visit the classrooms. Parents need to contact the school to schedule a visit and they should receive a response within 24 hours. If parents do not receive a response, they may contact the District office.

Mr. Funk added that it is the District's responsibility to make sure students get the courses they need to go college.

With regard to the high suspension rates of Latino students and whether suspension is mandatory, Mr. Funk explained that suspension is mandatory in certain cases. The offenses that constitute a suspension or expulsion can be found in the student handbook. (All parents received a copy of the handbook).

Education Code does not require that teachers assign homework to students when they are suspended. Some teachers might be willing to let students make up work, but some might feel it is part of the punishment to miss the work.

Mr. Funk indicated that the goal is to reduce the number of suspensions of Latino students and they are working on different alternatives as part of the strategic plan. The plan focuses on how schools engage students on campus and how they address the issue of Latino student suspensions.

A parent asked how the District and the schools make sure that the education students receive is of the quality required to go to college. When visiting different schools in the District, she noticed that the student performance results are very different from one school to another. She asked if that is happening because the quality of education provided at those schools is different. She asked what is the District's role in ensuring that the education provided at all schools is of equal quality.

Mr. Funk responded that it is the District's responsibility to make sure all schools provide the same quality education, but he indicated that they are not there yet. Some schools have prescribed times to offer their classes since they are under Program Improvement, but other schools that are not under this program, are able to offer other enrichment classes. He believes that the adults in the system (No Child Left Behind, State of California, and SJUSD) have set up barriers that have caused schools not to be equal in that sense.

All high schools have the same A-G graduation requirements. All students who take these courses and receive a C or better will graduate from high school and will be ready to go to college.

He believes that the different results at the schools are in part due to the system the adults have created. Not everyone has the same high expectations for all children. The sites have different rules and cultures. These inequities are what the District will address through the 5-year strategic plan. The District wants to make sure all children have the same opportunity to receive the same quality education in all schools.

Mr. Funk answered additional parent questions at the end of his presentation.

## **IX. New Business:**

### **A. Voluntary Integration Plan Presentation by Dr. Norma Martínez-Palmer**

Dr. Martínez-Palmer provided a historical overview of the Voluntary Integration Plan as well as the purpose of this important committee.

She described in detail each of the nine components of the VIP, which include student assignment, primary language instruction, parent training and involvement, student achievement, integration, drop out prevention, special education, student discipline and cross-cultural goals for staff.

At the end of her presentation, Dr. Martínez-Palmer answered specific questions from parents.

She encouraged parents to attend the VIP meetings and provided a calendar of meetings for 2011-12.

## **X. Announcements**

### **A. Parent Education and Involvement**

Mrs. Lupe Mendoza-Ramírez announced upcoming events. She encouraged parents to save the date for the Annual Spring Parent Engagement Conference scheduled for Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012, from 9:00am-12:00 at the District Office. Babysitting will be provided. Information flyers were disseminated to all parents.

Mrs. Mendoza-Ramírez gave the parents an opportunity to write any questions they have about college. She will use these questions to plan the workshops according to their needs.

### **B. Meeting evaluation**

All members completed the meeting evaluation.

## **XI. Adjournment:**

Mrs. Daniela Gutiérrez made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Gabino Martínez seconded it.

All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

*Minutes respectfully presented by Verónica C. Lara*