

San José Unified School District
855 Lenzen Avenue, San José, Ca 95126
District English Learners Advisory Committee (DELAC) Meeting
March 8, 2010
MINUTES

I. Call to Order:

Ms. Mara Herrera called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Valdéz welcomed everyone and introduced special guests: Chris D. Funk and Officer Joe Nguyen.

Ms. María De Melo and Ms. Christine Lemmon provided interpretation services.

III. Attendance: Ms. María Elena Ramírez reminded everyone that Ms. De Melo and Ms. Lemmon were present to provide interpretation. She also reminded members to sign in.

Ms. Albarrán announced that the presentation would be in English and asked parents to obtain translation equipment if they needed it.

Schools represented:

Almaden, Anne Darling, Bachrodt, Canoas, Carson, Galarza, Hammer @ Galarza, Gardner, Grant, Graystone, Hacienda, Horace Mann, Lowell, Olinder, Reed, River Glen, Simonds, Terrell, Trace, Washington, Willow Glen Elem., Castellero, Hoover, Muir, Willow Glen MS, Gunderson, Pioneer, and San José High.

Schools not represented:

Allen @ Steinbeck, Booksin, Empire Gardens, Los Alamitos, Schallenberger, Williams, Bret Harte, Burnett, Broadway, Leland, Lincoln, and Willow Glen HS.

IV. Approval of Agenda:

The agenda was reviewed and revised. The DELAC Officers' Report on the Process to Select a New Superintendent was added as an announcement under Section X # B. Ms. Herrera also announced that a vote was needed to extend the meeting 10 minutes to ensure that there would be enough time for the presentation and announcements at the end of the meeting. The committee approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm.

Ms. Laura Alonzo made a motion to approve the agenda and **Ms. Erika del Muro** seconded it. All were in favor and the agenda was approved as amended.

V. Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Herrera announced that the minutes from January 11, 2010 were not approved at the last meeting and requested a motion to approve them. She also informed the committee that the minutes are posted on the District's website.

Ms. Alicia Nuñez made a motion to approve the minutes from January 11, 2010 and **Ms. Magdalena Castañeda** seconded. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Before the second motion was made to approve the minutes from February 8, 2010, Ms. Anacelia Rocha from Graystone suggested that a correction be made under Graystone's report on page #2. Change: *The parent that delivered the school's report was Mr. Emilio González, not Mr. Jesus Chávez.*

Ms. Isidra García made a motion to approve the minutes from February 8, 2010 and **Ms. Aracely Martínez** seconded. All were in favor and the minutes were approved as amended.

VI. Correspondence:

Ms. Ramirez reminded everyone to keep contact information updated. Correspondence for the following members was returned: Caroline Karim, Ester Jarquín, and Gerardo Martínez.

VII. Committee and School Reports:

Voluntary Integration Plan (VIP) Committee:

There was no VIP Report. Ms. Herrera invited everyone to the next VIP meeting scheduled for March 29, 2010.

Parent Brown Bag:

No report was made.

Hacienda Elementary-Report by Ms. Maribel Silva

Ms. Silva began her report by stating that Hacienda is the best school in the District. Some of the programs offered at Hacienda include: A science lab with a full time science teacher, a lake for fishing, community events, a music program, Spring events, and before/after school support for students. The school also offers opportunities for parent involvement such as parent groups, SELAC meetings, and fundraising events to raise funds to support additional programs such as science and music. Finally, Ms. Silva shared that about 26 parents are attending the math workshop, which teaches them strategies on how they can help their children with math.

Los Alamitos Elementary-There was no report. Representative was not in attendance.

Lowell Elementary-Report by Ms. Aracely Martínez

Ms. Martínez shared that some of the programs at Lowell include Los Dichos, Club de Padres, Accelerated Reader Program, after school Math program, All Stars after school program, Rosetta Stone, and a Mariachi group. Ms. Martínez also added that the school principal, Ms. Jodi Lax, is very committed, supportive and is very concerned about low performing students. She offers interventions to students so they can improve academically. Finally, Ms. Martínez announced that Lowell Elementary would receive the 2010 Title I Academic Achievement Award.

Williams Elementary-There was no report. Representative was not in attendance.

Hoover Middle School-Report by Ms. Magdalena Castañeda and Ms. Alicia Nuñez

Ms. Castañeda and Ms. Nuñez shared some information about the many programs being offered at Hoover Middle School. They mentioned that the school focuses on Language Arts and Visual and Performing Arts. The school also offers a Two-Way Bilingual Immersion Program, All Stars after school program, Gear-Up university program, Destination College, and the TRIO Program. In addition, the school offers the Education Program for Gifted Youth (EPGY) Math Program through Stanford University. The school is also implementing the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Program. Finally, they shared that about 24 parents attend each SELAC meeting and thanked Ms. Alejandra Muñoz for her support.

Lincoln High School-There was no report. Representative was not in attendance.

VIII. Old Business:

A. Bylaws Revision Update by Ms. Nancy Albarrán

Ms. Albarrán shared that the Bylaws subcommittee already met once and had some recommendations. The subcommittee had scheduled a second meeting, but due to a family emergency, she was not able to meet with them. She apologized for not being able to give a report, but assured the committee that the bylaws subcommittee would meet again in March and will be ready to share their recommendations at the next DELAC meeting in April.

IX. New Business:

A. Bullying at School Presentation by Officer Joe Nguyen

Ms. Bliss introduced Officer Nguyen.

Officer Nguyen began his presentation by explaining that the Safe School Campus Initiative was created after the Columbine HS Massacre incident and mentioned that all elementary through high schools are participating in the program.

He works with school administrators on issues related to drugs, gangs, and safety at school.

He explained that bullying is one of the main causes of violence at school and suicide. There are different types of bullying such as verbal threats, and physical and psychological harm. Bullying happens when students tell other students that they hate them or they repeatedly make fun of them over and over. A bully can be a boy or a girl of any age or any size. Girls are the biggest offenders. Bullying can happen anywhere; at work and at school, but most of the problems involve school-age children.

There are also different types of bullies: Fighters (pushing), teasers (verbal abuse), and friendships stealers. Girls tend to be teasers.

Most bullies have been bullied or are being bullied. He shared some facts about victims of bullying. Some of them don't want to go to school because they are afraid of being bullied or their grades all of a sudden drop. Some of the symptoms presented by victims of bullying include: feeling unhappy, isolated from peers, hesitating to attend school, distracted, unable to concentrate or fear of going outside. Usually the typical victims of bullying seem anxious and insecure.

He mentioned that not all students are bullies and that not all are victims, but that all students have witnessed bullying.

He explained that bullying is hard to detect at school. School is safe, but there are some things that can go unnoticed. He made some recommendations for staff such as reporting bullying, educating students about bullying tactics and behavior, and providing support to the victims.

He recommended that parents talk to their kids. If parents asked their kids how they are doing at the end of each day, their behavior would improve. Parents and children need to interact with each other. Parents need to ask them how they are doing in school and about their grades. Parents need to be involved in their school. He encouraged open and honest conversations

between parents and children. He recommended that parents check their children's cell phones, binders, and backpacks to see what they are doing.

Parent questions/concerns:

-A parent mentioned that she is surprised that there is a lot of bullying happening at the elementary level. She has noticed how kids make fun of others because of their sexual orientation. She recommended that schools educate students about this issue so kids are aware of others' feelings.

Officer Nguyen shared that he has seen a lot more of this issue at the high school level since it is mostly in high school when students start to find out who they are. It can definitely be one of the most damaging parts of their lives.

-A parent asked about accessing email information.

-Officer Nguyen mentioned that there are some downloads parents can install on their computers to control or limit their children's use of the Internet. They can also block Internet access to accounts such as Myspace, Facebook, and Twitter. The police have the right to access all account information and it only takes about 30 minutes to access their information.

-A parent asked for the name of the download.

-There are about 8 or 9 downloads. He recommended that they visit www.cnet.com, a site where parents can review more information about different computer downloads.

-A parent asked if any of the websites were available in Spanish.

He was not certain, but there might be some available.

-A parent asked how early in education it is recommended that students start taking classes to prevent violence.

-He recommended as early as 4th grade. It's better to do it in elementary school since it might be worse when they get to middle school or high school.

-A parent shared a situation that involved her child in kindergarten. Another kindergarten student was bullying him and he was afraid of going to school. She said that sometimes we don't think that bullying can happen in kindergarten, but since students don't say anything it is hard to know when it happens.

-Officer Nguyen said that they were used to seeing this problem at the high school level, but now it is happening a lot in elementary school as well.

-A parent asked what parents could do to prepare their children to deal with bullies, especially those students who are in elementary school and are transitioning into middle school.

-He said that students need to have good communication with their parents and teachers.

-One parent shared that her son was bullied in middle school by his peers because they saw her picking him up from school. She asked what she could do in that situation.

-He responded that most bullies are not supported by their parents and that is why they make fun of other students. He mentioned that he has given at different schools of about 500-800 students and that only about 50 parents attend a given presentation, which shows that there is not a lot of parent involvement. If parents show up to school everyday and are informed about what is happening, everything will be fine. Parents need to continue to be involved like they are right now by attending the DELAC meeting.

After the questions, Officer Nguyen continued with his presentation by explaining the meaning of cyber bullying.

He said that Cyber Bullying occurs "when the internet, cell phones or other devices are used to send or post text messages or images intended to hurt or embarrass another person."

There are about five different methods of cyber bullying, which include: email, instant messaging, blogging, posting text messages, pictures or video, online polls, digital messages, or images sent to a cellular phone.

He explained the different types of bullying and gave examples of each type: Harassment, denigration, flaming, impersonation, outing and trickery, and cyber stalking.

The officer recommended that students not share any passwords with friends since they can be used to access their personal information.

Mr. Nguyen shared some statistics, which showed that 60% of students had been the victims of cyber bullying. He also explained why cyber bullying occurs. Some of the reasons why it happens are because it takes less energy and courage to express hurtful comments, lack of supervision in electronic forums, and because bullies remain virtually anonymous, among other reasons.

He mentioned that parents can supervise their Internet usage, but when students are at the Library for example, it is very difficult to supervise them.

He mentioned that any information that is uploaded onto the Internet could be downloaded and altered at any time.

Officer Nguyen explained the signs and symptoms a child may experience if he or she is a victim of cyber bullying, as well as the laws and statutes that deal with this type of problem.

He mentioned that in August of 2008, the State of California legislature passed one of the first laws in the country to deal directly with cyber bullying. He added that on January 1, 2009, Assembly Bill 86 was passed giving school administrators and law enforcement the authority to discipline students for bullying offline or online.

Officer Nguyen gave some ideas to parents about what to do to help their children avoid being bullied. One of his recommendations was talking to their kids about the problem. He suggested asking them if they know what it is, if they have seen any form of cyber bullying, if they have participated in it or if they have been victims of cyber bullying.

To conclude, Officer Nguyen explained some preventive measures parents could take to help their children avoid cyber bullying and emphasized the importance of not posting personal information, pictures, videos or email on the Internet. Anyone can access the information at any time.

Parent questions/comments:

-A parent shared a concern about a teenager being bullied and the school knew about it and they did not do anything. Officer Nguyen informed parents that they have the right to call the police whenever they are concerned about any safety issues at school. Concerned parents can call 311 to report the incident so it can be documented. If the school is not doing anything about it, parents can report it.

-A parent asked about opportunities for parents to take classes to get more information about these issues.

Officer Nguyen recommended that parents talk to their schools.

Ms. Bliss informed the parents that they could request that classes be offered at their sites.

Ms. Marcelo would like a class to be offered at Washington School.

Ms. Albarrán said that Ms. Bliss is very supportive and her office provides a variety of classes for parents. She recommended that parents share information with SELAC and communicate that they would like the class.

-Another parent asked what kind of information can be downloaded from accounts such as MySpace.

Officer Nguyen said that any information could be accessed including pictures, videos, etc.

-In regards to preventing cyber bullying, a parent asked about the fact that sometimes students have to share personal information with friends at school when they work on special projects such as family trees, which include names and last names. She asked if it was safe to share family information.

Officer Nguyen explained that students need to be cautious about who they share the information with.

-A parent mentioned the need for parents to receive workshops or classes on this issue in order to help prevent this problem. She feels that there is a lot of intimidation and abuse that exists in marriages. She feels that the behavior is like a chain and that kids bring to school what they see at home.

Finally, Officer Nguyen recommended that parents attend the Parent Project through the District Attorney's Office.

Ms. Albarrán said that DELAC presented the Parent Project and parents were informed about the opportunity.

-A parent asked about the cost in case the school offers the class.

Ms. Bliss announced that there is no cost to take the class.

X. Announcements:

A. Parent Education and Involvement Office by Ms. Elizabeth Bliss

Ms. Bliss announced that the Parent Project classes started last week in Spanish and English. The classes are full.

Ms. Trejo shared some of her personal experiences in regards to the Parent Project and recommended the program to the parents.

Parents must register in order to attend the 12-week course.

Ms. Albarrán mentioned that some of the parents already registered using school funds.

-Classes are being offered at different sites in Santa Clara County.

Ms. Bliss congratulated Anne Darling parents for putting together a presentation that will be presented at CABE as part of Project Inspire: Ms. Luz Vásquez, Ms. Susana Suarez, and other parents who have participated.

-Mr. Baltierra is working with parents and students-He is having conversations with parents at SJHA to inform them about what students are learning so they can understand and support their students to ensure their success.

-The National Hispanic University is inviting parents to attend classes to understand the university system.

-The Women's Initiative Fashion Show is on May 20th from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Celina Rodríguez will be a guest.

-Project Inspire Classes at Empire Gardens.

-Other classes are being offered at different schools.

B. DELAC Officers' Report on the Process to Select a New Superintendent

-Ms. Herrera announced that she received a call from the Superintendent, who invited the DELAC officers to attend a meeting regarding the search for the new superintendent.

-Mrs. María Elena Ramírez reported that the DELAC Officers were invited on March 1st to meet with the firm that is assisting with the search of the new superintendent. The officers were able to share their opinions as parents. It was a privilege to be able to answer the questions they were asked, for example if the parents wanted a superintendent that spoke Spanish, what needs their Latino students had and also shared some of their needs in regard to providing support for special education and English Learners. She believes it was very important to be able to share this information with them and for them to take into consideration their input and opinions as they prepare the profile for the new superintendent.

To conclude, Ms. Maria Elena Ramirez invited parents to the community forum on Tuesday, March 9th at 6:00-8:00pm in the Board Room at 855 Lenzen Ave.

XI. Adjournment:

Ms. María de la Luz Vásquez made a motion to adjourn the meeting and **Ms. Alicia Nuñez** seconded. All were in favor and **Ms. Mara Herrera** adjourned the meeting at 8:10pm.