

OPTIONS FOR YOUTH

# DISTRICT ENGLISH LANGUAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING 05/04

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**13 MAY, 2021 / 3:00 PM / VIRTUAL PLATFORM**

## ATTENDEES

Approximately 22 persons were in attendance as noted: Raul Meza (English Language Specialist), Jodi Moreno (Principal), Christina Dorso (Vice Principal), Judith Ramirez (English Language Specialist), Ainat Emeth (English Language Specialist), Josie Jimenez (English Language Specialist), Sarai Acosta-Alonzo (Vice Principal), Karine Ghanimian (Instructional Coach), Angel Bautista (Teacher), Jessica Cameron Hogge (Teacher), Allison Alvizuri (School Counselor), Ricardo Correa (Student), Lareina Hui (Parent), Susana Arellano (Teacher), Jesus Lopez (Parent), Suzanne Arellano (Teacher), Mary Valerio (Parent), Karen Collins (Teacher), Blanca Flores (Parent), Jesus Lopez (Parent), Ines Garcia (Parent), Cindy Weiss (Teacher), Blanca Flores (Parent) and LaTonya Thomas (Teacher).

## AGENDA

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Ms. Sarai Acosta-Alonzo (Vice Principal, Chino II Learning Center) commenced the meeting at 3:09 p.m. on Thursday, May 13, 2021. She welcomed attendees and conducted a brief roll call. Ms. Acosta-Alonzo asked that parents in attendance provide their names in the Chat Message Box, as some students in attendance would be earning school SWAG. For this meeting, teacher Grace Villagomez (Chino II) provided Spanish Language translation.

### **Overview of DELAC**

Ms. Acosta-Alonzo offered a brief explanation of the purpose of the DELAC meeting. She explained that the committee is composed of parents, teachers and staff who regularly meet to discuss plans related to the educational services provided to English Language Learners. She reminded parents that their input is vital to the committee, as they make recommendations to the school on how to best serve their students. Ms. Acosta-Alonzo thanked parents for their participation and reminded them that the committee meets four times

## **LCAP RECAP**

1. Ms. Jodi Moreno reviewed highlights relating to the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). She explained that the Local Control Accountability Plan refers to the plans made by the school on how to use state funds. This plan includes monies that are used to fund programs aimed at assisting English Language Learners and other special populations of students.

Ms. Moreno continued her discussion by explaining the structure of the Bilingual Scholars Program. According to Ms. Moreno, English Language Specialists offer weekly support appointments to help English Language Learners with unit progression and language development lessons. The accumulation of these units leads to improved rates of students graduating from high school. These regular appointments with students also help to reduce student absenteeism. Finally, one important goal of the program is to provide educational assistance to English Language Learners to reclassify them to “English Proficient” students. To meet this final goal, the team of English Language Specialists incorporated learning programs such as “I-Lit” and “Achiever 3000” in the 20-21 school year.

2. Ms. Moreno next noted some of the progress made by the students in the Bilingual Scholars program. Even though the staff and students were in a “distance learning” environment, they worked diligently to make gains. A total of 11 Bilingual Scholars graduated from high school in the 2020-2021 school year (3 from the Chino II center; 3 from the San Gabriel center and 5 from the Online Progra,.) The students earned a stunning reclassification rate of 37.5%. Finally, the overall Lexile growth for students was measured at 69% in this past school year.

Ms. Moreno explained that a student’s lexile is vital to the reclassification process. The word “lexile” refers to both the difficulty of a particular

text and to the student's reading ability. As students received the structured support of their English Language Specialists, they improved their lexiles (reading ability) by 69%. The measurement tool used to calculate lexile growth was the "Ren Star" test administered three times per year.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE BILINGUAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

Ms. Acosta-Alonzo introduced the next item of discussion. She told parents they could expect to receive communication from their EL teachers relating to end of the year events and Academic Learning Plan meetings. She encouraged parents to attend the upcoming "achievement chats" and parent/teacher conferences. According to Ms. Acosta-Alonzo, the year will end with a virtual celebration intended to recognize the accomplishments of all the Bilingual Scholars. This celebration is planned for May 20th at 3:00 pm.

### **LOOKING FORWARD: 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR**

1. English Language Specialist Judith Ramirez continued the discussion by telling parents the goal for next year is to build upon the Bilingual Scholars program. In order to enrich the culture of the program, Ms. Ramirez advised parents that the team of English Language Specialists were planning several events, such as field trips, "meet and greet" events held at local learning centers, "Zoom" parties and other virtual events. Ms. Ramirez said that these events are aimed to encourage students to interact with each other and will offer them opportunities to practice their language skills. Ms. Ramirez advised the parents that these ideas resulted from parent input, acknowledging that the voice of the parent is critical when making plans to assist their students. One final goal was to encourage students to be proud of their abilities to speak other languages.

2. In addition to engaging students, Ms. Ramirez also emphasized that there will also be opportunities for parents to engage with each other and with the staff at their local learning centers.

3. Ms. Jodi Moreno expressed her gratitude to all of the parents involved with the committee this year. She thanked them for sharing their voices and wanted all to be excited to participate in these future events. Ms. Moreno assured those in attendance that the school plans to put into practice the recommendations made by parents, staff and students.

## **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

Ms. Acosta-Alonzo opened the floor for any questions. One was posed by parent Mary Valerio who asked whether the end of the year celebration was to be held in a virtual platform. She received an affirmative answer from Ms. Acosta-Alonzo.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Ms. Acosta-Alonzo at 3:34 p.m.

*Meeting minutes respectfully submitted for review by Josie Jimenez*