



***District English Learner
Advisory Committee
(DELAC)***

DELAC Officers
Francisca Vargas, President
Angelina Aranda, Vice President
Lucila Mendoza, Secretary
Lucia Vega, Sergeant-at-Arms
Adriana Cardona, Parliamentarian

Interim Superintendent
John Ramirez, Jr.

Director
Dr. Susana Ramirez

DISTRICT ENGLISH LEARNER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 10, 2021

9:00 A.M.- 10:30 A.M.

VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

MINUTES

Notice before starting the meeting: Ms. Paola Juarez (Parent Liaison) shared her screen with the committee and informed that this meeting was going to be recorded for the sole purpose of keeping the record and that it would not be published, and if anyone did not want to be recorded to turn off their camera and also commented that none of those present had permission to record and that this will be kept private. This information was given in Spanish and English.

1.0 Welcome: The meeting started at 9:07 am. Mrs. Francisca Vargas (President) welcomed everyone present and asked for 2 motions to begin the meeting. The first motion was made by Marlen Sevilla and seconded by Rosa Arana.

2.0 Roll Call: Done by Lucila Mendoza (Secretary) and the following schools were represented:

1. **August:** Rosa Reyes Diaz (rep.), Leticia Albor (alt.), Maria Elizabeth Lopez (alt.)
2. **Cesar Chavez:** Leticia Albor (rep.)
3. **Cleveland:** Rosa Arana (alt.)
4. **Commodore:** Janette Flores Jimenez (rep.)
5. **Edison:** Francisca Vargas (rep.) (Presidente)
6. **Elmwood:** Maria de La Luz Villareal (rep.)
7. **Fillmore:** Eleuteria Peralta Sampayo (alt.)
8. **Franklin:** Laura Martinez Guadarrama (rep.)
9. **Hamilton:** Lluleana (Julie) Rodriguez (rep.)
10. **Hazelton:** Graciela Lomeli (alt.)
11. **Health Career:** Adriana Cardona (rep.) (Parlamentario), Martha Hernandez (alt.)
12. **Henry:** Blanca Olivera (rep.)
13. **King:** Guadalupe Sanchez (rep.)
14. **Madison:** Jeimy Chijate (rep.), Karina Macias (alt.)
15. **McKinley:** Beatriz Lopez (rep.), Veronica Merino (alt.)

16. **Monroe:** Marlen Sevilla (alt.)
17. **Pittman:** Gladys Mendoza (rep.), Adriana Cardona (alt.) (Parlamentario)
18. **Peyton:** Felicitas Parada (rep.)
19. **PYA:** Angelina Aranda (rep.) (Vicepresidente), Brenda Esquerra Gutierrez (alt.)
20. **Roosevelt:** Catalina Ramos (rep.)
21. **San Joaquín:** Mayra Padilla (rep.)
22. **Spanos:** Naida Quintero Herrera (alt.)
23. **Taft:** Lucia Vega (Sargento en Armas), Blanca Balderas (rep.)
24. **Taylor:** Bellaneth Guzman (alt.)
25. **Weber:** Lucila Mendoza (rep.) (Secretaria), Adela Castro (alt.)
26. **Wilson:** Adela Roldan (rep.)

In this virtual meeting 26 schools were represented and 33 official members were present. Also district staff, Carmen López Lozano, Interpreter, Cynthia Hill, Erika Bracamontes, Maria Lazaro, Instructional Specialists, Paola Juarez, Parent Liaison, Olivia Fernandez, Administrative Assistant and Dr. Susana Ramirez, Director of the Office of Development of Language. Also in attendance were the following members of the school district: Dr. Connor Sloan, LCAP Director, Art Mosqueda, Commodore School Program Specialist, Diana Kimbrough, Marshall School Program Specialist, Rosalia Razo, Roosevelt School Parent Liaison, Myra Gardea- Hernandez, Assistant Principal of Hong Kingston School, and John Ramirez Jr., Interim Superintendent. And 2 guests giving a total of 48 participants.

3.0 Changes to Agenda: President Vargas informed the committee that Mr. John Ramirez Jr. (Interim Superintendent) will be introducing himself during this meeting and will only be giving a presentation and that afterwards every effort will be made to have a meeting where questions can be asked. The change was made in 6.2. Added *"Superintendent Introduction"* and *"Review and comment on written notifications required to send to parents / guardians"* postponed to the next meeting which will be May 5. President Vargas asked for a motion to approve the change, Catalina Ramos made the first motion and Maria de la Luz Villareal seconded it. Motion approved.

4.0 Read and Approval of Minutes: Martha Hernandez made the first motion to approve the February 2, 2021 minutes and Adela Roldan seconded it. Motion approved.

5.0 Old Business:

5.1 Update on the Subcommittees: Dr. Ramirez made a few brief reminders about the subcommittees:

1. **Survey:** The task to develop the Title III survey has been completed. The survey was developed, the link is on the district page, we have worked with the research department and we have already spoken with the directors.
2. **Bylaws:** The bylaws still have to be reviewed and changes have to be made. We have not finished reviewing all of the bylaws and the committee will continue to meet.
3. **Presentation to the Board:** As soon as all the survey data is collected, the board presentation will be prepared, possibly in May, and this will be done by the committee and subcommittee.

Dr. Ramirez asked that the subcommittees be medium sized and whoever is interested should contact Paola Juarez. President Vargas extended the invitation to parents to encourage them to participate in the subcommittees.

6.0 New Business:

6.1 Procedure for choosing not to participate in EL program services: Dr. Ramirez commented that the office has received many questions to opt out. As required by federal law your child has taken a test, the test is the ELPAC. Test scores indicate the student's grade level, what instruction, and at what level the student will be given. When a parent says that Spanish is spoken at home, the student is tested. Parental rights to opt-out, ELD is recommended for your child based on test results, a parent may determine that they don't want their child to be in this program, and there is a way to remove them.

Services are specialized for students. For 7th and 8th grade students they have 50 minutes each day that is protected time for ELD and in high school it is an ELD class. ELD is supported with content instruction, as a parent if I say, "I don't want my child to participate," it is only taking away the benefits to which they are entitled. If parents decide not to participate, their student is still an EL and will no longer be an EL when they are reclassified. I understand that parents get frustrated when they cannot take other classes because they are taking ELD supports.

The student is supported by math and English, the student is protected when they are in EL. From K to 6th is 30 minutes a day, this support should be throughout the year,

we encourage students to stay here so that they are proficient in English. This form is only filled out if you do not want your children to be in this program.

One mom commented that they called her from school and told her that her son was no longer an English learner and she asked that if her son was already reclassified will she only receive a single letter. Dr. Ramirez answered yes and that the student will be monitored for 4 years and that another way to know is if your child is no longer taking the ELPAC test it means that he is no longer an English learner. Art Mosqueda (Commodore School Program Specialist) spoke about the option for parents who want to know more about how to remove students from this program and added that this is a support in literature and removing their student from this program is counterproductive because the opportunity to learn literature is being taken away from them and it is the program that is protected to support them if they are low in the literature program this program will be very good to support them. We want to be clear with them that if we get them out of this support it will be very complicated, very difficult for them to be reclassified.

Dr. Ramirez reviewed the form and said that students who have already been reclassified will not receive this form. President Vargas commented that this form is not sent to parents but that it is in the school office and that parents have the right to request it. She also commented that it is not recommended because it takes away a right that corresponds to the students.

Dr. Ramirez continued her discussion and commented that literature credits will be given to give ELs more support. She talked about the letter that talks about the placement at the beginning of school that says if you choose to opt not to participate. The parent will speak with the principal and an interpreter if needed and explain what they are signing, parents who sign this form can later go back and ask for the form to return to the EL program. Then we are asked what percentage of students asked to withdraw from services or continue with services. When we do not see a signature or date we have to return this form to the school.

Mrs. Eleuteria Peralta Sampayo asked to be sent the information packet (packet that is sent to all DELAC representatives) for the meeting because she did not receive it. Maria Villareal commented that she would like to receive this form (to exit the EL services program) to bring this information to the ELAC meetings at her school and Paola Juarez explained how to find this form on the district website.

6.2 Superintendent Introduction: Mr. Ramirez was present at this meeting and Secretary Lucila Mendoza welcomed him and commented that she gave him the floor

because she knew that his time was very limited. Superintendent Ramirez replied that he could meet with the committee weekly, twice a month, or whenever the committee says and his time is not limited for parents and he is willing to give them their time and understands as parents what they do for their children, but we do not know the needs that you as parents have. For me until now I value everything my mother does, because in one generation poverty was erased because of something good that we have done. My children think how we will do to pass this stage and I say that we must prepare our high schools so that our students can earn well and thus end poverty, we must ask for the results they expect, we are failing when we do not give what they need. I did not work one more day in the strawberry field when I began to study, we have to fight poverty. The principals at the district level, also the teachers, what are we ensuring so that our children achieve their goals?

A motion was requested to extend the meeting. Angelina Aranda made the first motion and Veronica Merino seconded it, the motion was left open without a set time. Motion approved unanimously.

Superintendent Ramirez discussed the following topics and goals with the committee parents:

1. **Balance the budget:** The first goal, to balance the budget, establishing budgets is difficult, I must guide the district and not bankrupt it, something that gives us hope is that the state budget comes with some money that affects the budget in a positive way if we spend more than we have how will we get ahead? The reserves are done and we continue to spend more than we receive, we must have something for insurance. The board wanted to have some positive changes, we want to see how we will make the cuts if we open the schools we can receive money for our district and this money has specific directions, it has to be money that goes to the general budget. We had a raise for teachers and they were asked to wait for the budget.
2. **Needs of parents and the SUSD community:** I have no reason to lie to you, we don't know what you need and how you live and we think we are very professional and we don't understand parents, we complicate things with a vocabulary that is not understandable we should be clear and directors, if we are going to talk about results we must have meetings with the board to see when there are holes and I signed a contract where I know what I was exposed to.

3. **School openings:** Another very big issue is opening schools and it is very difficult, I want to know what are the means with which you communicate to have information about the district, no money will come if we do not open and if it all arrives it is because we opened and it depends how to go back this is how the money is.

Mr. Ramirez mentioned that Dr. Ramirez knows how important in person class is and Eleuteria Peralta Sampayo commented that distance learning is more difficult for special children and Mr. Ramirez said, today we will have a meeting to talk with the unions , a mother asked that if the schools reopen, everyone is obliged to return? To which he answered no and reiterated that he is willing to meet with us weekly.

Dr. Ramirez thanked him and he told her to speak with Christina Alejo, Executive Assistant, to agree on future meetings. Angelina Aranda (Vice President) also thanked him for joining us in this meeting and told him that this is the group of parent leaders who bring the information to the schools and thank you Mr. Ramírez for being our connection, and Mr. Ramirez said I took the responsibility I must be willing, I am not a part-time superintendent, I am half day 12 hours every day and if we do not give the time we will continue to do the same, we must change, I am no one without you all, we must always help the community that you all give us, please, if you take something from me I want you to be honest, count on me.

6.3 Needs Assessment Survey: President Vargas reported that the survey is on the district page, it is not known who fills the survey, but what school it is from, a call was made, only for those students who have not been reclassified, take this information to parents of your schools, the call was made on February 26 and yesterday March 9, it is on the district page and on the websites of some schools and we have already received surveys on paper, but we encourage them to do it on online to make it faster and Paola Juarez explained how to get to the district page and navigate to get to the survey, you can take it in Spanish or English and we want you as representatives to spread the word.

These surveys are yielding help with homework and English classes. President Vargas discussed what method her school uses to complete the survey and said her school put it as homework and that this survey will be open until April 2.

7.0 Announcements: Vice President Aranda announced that May 5 is the next meeting and if you like to participate in the subcommittees, sign up.

8.0 Adjournment: President Vargas said, I appreciate that you are still with us, this meeting was productive, the meeting on May 5 will be a little long because Dr. Connor Sloan and Janet Yarbrough will make their presentation and it will be a little extended to avoid an emergency meeting and please prepare in time for our meeting, in this meeting we will have raffles for tablets and baskets. Dr. Ramirez, the survey closes on April 2 and that paper surveys are sent to us no later than April 5, paper surveys cannot be copied, they are encouraged to do it online. The meeting was closed at 11:34 am. Blanca Olivera made the first motion and Eleuteria Peralta seconded it. Motion approved.

These minutes were written by Lucila Mendoza and Paola Juarez.
Approved by Dr. Susana Ramirez.