

**Austin Independent School District
Multilingual Education Advisory Committee (MEAC)
Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2021**

Attendance

MEAC Members:

Travis Barrett
Gabriela Campos
Nu Chanpheng
Brandy Cheung
Priscilla S. Emamian
Tracey Flores
Blanca Galvez-Perez
Krystal Gomez
Laura Chris Green
Dulce Hernandez

Shelli Hix
Kevin Jackson
Thuy Nguyen
Angela Pack Zia
Peter Partheymuller
Vanessa Santamaria Dainton
María Jesús Sebastián
Brenda Townsend
Dariela Villanueva

Central Staff:

Erin Aucoin-Barbier
Maria Alanis
Pedro Gonzales
David Kauffman
Farid Razavi
Ana Rojas
Leonor Vargas

I. Call Meeting to Order / Review Purpose & Norms

Meeting called to order at 6:04 PM. The Co-chair reviewed the MEAC purpose and norms.

II. Public Comments

1. Bilingual certified Librarian group spoke to request the same bilingual stipend as teachers. Bilingual librarians help elevate the status of Spanish; they are also teachers; they support LPAC and TELPAS; they build equitable library collections; they help plan bilingual events; they are campus champions and advocates for the dual language program. Infographic shared highlighting their work on campuses.
2. Parent spoke regarding the language program at Winn Elementary. Questioned impact of testing metrics on campus regarding benefits of dual language and language learning on scores, funding. District's commitment to equitable decisions around language learning must not have a negative impact on campus.
3. Instructional Coach spoke regarding PLC planning differences between dual language teachers and ESL teachers. Dual language teachers have a delay in getting blend lessons and curriculum, making it hard for planning purposes.

III. MEAC Member Comments

1. A MEAC member spoke (in Spanish) regarding Govalle bilingual librarian and having access to communication in Spanish and having access to dual language/bilingual books to check out that public libraries don't have available.
2. A MEAC member wanted to acknowledge the Board of Trustees at the Feb 11th for Information Session for their interest in Dr. Kaufman's presentation.
3. A MEAC member spoke regarding a reminder to submit proposals for the Adelante conference. She specifically invited the amazing bilingual librarians to submit proposals. An email will be sent this evening with more information and flyers.

IV. Minutes

After review of the February 9, 2021 minutes, Travis Barrett asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Nu Chanpheng moved to approve the minutes with no edits. Thuy Nguyen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Multilingual Education Team Updates

The Executive Director for Multilingual Education acknowledged the 35 participants at the meeting. Thanked the district's librarians. Revisiting the stipend criteria with Human Capital for next year. Final decisions have not been made. Purpose of stipend is to address a shortage area, and continue following state law of providing a bilingual teacher in all bilingual classes. Primary purpose of stipend is incentive to keep bilingual teachers. Importance of having bilingual administration. Continue supporting the needs. Thanked commenters and members at the meeting. Gratitude for those putting extra work, teachers and those supporting the curriculum development. Materials not aligned as in English. Working with the Academics Department on alignment with general education and dual language.

Updates: reclassified assistant director for elementary to director for elementary. Interviews will begin soon. No candidate identified yet. The search continues. Additional changes will be happening as work to support all campuses with dual language and ESL. Increase the team's capacity to support campuses.

Extended thank you to individuals participating on the African American Dual Language Committee for helping to thank those members for increasing the representation in student groups especially the American African student group.

Extended thank you for the opportunity to read to students virtually. Encouraged future invitations to read or visit with students.

VI. New Business

A. Dual Language Implementation Status Update

The Executive Director for Multilingual Education provided updates on the implementation work being done. Currently working with the office of school leadership. Recently held a meeting with every Executive Director and 79 principals in groups under their Executive Director. Focus on shifting shared responsibility to the school leadership office. Identify what programs are offered on campus. How is determination of what is offered at that campus. Shared list of Elementary Bilingual programs per campus with a breakdown of specific programs.

B. Dual Language Schedule and Language Allocation

Update - Campuses have been met with. Late exits will be dual language next year. Best approach to meet the needs of the students. If a student is staying at home campus, meeting their needs, offer placement on a different campus or provide on campus dual language, but can it be sustained when numbers are low. What programs to offer at each school. Some campuses moved from one-way to two-way campuses.

- Question from MEAC member: Maplewood low emergent population. How are you able to serve 2-way programs? Answer: Looking at different approaches on how to use district resources for the appropriate approach for programs offered.
- Comment from MEAC member: Spreadsheet she created, with the socioeconomic status of schools - the top third of affluent schools have successful two-way programs offered. The least affluent have fewer two-way programs offered. Inequalities are visible. Request made to look at having a policy. Have bilingual classrooms and bilingual immersion classrooms. Will give principals the tools and knowledge to balance classrooms to benefit students.
- Question from a MEAC member: ESL with fewer numbers, have we reached out to them, talk to parents? For their interest? How many students are enough for the types of classrooms? Answer: Need to create a systematic effort to reach out to the families on how they are making choices and how better to serve them. What has been communicated to them in advance? Maintain the language model. More of a challenge to hold the language of instructions.
- Comments from a parent and a librarian regarding teachers being split between campuses. The administration has to be behind the program to make it successful.

Discussions limited to MEAC members, apologized for engaging in conversation with non-members

- Comment from MEAC member -A member offered to be the MEAC historian since she has her notes from the meetings as far back as 2010 - 2011
- Comment from MEAC member - Changing demographics. Real estate industry. Is the District looking at the big picture and possible displacement?
- Question from MEAC member - How many are transfers for emerging bilingual programs at the schools listed. Answer: Very few transfers for emerging bilingual students compared to native English speaking families. Numbers are relatively small.

Executive Director for Multilingual Education commented on the need to provide equity when implementing programs and doing so with fidelity. Two-way programs achieve slightly higher results for emerging bilingual students than one-way programs. Benefits native English speaking families and emerging bilingual families. African American students are an underserved group. Have obligation to provide for those needs, part of equity commitment as a district.

- Comments from Principal - appreciation for opportunities for conversations with the district and parent community to help move this forward.

Executive Director for Multilingual Education commented on stressing that dual language is an academic program, but school culture is important to demonstrate bilingualism and biliteracy. Continue with a strong multilingual district.

VII. District Committee Reports

- Dual Language Family Engagement - No report presented at this meeting.
- DAC - No report presented at this meeting
- BFAC - No report presented at this meeting.
- SEAC - No report presented at this meeting.
- Dyslexia - No report presented at this meeting.
- ACPTA - No report presented at this meeting.
- Board Meeting Update - No report at this meeting.
- African American Dual Language Subcommittee - meet on 3.8 -in support of bilingual education. Request for adding African American info to the chart/list that was presented. Discussed - 2-way conversation regarding joining dual language, focus groups- wants needs concerns, Set up by fall meeting w parents - focus on campus have large African American populations, set up cluster meetings instead of at each campus. Need to set priorities as a committee. Thanked Dr. Kauffman for attending meeting = addressed issues of concern - clarified state policy, district policy for dual programs. District funds are available to support the subcommittees. Concerns looking at assessment issues - for Latino and English-speaking parents. Thanked subcommittee members.

VIII. Review Action Items and Future Agenda Items

1. Action - Encouragement to view February 11th Board Information Session.
2. Reminder to attend Race Talks on March 23rd after spring break.
3. Send in requests for the next agenda to co-chairs or Ana Rojas.
4. Agenda Item - State performance acknowledgment = New students eligible for recognition for language achievements. Propose the committee share pathway options for feedback to MEAC.

IX. Adjournment

- A. Blanca Galvez-Perez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Peter Partheymuller. Motion approved without objection. The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.
- B. The next MEAC meeting will be held on April 13, 2021, via Zoom from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.