

**Austin Independent School District
Multilingual Education Advisory Committee (MEAC)
Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2021**

Attendance

MEAC Members

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

Dulce Hernandez
Shelli Hix
Lindsey Ip
Kevin Jackson
Thuy Nguyen
Angela Pack Zia
Peter Partheymuller
María Jesús Sebastián
Brenda Townsend
Dariela Villanueva

Central Staff

Erin Aucoin-Barbier
Maria Alanis
Rebecca Flores
Pedro Gonzales
David Kauffman
Patricia Núñez Porras
Farid Razavi
Ana Rojas
Leonor Vargas

I. Call Meeting to Order / Review Purpose & Norms

Meeting called to order at 6:05 PM. Co-chair reviews the MEAC purpose and norms.

II. Public Comments

1. A comment is made by a visitor stating that she would like more outreach to be made to the African American community to encourage their participation in the Dual Language programs. She hopes it is on the agenda today and she fully supports this initiative.
2. A comment is made regarding a need to increase the budget to support the Multilingual Education team and schools to push out and maintain a strong dual language program. The lack of funding is already used as an excuse of poor implementation. There is an increase in elementary schools who will have the program but there is not an increase in budget. Does Multilingual Education have an estimated budget, has it been requested, has it been approved?
3. A visitor makes a comment where she is wondering what happened to the letter that parents were supposed to receive regarding the bilingual model their students are in. She knows the letter was paused because the district was trying to make determinations about who was going to be doing what next year. It is almost February and people need to know what is the plan for what model their kids will be in next year. She would also like to support the visitor's comments that were made before her regarding the need of an increase in budget. Also, what is the status of position of the assistant director for elementary?

4. A comment is made on the current programs that exist. There are a lot of schools that are in phase II and would like to make sure that the next level for those schools continue. She also states that she is not sure what the budget looks like but would like to make sure that there is still support for the schools who have had the program.
5. A visitor makes a comment about the funding which is provided by the state with the PEIMS coding, is it being honored by the district and used with fidelity for the bilingual programs. Also adds the question whether there is a status on the position of assistant director for elementary.
6. A visitor has a question about how the Dual Language program and how to remove the politicization to be an opportunity for our students. It is not just about learning Spanish. If we want to be the best that we can be then this should be about all languages in the district.

III. MEAC Member Comments

1. A member reads a statement she has prepared to share at the meeting tonight. She provides pertinent background information to her comments. She then speaks on how in order to have effective and successful DL programs, the principals need to be onboard and ensure that they are run with fidelity. She commented on the implementation of the Spanish program of Bear Creek Elementary.
2. A member makes a comment about the importance of having the budget to be able to support all the schools. It is frustrating to see that the district does not support this program. There needs to be an alignment for all the schools, a sort of base to the program.

IV. Minutes

Minutes are approved with a minor edit. It is requested to remove from Section VII on the BFAC report that, "They will meet next week."

V. Multilingual Education Team Updates

The Executive Director for Multilingual Education addresses the questions and concerns brought up during the public and member comments. He states that the implementation plan is moving forward and provides steps that have been taken to make sure this continues. Also provides insight to some of the challenges of the district funding this year but says the commitment is there to implement the programs. He talks about the assistant director position and the proposal to change this to a director position. Briefly speaks on the difference between a dual language program and an immersion program and the importance of implementing both with fidelity.

VI. New Business

A. Remote Learning vs. Face-to-Face Bilingual Program

A representative from the elementary team and another from the secondary team spoke to the committee and answered questions.

- B. Proposal to create an African American Dual Language Subcommittee
A motion was made and seconded to create an African American Dual Language subcommittee. The committee discussed, then voted via a Zoom poll 14 votes in favor versus none opposed.

VII. District Committee Reports

- Dual Language Family Engagement - No reports at this time.
- DAC - Dr. Elizalde attended the committee meeting and provided several updates on the recent weather day, encouraging distance learning, Covid testing, TEA guidelines to receiving exemptions for remote learning, the budget challenges the district is facing due to the number of students in the district at the moment, and the decision pending by TEA for more flexibility with remote learning once stage five is lifted. There was also discussion on sports and UIL guidelines during Covid and it is encouraged to vote for the school calendar for the next two school years.
- BFAC - No reports at this time.
- SEAC - No reports presented at this meeting.
- Dyslexia - No reports presented at this meeting.
- ACPTA - An invitation is made to join the meeting for next month.
- Board Meeting Update - There is a question from a member wanting to clarify a statistic that was mentioned in the board meeting regarding the low number of students who had taken the STAAR test in Spanish. The director clarifies that the statistic is just based on the fifth graders in the district.

VIII. Review Action Items and Future Agenda Items

1. A google form will continue to be used to identify and prioritize topics to be addressed at the meetings.
2. The African American Dual Language Subcommittee will select co-chairs and someone to report at the next MEAC meeting.

IX. Adjournment

- A. A motion was made and seconded and approved without objection. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.
- B. Next MEAC meeting will be held on February 9, 2021 via Zoom from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.