

Pittsburg Unified School District
DELAC Meeting
October 8, 2018

Foothill: Aidee Cisneros
Heights: Martha Torres, Debora Ventura
Yazmin Cano
Highlands: Mónica Vallejo, María Rosales
Los Medanos: Dulce Bernal
Evelyn Costacurta
Parkside: María Vázquez
Willow Cove: Miguel Alvarado, Miriam Trejo
Silvia Portillo
Stoneman: Martha Carabantes

Marina Vista: Dalia Medina
Hillview JH: Martha Torres, María Rosales
Martha Carabantes
Rancho Medanos JH: Elvia Gracián
Adriana Medina
MLK, Jr. JH:
PHS: Martha Torres, María Rosales
Martha Carabantes
Ed Services: Sandra Guardado
Lorena Asdourian

Welcome and Introductions: Mrs. Virginia Martinez called the meeting to order. Mrs. Guardado thanked everyone for attending the meeting and asked the members to introduce themselves and to mention their schools.

Minutes Approval: The members received the minutes by email prior to the meeting. The members were given time to review the minutes in the meeting. The first motion to approve the minutes was made by Mrs. Dulce Bernal and Mrs. Martha Torres seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The committee agreed to approve the minutes.

Purpose and Responsibilities of the District English Learner Advisory Committee:

Mrs. Guardado walked the members through a power point presentation outlining the purpose and responsibilities of ELAC and DELAC committees. She emphasized the importance of the committees and the essential role parents play in these committees. Parental involvement makes a significant difference in the education of the students since parents serve as advocates for the students' needs.

We have two committees. At the school level we have ELAC **English Learner Advisory Committee**. This school site committee and a parent group that provides advice to the school Principal and staff regarding the needs of English Learners (EL students).

ELAC committee assists in:

- The development of the school site plan based on the district's master plan.
- The development of the implementation of a school needs assessments to determine the needs of the EL students.
- Giving input and generates ideas on how to best inform parents about the important of good school attendance, so that the students are not absent. This year's goal is for the students not to have more than 5 absences. There is a big impact on the student's education if they are not present to receive and participate in the daily instruction.

DELAC committee:

- Advises on the revision of the district's master plan taking into consideration each school site plan.
- Input in how to best keep parents informed on their student's academic progress and meeting the reclassification criteria
- Program Needs

- Attendance

Mrs. Guardado expressed her gratitude towards the committee members for being involved in their student's education and helping advocate for the needs of our ELs. She mentioned that it seems like the participation at our ELAC meetings have increased and it makes her proud to see parents attend those meetings. She mentioned that strong parental involvement leads to stronger programs and student's needs being met. Mrs. Guardado stated that her goal is to increase communication with parents regarding how their student is progressing with regards to meeting the reclassification criteria, so that they, as parents, can help support their student at home to reach that goal. She also said that she wants the EL students to understand the reclassification criteria, so that they themselves understand what they are working towards. This in turn, will help them understand the importance of taking every test/assessment seriously and to give it their best effort. Mrs. Guardado believes that empowering parents and students with information (reclassification criteria) will lead to higher reclassification numbers.

A member mentioned that she sees the vice principals at the sites working harder to actively invite parents to their ELAC meetings.

Mrs. Bernal, also shared that she sees the difference at the sites where she has students. She expressed that she felt the vice principals are doing a better job with running and involving parents in their ELAC meetings.

Reclassification Criteria:

Mrs. Guardado explained the newly adopted reclassification criteria to the members. She gave everyone a copy of the Reclassification Criteria, Matrix, which outlined the specific criteria for each grade level (K-12).

Mrs. Guardado emphasized that the Reclassification Criteria is comprised of four parts:

1. Assessment of English Language (Proficiency on ELPAC)
2. Comparison of Student Performance in Basic Skills –
3. Teacher Evaluation
4. Parent Opinion and Consultation

She explained to the members that each LEA (district) gets to decide the specific criteria that will be used to reclassify their students. The only mandate from the State Board of Education is that specific criteria is identify for the 4 parts (mentioned above).

Mrs. Guardado proceeded to explain that specific criteria that PUSD adopted. She took the time to review each section in detailed. She explained to them how to use the Reclassification Criteria, Matrix to follow along. She started by explaining the criteria needed for Part 1; Proficiency on ELPAC.

Part 1 – Proficiency on ELPAC – The expectation is that a student will earn an overall score of 3 or 4 on the ELPAC exam as well as a 3 or 4 on BOTH the Oral and Written Language domain. Mrs. Guardado explained to the members that the highest level on the ELPAC is a 4. She took the time to explain to the committee the different scores the ELPAC provides. The ELPAC provides a score of 1-4 on the following information; Overall Performance Score, Oral Language Score, which is comprised of the Listening and Speaking domains, and Written Language Score, which is made up of the Reading and Writing domains. Then a general

performance level (beginning, somewhat/moderately/well developed) is also provided for each of the 4 domains (Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing) tested.

Mrs. Guardado highlighted the major difference between the ways the CELDT was scored vs. information the ELPAC provides. The CELDT test had 5 levels, the highest level being a 5 vs. the ELPAC the highest level is a 4. The CELDT provided us with an Overall Score and a score of 1-5 for each of the 4 domains (Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing). The ELPAC gives us an Overall score of 1-4, and a score of 1-4 for the Language and Oral Performance Domains. The ELPAC report also provides general description of what each level 1-4 means and what a student should be able to do at each particular level. The report also outlines strategies of things parents can do to help their student become more proficient in English.

Mrs. Guardado explained that students tend to do better and score higher on the Listening and Speaking domains, which causes the Oral Language Performance to often be higher than the Written Language Performance, since that involves the Reading and Writing. Our students tend to need more support in developing their reading and writing skills.

A member asked if all students get tested in all four domains and if a kinder student is expected to be able to write. Mrs. Guardado explained that every grade level is tested in all 4 domains but the expectation and demand of what they have to do is different.

Mrs. Bernal, reminded the members that there are different tests for each of the grade levels. The grade levels that have a different test are kinder, first, second. Then 3rd – 5th grade have the same test, 6th – 8th have the same test, 9th-10th grade have the same test and 11th and 12th grade have the same test.

Another member asked, how do you make sure that students feel comfortable testing, especially if they are kinder students who are shy and have a hard time talking? Mrs. Guardado assured the members, that the test examiners are trained to administered the test and know how to make students feel safe and comfortable. She shared with them that many of our test examiners are retired teachers or classroom aides that know and enjoy working with students, so they do all they can to make the students feel comfortable and encourage them to try their best.

Mr. Alvarez asked if when we hire teachers, especially for kindergarten, if we look for caring and compassionate individuals. Teachers that are going to help teach and motivate the little ones to learn. He believes it is really important to make sure that kindergarten students have teachers who care since they are the ones who serve as the student's first experience in school and will help develop them into good students. Mrs. Guardado responded that our goal is to hire the best and highest qualified individuals for our students, for every grade level.

Another member asked, do you provide training for new teachers. Mrs. Guardado responded that new teachers receive support and participate in district-wide training. She also mentioned that new teachers undergo an evaluation process by which the site administrators work with the teachers and help provide them with the support they need.

Mrs. Guardado continued going over the reclassification criteria. She explained that the expectation on Part 1, Part 3 and Part 4 was the same for all grade levels (kinder – 12). Only Part 2, had criteria that was specific for each grade level and that because of the tests that are administered at each of the grade levels and the specific level of expectation desired at each grade level.

Mrs. Cisneros asked: When do we know if our student will be reclassified? Mrs. Guardado stated that parents would be contacted within the next couple of weeks by their individual sites to be made aware of their student met the reclassification criteria. She continued to explain that students will have 2 opportunities each school year to meet the reclassification criteria. Students will be reclassified in the FALL (usually in August/September) and in the SPRING (January). Mrs. Guardado explained that if students do not get reclassified in January, then all those students will need to participate in the ELPAC summative administration which starts on February 1st.

Once, Mrs. Guardado finished reviewing the reclassification criteria for each grade level, she proceeded by giving the members the Total number of students who have been identified at each school site to be ready to be reclassified this time around (Fall reclassification). Mrs. Guardado proudly shared with the members that these are the highest number of students being reclassified in the district in years. And that had to do with the newly adopted criteria and the fact that it integrated the use of the DIBELS and PSAT tests, which were not used before and the fact that specific cut point were identified for each grade level on iReady.

Mrs. Guardado explained why the matrix includes a FALL and SPRING cut-point for iReady. She stated that the FALL cut-point refers to the previous grade level expectation and the SPRING cut-point will use the current school year, grade-level.

A member asked, if an EL gets reclassified, is he/she no longer an English Learner? Mrs. Guardado explained that their designation goes from LEP (Limited English Proficient) to RFEP (Reclassified Fluent English Proficient), which means the student demonstrated mastery of the English language. In order to ensure that reclassified students continue to have academic success, they will be monitored for 4 years. Our goal is to make sure that students have the support they need to continue to make academic progress.

Future Topics:

Mrs. Guardado stated that she would bring the Teacher's Salary Schedule to share with them at next month's meeting as well as the results of the Needs Assessment Survey.

Mr. Alvarez requested, can we have a meeting to discuss the food provided to our students? He would like to talk about the food or nutrition that is given to the students.

Members mentioned that this is a topic they would like to explore further due to the following reasons:

- Students do not like the food.
- It appears that there is a difference in the amount of food that is prepare depending on the type of food. For instance the 5th graders do not have all the food options that the younger kids had since they are the last ones to eat, it appears that they just get the leftover food items rather than the same varied selection the younger students had access to.
- They do not like the menu. The food is cold, the flavor is bland and sometimes the selection is different from school to school.
- Members wondered, how does the menu get selected?

- Students do not like the pizza in the school; the hot dogs have no taste. What kid doesn't like pizza or hot dogs? But, they do not like the pizza or hot dogs from the school. This problem has been going on for years.
- Are students involved in the creation of the menu/food offerings? Do they get to provide input on what kind of food is served, given that they are the consumer? Schools should cater to what the students want so that the food is actually consumed and not wasted.

Mrs. Guardado explained to the committee we have health and nutrition guidelines that must be followed with regards to how the food is prepared and what kind of food groups need to be offered to students. Those guidelines might have an impact in what can and cannot be offered to students. But given the interest in this topic, she will work on getting a representative from Food Services to come do a presentation for DELAC. Some of the members and Mrs. Asdourian recalled having Mr. Belasco come a couple of years ago to make a presentation on this topic.

Mrs. Guardado informed the parents about the CAFE Conference in Sacramento. CAFE is the California Association of Bilingual Education. CAFE will be hosting a one day conference (7:30 -3:30 PM) on January, 24th and PUSD will be taking a group of parents. Each site will choose a parent representative to attend and Mrs. Guardado extended the invitation to the DELAC members. We will need to finalize the list of attendees in November, to make the necessary arrangements to get everyone registered and identify the method of transportation.

ELAC Reports:

Willow Cove: Mrs. Silvia Portillo reported

- Back to School Night was on September 6
- Members of the ELAC committee attended the Title I meeting
- Representatives for ELAC committee were nominated and elected

Stoneman: Mr. Martha Carabantes reported.

- First ELAC meeting was held on September 18
- In the ELAC meeting the representatives were introduced
- They had the opportunity to meet the new VP, Ms. Maguiat

Rancho Medanos JH: Mrs. Elvia Gracián reported

- Election for ELAC officers was held
- At first ELAC meeting, information regarding the iReady program was shared
- Received information regarding the new reclassification criteria
- Informed about the PE incident
- Reviewed the uniform policy

PHS: Maria Rosales reported.

- First ELAC meeting was held and information regarding the responsibilities of the committee was reviewed
- Discussed ways in which to increase the number of parents to attend ELAC meetings
- Phone calls were made to invite parents to attend meeting
- Will be electing new ELAC officers at the next meeting

Los Medanos: Mrs. Dulce Bernal reported.

- The school held the election for ELAC representatives
- At ELAC meeting they reviewed the new reclassification criteria
- Had the opportunity to meet the new Principal, Mrs. Estrada
- Discussed the important of school safety
- Were informed that October 15th, the teachers will have a staff development day
- Fall Festival will be in October

Highlands: Mrs. Rosales reported.

- At first ELAC meeting, the ELAC officers were introduced to new members
- Discussed the purpose of ELAC committee

Hillview: Mrs. Rosales reported.

- The Vice principal made a presentation on ELAC.
- Election will be held to elect new officers and selected individuals will be announced on school website

Heights: Mrs. Virginia Martinez reported.

- ELAC officers were introduced
- Information of the *iReady* tests was shared

Foothill: Mrs. Aidee Cisneros reported.

- New ELAC officers were elected
- Information on the iReady program was covered and highlighted how the program helps prepare students for CAASPP assessment
- Made aware that new reclassification criteria was identified
- Discussed school safety

Marina Vista: Mrs. Dalia Medina reported.

- New ELAC officers were introduced
- Criteria for Reclassification was presented by Mrs. Guardado
- Parents were encouraged to attend ELAC meeting, individual phone calls were made to parents of students who are close to meeting the reclassification criteria. They had a really good turnout
- A video from two ELD teachers was shared with the parents, the video explained the ELD program and how parents can help their students
- Learned about programs students have access to, like Imagine Learning, RAZ kids, and tutoring
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Parkside: Mrs. María Vasquez reported.

- New ELAC officers were introduced
- Review the purpose of ELAC
- Reviewed ways in which parents can help their students at home

MLK: No report

Next Meeting will be November 5th.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50

