



AUSTIN
Independent School District

**Multilingual
Education**

Austin Independent School District

Multilingual Education Advisory Committee (MEAC)

Meeting Minutes

May 06, 2024

MEAC members

Yvette Cardenas
Dr. Cody Fernandez
Shaun Hopkins
Wendell Norris
Marquez
Alejandra Mireles
Anaka Rivera
Janeth Medrano
Dr. Elizabeth
Severance
Rachel Preston
Laura Chris Green
Nu Chanpheng
Nadia Khan
Marcela Sanz Blanco
Margarita Mintzer
Vanessa Morgan
Valdovinos

Other Guests:

Dr. Susan Diaz
Patricia Rodriguez
Blanca Galvez Perez
Dr. David Kauffman
Andrew Gonzales
Dr. Mary Ann Maxwell
Carla Bonilla
Sharon Marroquin
Pablo Lino Rios-interpreter
Ricardo- interpreter
Christy Mederos



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I Call to order

Shaun Hopkins called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm and reviewed the MEAC protocols.

II Public Comments: Blanca Galvez addressed the meeting:

Blanca Galvez, a proud dual teacher and parent, thanked MEAC directors Yvette Cardenas and Cody Fernandez for their leadership in supporting the multilingual community. She highlighted their implementation of essential tools and assessments required by TEA laws, as well as their collaboration with principals to support ESL and dual language programs. Blanca commended their efforts in addressing the needs of both elementary and secondary levels, particularly their work with the newcomers Task Force groups

III MEAC Member Comments:

Margarita Mintzer has submitted two questions: 1) Do we screen new arrivals for dyslexia, including students new to the country? 2) Can bilingual students with dyslexia choose English intervention?

Anaka raises her concern regarding the reduction in minutes allocated for dual language in classrooms. Many of us have received emails and seen social media discussions on this topic. It's crucial to address any misinformation and ensure accuracy about the situation.

Rachel Preston shares her concerns regarding the lack of instructional resources and support for world language teachers. She highlights the impact of increased workload and larger class sizes on teacher retention and proposes addressing these issues within the multilingual education advisory committee to ensure quality education for students.

Margarita expressed concern over the unequal distribution of resources in English and Spanish for dual language classrooms. She emphasized the need for follow-up and inclusion of teachers in decision-making processes regarding curriculum content.

Nu mentioned she wanted to share her email expressing concerns about proposed cuts to positions in the multilingual education team. She emphasized the community's long standing request for support for dual language programs and highlighted the importance of retaining executive director positions for elementary and secondary education to ensure the continued improvement of these programs.



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Nadia mentioned her participation in budget talks and highlighted a lack of multilingual education comments in the budget survey, urging others to contribute before the upcoming vote. She offered to share the survey link and expressed concern about cutting director roles despite dual language being a top community priority in previous engagements.

IV Approval of Minutes: Shaun moved to approve the minutes.

Anaka motioned to approve the minutes, and Dr. Severance seconded the motion. The minutes were approved at 6:30 p.m

V Vacancy Dashboard and Recruitment Efforts

Yvette addressed the AISD teacher recruitment efforts, highlighting the new vacancy dashboard available on the AISD jobs website, which provides real-time updates on vacancies and allows for direct applications. She emphasized the numerous recruiting events promoted through social media and attended by the talent strategy team across the state. AISD's recruitment strategies focus on informing potential teachers about the benefits of joining the district, including stipends and professional learning opportunities. The dashboard is accessible in both English and Spanish, broadening its reach. Additionally, AISD prioritizes retaining teachers through various innovative programs and partnerships with local universities, including initiatives to certify industry teachers with temporary certifications. Yvette noted the excitement and energy surrounding these recruitment efforts and the importance of retaining high-quality staff.

VI Student Enrollment Data and Universal Choice Sheets

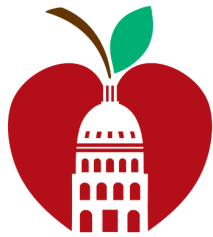
Dr.Fernandez shared:

Reducing Attrition Rates:

- Focus on decreasing attrition rates from elementary dual language to middle and high school.
- Removed application process and enhanced support for middle and dual language campus scheduling.

Master Schedule Support:

- Improved scheduling to maintain dual language status for students, improving identification and reducing loss.
- Increased communication with families regarding student coding.



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Progress and Results:

- Strong support efforts last year and intensified this fall and spring.
- Increased secondary dual language program enrollment by 111 students this year.

Future Plans:

- Continued collaboration on scheduling with principals and assistant principals.
- Expansion of advanced Spanish and implementation of universal choice sheets for streamlined course offerings.

Expansion of ESL Content-Based Programs:

- MEAC goal to increase content-based ESL program participation by 10% by 2026.
- Efforts to certify math, science, and social studies teachers in ESL with 144 teachers participating in nine ESL academy sessions.

Certification and Enrollment Enhancement:

- Approximately 60% success rate in ESL academy certification.
- Focus on improving enrollment processes for international students, ensuring proper credit validation and placement.

ESL Curriculum and Support:

- Introduction of a secondary-level ESL course framework.
- Launch of Empowerment Academy International High School for smoother student transitions.

Dual Language Initiatives:

- Implementation of dual language data collection tools and proficiency rubrics.
- Introduction of STAMP online tests for elementary and middle school dual language programs.

Upcoming Projects:

- Planned elementary portfolio study and updates to the dual language handbook.

Yvette Cardenas shared:

Enrollment for Pre-K Dual Language:

- Focus on access to dual language programming, particularly at the pre-K, kindergarten, and first-grade levels.



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- Current enrollment numbers were presented across these entry points, highlighting participants in dual language programs.

Program Diversity:

- Enrollment breakdown includes students in Spanish-English, Mandarin-English, and Vietnamese-English dual language programs.
- Clarification that some students may be in an alternative bilingual program, working towards dual language or bilingual certification.

Goal:

- Emphasis on increasing access and enrollment across all dual language programs to support bilingual education initiatives.

VII End of Year Review: Goals of MEAC

1. End-of-Year Review Introduction:

- Reflecting on goals set for the MEAC at the beginning of the year.
- Acknowledging the need for better goal reminders.

2. Goal 1: Increasing Advanced Language Opportunities:

- Aim to earn recognitions like state bilingualism and biliteracy acknowledgements.
- Identified specific areas for focus.

3. Progress on Goal 1:

- Recognized 49 students for the AISD language seal of biliteracy this year.
- Challenges and support efforts for students nearing completion discussed.
- Pending data on graduates with performance acknowledgements in bilingualism.

4. New Initiatives:

- Introduced elementary portfolios and milestone celebrations from kindergarten to fifth grade.
- Pilot phase to ensure meaningful implementation and teacher support.

5. Addressing Attrition Rates:

- Focus on reducing attrition from elementary to secondary dual language programs.
- Eliminated application process to support continuity.
- Implemented master schedule cycles to maintain student coding.

6. Increasing World Language Opportunities:

- Expanded world language courses, including advanced Spanish options.
- Introduced universal choice sheets for all district languages.



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- Expectations for increased student participation and success in advanced Spanish tracks.

7. **Global Seal of Biliteracy (Emphasized):**

- Delia coordinated submission of 281 students for the Global Seal of Biliteracy.
- High parental approval for sharing students' scores.
- Provides a valuable certificate for job applications and college admissions.
- Some universities consider it for college credit, enhancing its international value.

VIII Priority topics for next year

Due to time constraints, we were unable to address Action Items and Future Agenda Items. This item will be carried forward to the next meeting.

IX MEAC Recruitment Efforts and Ideas

Due to time constraints, we were unable to address Action Items and Future Agenda Items. This item will be carried forward to the next meeting.

X Multilingual Staffing Updates

Deputy Superintendent, Ms. Rodriguez, addressed concerns and questions from parents and teachers regarding staff changes in the Multilingual department.

XI Other Committee Reports and Sub Committee Reports

Due to time constraints, we were unable to address Committee Reports and Sub Committee Reports . This item will be carried forward to the next meeting.

XII Review Action Items and Future Agenda Items

Due to time constraints, we were unable to address Action Items and Futures Agenda Items. This item will be carried forward to the next meeting.

XIII Adjourn: Shaun motioned to adjourn the meeting

Rachel approved the motion to adjourn, and Anaka seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.