

Multilingual Education Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2019

Attendance

MEAC Members

Nu Chanpheng (Parent)

Shelli Hix (Parent & Co-Chair)

Thuy Nguyen (Teacher)

Peter Partheymuller (Parent)

Lindsey Ip (Parent)

Brenda Townsend (Teacher)

Alicia Adame (Community Rep)

Maria Sebastian (Teacher)

Tracy Flores (Community Rep)

Priscilla S. Emamian (AP & Co-Chair)

Leonor Vargas (AISD Staff)

Esther Williams (Parent)

Theresa Le (Teacher)

2. A Ridgetop ES parent does not support the merging of Ridgetop ES and Reilly ES.
3. A Lively MS parent is concerned that the new Southwest school may have a French Dual Language Program. With the large number of Hispanic students, why is the district creating a French program? She was also concerned about the location being too far south, it should be more accessible. Accessibility = equity. Regarding high schools: She stated that having only 4 high schools with a Dual Language program is not enough, and more DL programs will need to be added at other high schools. She also stated that the district needs to provide better resources and funding for Dual Language programs.

III. MEAC Member Comments

4. A concern was raised about the PK-12 Dual Language Alignment Design Team Recommendations not including Vietnamese, which is also a dual language program in AISD.
5. Regarding the current School Changes proposal: there are questions about some of the numbers and the rationale for closing some of the schools, in particular Palm ES and Ridgetop ES. Ridgetop is one of the original pilot schools and has positively influenced other DL programs by modeling serious, focused and committed implementation of two-way Dual Language. Important district -wide benefits have come from that one little school. There is still a need in our district for strong DL models.
6. A member stated that they visited two middle schools. When she asked what programs they offered at one of them, Dual Language was not mentioned. When she asked about the languages offered, Spanish was not mentioned. When asked about their Dual Language Program the staff person informed her about a bilingual class and called it a Dual Language class. This staff member did not know the difference. Staff person stated that the class is mostly taught in English and a little bit of Spanish. She was talking about a bilingual class not a dual language class. When asked why it was mostly taught in English the staff person said because in this country English is the primary language. The MEAC member believes that administrators are not always sensitive to the needs of the students and is concerned about the lack of implementation of the Dual Language program on campuses. She felt staff and administrators need more professional development training on Dual Language program offered at their own school.
7. Concern was expressed that the number of students in the Dual Language program at a particular middle school is dropping each year.

“walk-throughs.” MET staff is also checking to see if schedules, language content and lesson plans are being followed.

9. A main concern was training for Middle School principals.
10. The 40-page document on school changes was a surprise to campus administrators. Administrators are being asked questions and they want to be informed.

IV. District Committee Reports

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V. Approve Minutes

There were three corrections to the September 26, 2019 minutes. Attendance list was corrected. Also on Public Comments there was a clarification about the first speaker’s comments.

There was a motion by Nu Chanpheng and seconded by Esther Williams to approve the minutes for the September 26, 2019 meeting as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. AISD Multilingual Education Team Updates

Dr. Kauffman, MEAC Coordinator, thanked everyone for their attendance, welcomed new members and acknowledged AISD Board Member, Arati Singh. Last month’s update in Spanish will be ready soon.

TABE Conference

Staff attended the Texas Association for Bilingual Education annual conference in Corpus Christi. Some of the highlights were:

- Several AISD staff made presentations at the conference.
- Attendees learned what other districts and universities are doing to support Dual Language and heard presentations on new research

María Jesus Sebastián was recognized by TABE as the group's 2019 Bilingual Teacher of the Year. She is one of the original Dual Language teach7 448.18 14.525 rr0 G121(n)11(d)-1(w)-4(h)11(sd)-11()5

Personnel

Dr. Kauffman informed the group that a new lead coordinator for Refugee Family Support Services has been selected and the person will begin on Nov. 4, 2019. She will be introduced at the next meeting.

School Changes

Comments made about School Changes which is on today's agenda.

The goal of the School Changes initiative is to recognize the budget and facility realities and work to provide a modernized and safe learning environment for as many of our students as quickly as we can.

The School Changes materials are a set of ideas to start the discussion. Ultimately the AISD Board will decide which ideas to pursue.

District appreciates input from the community. The community's feedback is going to matter.

Most plans are not flushed out because these are preliminary ideas.

Decisions have not been made. Once they are made the final plans will be developed.

Several of these ideas impact multilingual education. He has confidence that the ones that address Multilingual Education, staff will be heavily involved in those plans.

Other updates

Dyslexia concern brought up by one of the speakers about a MEAC member being part of the Dyslexia Committee will be addressed.

Staff will revisit how 504 policies, Special Ed and dyslexia fit into the Dual Language and Bilingual Programs.

AISD has more than one language as part of the Dual Language program (Vietnamese, Spanish, and Mandarin).

Professional development for administrators is part of the plan.

Last year there were no spring meetings with principals about how the program has evolved. This year this will be done. The plan is to provide staff with a template and guidelines as to who in a school needs to know about the Dual Language program.

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So there is Legal, then Local then the Regulations?

A. Yes. Legal states the laws. EHBE is available online under Board Policies. Other districts have their EHBE policies online also. They can be looked up and compared to AISD's policies.

Explain the options.

A. The state defines the six approved bilingual/ESL program options.

Two are ESL—content based and pull-out—and four are bilingual—Two-way Dual Language, One-way Dual Language, Late Exit Transitional Bilingual and Early Exit Transitional Bilingual). When the policy was last revised it was due to changes in Chapter 89. Before then policy changed when the district expanded the Dual Language program to all campuses. A lot of the policy addresses the participation of native English speakers in Two-way Dual Language.

Which of the handouts is the current policy?

A. The copy that does not have any edits is the current policy. The copy with notes has recommendations that MET members have drafted.

-Staff has been gathering input and work is still in progress.

-A special MEAC meeting can be scheduled before the next regularly scheduled meeting to discuss this topic and provide input. Members can also send their comments to Dr. Kauffman. There is a tight timeline to provide input.

Does the Board have to approve all the changes? I ask this because I found some mistakes in the Legal Policy on how it is interpreting the Education Codes so if there are I can pull in BT/F3k TJETQq5 if

Are comments from the various meetings about School Changes online?

A. Question was referred to the Community Engagement staff.

- Arati Singh, AISD Board member, stated there are more community meetings scheduled so please check the website. Staff is collating all the input. There is a Nov. 4th AISD Board work session