

Governor's Advisory Council on English Learners
Minutes of Meeting Held On August 7, 2018

The Governor's Advisory Council on English Learners held a meeting on August 7, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Dover Conference Room, DelDOT Administration Building, 800 Bay Road, Dover, DE 19901.

The following Council members were present: Guy Danjoint, Javier Torrijos, Michael Rodriguez, Sean Matthews, D. Dusty Blakey, Heather Cramer, Ana Viscarra-Gikas, Clara Martinez, Valentina Maza, Steven Amendum, Robert Rescigno, Bridget Amory, Maria Matos, Oribel McFann, and Georges Odaris.

The following Council members were absent: Sen. David Sokola, Terri Sharpe, Allison Castellanos, Margie Lopez-Waite

The following individuals were also present: Eileen DeGregoriis, Neil Kirschling and Maria Paxson

1. Welcome and Introductions

At 6:05 p.m., Javier Torrijos called the meeting to order.

The meeting began with introductions.

A review of business began with a discussion of a possible change in meeting location.

2. Review and Approval of June 26, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Javier Torrijos explained and reviewed the documents included in member packets.

A motion was made by Dusty Blakey for approval of the June 26 meeting minutes. The meeting minutes were approved

3. Review and Approval of Draft Council By-Laws

A discussion of the key roles included Council officers, co-chairs, subcommittee chairs, and secretary. In discussing the annual report, it was suggested to look for the low hanging fruit, items that were most pressing and should be tackled first. It was also discussed the 2 or more unexcused absences would indicate a presumed resignation. Members who cannot be present at the Governor's Advisory Council would need to contact Guy Danjoint or Javier Torrijos. A motion was made by Steve Amendum and seconded by Heather Cramer to adopt the Council by-laws. The decision was unanimously approved.

4. Review and Discussion of Strategic Plan Goals

A discussion began about the goal areas of the strategic plan and the need for subcommittees to drive the goal areas. Javier Torrijos expressed interest in chairing goal #3. It was suggested the subcommittees can invite additional members and community organizations to participate. Introductions were made of newly arrived members. At this time, subcommittee chairs were established.

#1 Steve Amendum and Bridget Amory

#2 Dusty Blakey, Robert Rescigno (Oribel McFann as member)

#3 Maria Matos (Chair), Javier Torrijos, Guy Danjoint (Co-chair)

#4 Oribel McFann-Mora (chair), Michael Rodriguez (Co-Chair),(Bridget Amory as a member)

It was suggested to reach out to members not in attendance to find a member to chair #4. The discussion continued by suggestions around crafting strategies to develop both short and long term goals. A roster of subcommittee members should be sent to Maria Paxson. At this time, a review of the duties of secretary were discussed and volunteers for the appointment of secretary were taken. Oribel McFann volunteered to be the secretary. A motion was made by Javier Torrijos and seconded by Robert Amendum. The motion carried and Oribel McFann was appointed as secretary.

5. Presentation of State and Federal Requirement for English Learners

A presentation was made by Maria Paxson about the state and federal requirements for English Learners including Office of Civil Rights and Department of Justice documents, an overview of Title 3 ESSA Requirements and Delaware state regulation 920.

6. Public Comments

Eileen DeGregoriis and Neil Kirschling were present as representatives of the public.

7. Preparation for Next Meeting and Adjournment

A request was made for a funding formula presentation. The Council determined that they would like a presentation from the Office of Management and Budget on how schools are funded. Dusty Blakey recommended a school business manager also present.

Valentina Maza, English Learner Student and Council Member, invited council members to visit schools.

At 8:00 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 2, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Cabinet room at the Townsend Building, 401 Federal Street in Dover.