

**Governor's Advisory Council on English Learners  
Minutes of Meeting Held On October 2, 2018**

The Governor's Advisory Council on English Learners held a meeting on October 2, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Delaware Department of Education, Townsend Building, 401 Federal Street, Dover, DE 19901.

The following Council members were present: Guy Danjoint, Javier Torrijos, Michael Rodriguez, Terri Sharpe, Heather Cramer, John Marinucci, Ana Viscarra-Gikas, Valentina Maza, Steven Amendum, Bridget Amory, Margie Lopez-Waite, and Oribel McFann

The following Council members were absent: Sen. David Sokola, Rep. Sean Matthews, Dusty Blakey, Clara Martinez, Robert Rescigno, Maria Matos and Georges

The following individuals were also present: Maria Paxson, Raifu Durodoye, Erica Marrero, Mary Nash-Wilson and Jerry Gallagher

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

At 6:00 p.m., Javier Torrijos called the meeting to order.

The meeting began with introductions.

**2. Review and Approval of August 7, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

Javier Torrijos directed Council members to review meeting minutes. A request was made to correct the meeting attendees to show that Margie Lopez-Waite was not present and Maria Matos was present. A request was made to include a list of Council members who are not present. A revision to section 3, to change "discuss" to "discussion" was requested. A request was made to change the sentence from "It was also discussed that 2 or more absences would indicate a presumed resignation" to read "It was also discussed that 2 or more *unexcused* absences would indicate a presumed resignation."

A motion was made by Bridget Amory and seconded by Heather Cramer for approval of the August meeting minutes with the corrections. The motion carried and meeting minutes were approved.

**3. Distribution and Review of Council By-Laws**

A review of the key roles included Council officers, co-chairs, subcommittee chairs, and secretary. A discussion of the two outstanding appointments, Delaware State University and a representative of the business community was held. A request to follow-up with both organizations was made. The DDOE staff person will follow up with Delaware State University. The co-chairs will follow up regarding the business community representative.

Javier reviewed the requirements that all subcommittee meetings must be public meetings. The subcommittee chairs must send the dates, times, locations and agenda to Maria Paxson in advance of the meeting to be posted on the public meeting calendar. Meeting minutes must be sent immediately following each meeting.

A request was made by Javier that initial recommendations from the subcommittees are gathered and presented to the Council at the November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **4. Presentation on School Funding**

A presentation of the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Process was made by Mary Nash Wilson, Senior Fiscal and Policy Analyst from the Office of Management and Budget.

A presentation was made by Jerry Gallagher, Business Manager from the Smyrna School District regarding how schools are funded.

#### **6. Public Comments**

Erica Marrero spoke during public comment. Erica indicated that as an English learner teacher in her district she has seen increasing demands, growing numbers and does not feel that there are adequate resources to support her students. She stated that specific requirements for funding English learner educators is needed.

#### **7. Preparation for Next Meeting and Adjournment**

The Council was reminded to be sure to bring recommendations from subcommittees back to the Council on November 13<sup>th</sup>.

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

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the Townsend Building, 401 Federal Street in Dover.