

**Governor's Advisory Council on English Learners
Minutes of Meeting Held On March 12, 2019**

The Governor's Advisory Council on English Learners held a meeting on March 12, 2019 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: Javier Torrijos, Michael Rodriguez, Terri Sharpe, Steven Amendum, Allison Burris Castellanos, Oribel McFann, Brody Bluemel (remote), Robert Rescigno, Margie Lopez-Waite, Ana Viscarra-Gikas, Valentina Maza, Maria Matos, Georges Odaris and Ennio Zaragoza.

The following Council members were absent: Heather Cramer, Bridget Amory, John Marinucci, Rep. Sean Matthews, Dusty Blakey, Clara Martinez, and Guy Danjoint

The following individuals were also present: Maria Paxson and Lynn Fulton-Archer

1. Welcome and Introductions

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

2. Review and Approval of January 8, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Javier Torrijos directed Council members to review meeting minutes. A change was requested to correct the minutes to show that Margie Lopez-Waite was present.

A motion was made by Oribel McFann-Mora and seconded by Terri Sharpe for approval of the January meeting minutes with the correction. The motion carried unanimously and meeting minutes were approved.

3. Update on Opportunity Funding

Jon Sheehan, Education Policy Advisory to Governor John Carney presented the Opportunity Funding proposal with the Council. Jon explained that the proposal is for \$20 million each year for three years to support English learners and low-income students. He further explained that this money, if approved, would be a district allocation. Jon explained that Secretary Susan Bunting would be conducting one-on-one meetings with district chiefs and charter heads prior to plan approval. Members of the Council were able to ask questions of Jon.

4. New Business

Ennio Zaragoza shared that he was able to meet with Kevin Noriega from Delaware State University on how the business community can support the DACA students that are attending the University.

Margie Lopez-Waite provided an update on the Council visit to Las Americas ASPIRA Academy. Margie shared that members who were present were able to learn about how previous Opportunity Grant Funds were used to create a literacy curriculum to better support English learners. Margie shared that all resources are now publicly available via the Schoology group.

There were no subcommittee updates.

5. Delaware Department of Education Updates

Schoology Group Accessibility: Council members were provided a tutorial by Maria Paxson from the Delaware Department of Education on how to access the newly created shared group for the Council. All members who were present were guided through obtaining access to the group.

Data Request Follow-Ups: Lynn Fulton-Archer, Immersion Education Specialist from the Delaware Department of Education provided data and information regarding Delaware's immersion programs. Information regarding the number of students enrolled in two-way immersion programs and student academic performance data was shared with the group. A one-page document was provided to members. Council members were able to ask questions of Lynn.

The Education Pathway presentation was tabled in the interest of time for the May meeting.

6. Philadelphia Language Access Plan Presentation

Orlando Almonte, Language Access Program Manager from the Office of Immigrant Affairs in Philadelphia presented to the Council on the process used when implementing the requirement for all city agencies to have a language access plan. Orlando explained some of the challenges and areas of learning from the implementation process. Orlando will provide the Council with the supporting documents.

7. Preparation for Next Meeting

Javier requested that all subcommittees make an attempt to meet prior to the next Council meeting. The next meeting will include a presentation of the pathways data.

8. Public Comments

No public comments were made.

7. Adjournment

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

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the Townsend Building, 401 Federal Street in Dover.