

**Governor's Advisory Council on English Learners  
Minutes of Meeting Held On September 10, 2019**

The Governor's Advisory Council on English Learners held a meeting on September 10, 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: Guy Danjoint, Javier Torrijos, Michael Rodriguez, David Sokola, Terri Sharpe, Ana Viscarra-Gikas, Michelle Perez-Lucas, Steven Amendum, Brody Bluemel, Robert Rescigno, Allison Castellanos, Bridget Amory, Oribel McFann, Georges Odaris

The following Council members were absent: Rep. Sean Matthews, Dusty Blakey, Heather Collins, John Marinucci, Clara Martinez, Margie Lopez-Waite, Ennio Zaragoza, Maria Matos, Oribel Mc-Fann Mora

The following individuals were also present: Emily Edmonds, Jacqueline Wager, Cary Knight, Kelly Hageman, Nicole Kurz-McDowell

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

At 6:01 p.m., Javier Torrijos called the meeting to order and reminded the council that building doors close at 6:00 p.m. Co-chair, Guy Danjoint provided welcoming remarks.

**2. Review and Approval of July 9, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Javier Torrijos directed Council members to review meeting minutes.

A correction was pointed out that the date listed was not accurate. The meeting was held on July 9, 2019 not July 19, 2019. A motion was made by Guy to approve the minutes with the correction and seconded by Brody Bluemel. The motion carried unanimously and meeting minutes were approved with corrections.

**3. Committee Recommendations & Discussion**

Prior to the discussion and presentation of committee recommendations, Javier reminded council members that while a committee proxy could present, they were not allowed to vote on behalf of the council members.

Javier reminded the council of the goal of the report that is due on December 1. A discussion of the strategies and recommendations for report by the next meeting in November.

Goal 1 presentation was provided by Bridget Amory. The group is looking for more ways to measure the success of the Opportunity Funding and ensure that the Governor's office understands the group's desire to see the continued financial support of this initiative. The group also discussed the need to share best practices from schools who are showing success with

English learners using multiple measures. The group proposed creating user friendly resources on Schoology of Students with Interrupted Formal Education and Newcomers. Discussion was had about the focus of the council and the scope of the recommendations. A suggestion was made to allow for additional learning from the DDOE regarding what is currently happening to support English Learners as many suggestions are things that are currently underway.

Goal 2 presentation was provided by Brody Bluemel. Brody presented the ideas that the Institutes of Higher Education must partner to support EL development and make sure all educators are prepared to support English learners. A recommendation was made to require at least one three credit course for all teacher preparation candidates on the instruction of ELs. Robert Rescigno shared that Wilmington University reduced its rate for the five certification courses to incentivize cohorts to become EL certified. One district has registered a cohort while several other districts have expressed interest.

Goal 3 presentation was provided by Javier Torrijos. A recommendation for the development of an office of immigration affairs to be developed similar to the one created in Philadelphia was made. This office would be responsible for developing and monitoring a language access plan with all state agencies. A recommendation was also made to develop a parent liaison and advisory committee to increase the parent voice. The idea of a 2021 EL education summit was presented to the council. The summit would celebrate the success of the Seal of Biliteracy, teacher success and model programs. Some discussion was had regarding how comfortable the council is telling the Governor's office what to do and suggested the council make suggestions rather than make a formal recommendation.

Brody Bluemel made a motion to allow Jackie Wager to present on behalf of the Goal 4 subcommittee. Jackie shared a GoogleDoc containing information. The recommendation of the development of a public report that is accessible to all was made. A recommendation for further research on how to appropriately measure the growth of dually-identified English learners was made.

#### **4. Recommendations to be Included in Draft Report**

Javier directed the council members to consider the feedback received and the comments from the meeting with their subcommittees. Javier asked council members to please work with their subcommittees to revise recommendations and provide revised recommendations to the co-chairs prior to the November meeting. A final vote on recommendations will occur at the November meeting. A request was made for additional supporting documents to be loaded to the council Schoology page.

#### **5. Develop Final Draft Outline**

All subcommittees were asked to provide final recommendations in advance of the next meeting on November 12, 2019.

#### **7. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

## **8. Adjournment**

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

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Library Conference Room at the Townsend Building, 401 Federal Street in Dover.

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