

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

The Governor's Advisory Council on English Learners held a meeting on November 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: Guy Danjoint, Javier Torrijos, Michael Rodriguez, Terri Sharpe, Michelle Perez-Lucas, Steven Amendum, Brody Bluemel, Allison Castellanos, Heather Collins, Bridget Amory, Oribel McFann, Margie Lopez-Waite

The following Council members were absent: Rep. Sean Matthews, Dusty Blakey, John Marinucci, Clara Martinez, Ennio Zaragoza, Maria Matos, David Sokola, Robert Rescigno, George Odaris, Ana Viscarra-Gikas

The following individuals were also present: Maria Paxson, Cary Knight, Kelly Hageman,

1. Welcome and Introductions

At 6:02 p.m., Guy Danjoint, Co-chair called the meeting to order and provided welcoming remarks. Javier Torrijos noted that many board members had not been present for some time and that they would be reviewing attendance, reaching out to those individuals, and making determination as to whether the members would remain on the council in accordance with the council by-laws.

2. Review and Approval of September 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Javier Torrijos directed Council members to review meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Guy to approve the minutes and seconded by Brody Bluemel. The motion carried unanimously and meeting minutes were approved.

3. Committee Recommendations & Discussion

Javier reminded the council of the goal of the report that is due on December 1 and that tonight's meeting would involve a review and discussion of the recommendations for a report to the governor.

Goal 1 presentation was provided by Bridget Amory and Steven Amendum. Dr. Amory reviewed a new recommendation that would encompass all of Goal 1's other recommendations. This recommendation focused on additional funding to support growing the English Learner Department at the DDOE, noting that the support personnel at DDOE should be reflective of the respective population. (2.5 people for 13,800 English learners is not acceptable) After some discussion surrounding how to phrase this recommendation, it carried with a unanimous vote.

Goal 2 was reported by Brody Bluemel and Heather Collins. It was recommended that DOE completes research on the current funding system and recruitment and retention efforts. The Subcommittee wants to bring in Educator Support from DDOE to discuss balancing the requirements of preservice teachers as well as work within Cycle 4 of mentoring for in-service teachers. In addition, the recommendation was discussed about supporting leaders through IHE with EL training and leadership curriculum. A collaboration with group 3 was recommended in an effort to share professional learning related to English learners with teachers around the state. All recommendations were reviewed and unanimously accepted.

Goal 3 was reported by Javier Torrios. It was recommended that the council identify key legislative champions for EL funding that can help discuss approaches to sharing information and gaining support. The recommendation was also made for the Council to work directly with Chiefs to help them understand their EL funding needs. It was suggested that a statewide parent advisory group could work with the GACEL, DOE, and the governor to help develop policy and best practices to meet the EL Strategic Plan. Finally, there was discussion surrounding the need to create a state agency to support EL families similar to other states and help in creating language access plans. There was discussion as to whether that was the role of the council and it was suggested to tweak the language of the recommendation. All recommendations carried with a unanimous vote contingent upon the agreed language change on the last recommendation.

Goal #4 was presented by Oribel McFann. There was a recommendation made to reinstate the annual report providing a clear picture of DE ELs. There was discussion about this report and the data systems that are currently not working together and the need for clean data. In addition, a recommendation was made for DDOE to furnish disaggregated data and there was a discussion about SLIFE students. It was suggested that a common definition of SLIFE must be created and information on how we track and report that. That term SLIFE does not apply as a label indefinitely so there was discussion on the need to craft what that protocol could look like before data can be provided on these students. The two recommendations carried unanimously with correction.

4. Recommendations to be Included in Draft Report

All recommendations would be included in the report to the Governor, with the one change to the wording in Goal #3.

5. Public Comments

Public comments came from Kelly Hageman who discussed the need for additional EL support personnel at the Department of Education and the need for clear and accurate data, as well as a need to get chiefs involved with the Council.

6. Adjournment

At 8:03 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Library Conference Room at the Townsend Building, 401 Federal Street in Dover.

DRAFT