

**Governor's Advisory Council on English Learners  
Minutes of Meeting Held On January 14, 2020**

The Governor's Advisory Council on English Learners held a meeting on January 14, 2020 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, Michael Rodriguez, Terri Sharpe, Michelle Perez-Lucas, Steven Amendum, Brody Bluemel, Allison Castellanos, Bridget Amory, Oribel McFann, Margie Lopez-Waite and Ana Viscarra-Gikas

The following Council members were absent: Javier Torrijos Rep. Sean Matthews, Dusty Blakey, John Marinucci, Clara Martinez, Ennio Zaragoza, Maria Matos, David Sokola, Robert Rescigno, George Odaris, and Heather Collins

The following individuals were also present: Maria Paxson, Bernadette Burcat

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

At 6:02 p.m., Guy Danjoint, Co-chair called the meeting to order and provided welcoming remarks. Guy introduced a member of the public.

**2. Review and Approval of November 12, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Guy Danjoint directed Council members to review meeting minutes.

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

**3. Council Membership Discussion**

Maria Paxson addressed the council regarding council membership and those members who have been absent from several meetings. The by-laws were reviewed with council members. Maria reminded the group that the by-laws state that two consecutive absences are considered a presumed resignation from the council. A reminder of the importance of attendance was made. Maria shared that the co-chairs would be working during the next period to contact those council members who have missed multiple meetings to determine continued interest. The process for appointment to the council was reviewed.

**4. DOE Updates**

Maria Paxson, Education Associate for English Learners presented to the council the data surrounding the potential change to the English Learner Attainment Targets. It was explained that this adjustment would require an amendment to the Delaware ESSA State Plan. A presentation was provided outlining the data analysis that was done by the Delaware Department of Education to determine the correct level for attainment of English language proficiency on the

ACCESS for ELs assessment. The council was asked for feedback and to make a recommendation.

The council members discussed many different scenarios and the data that was presented.

A motion was made by Steve Amendum that the council recommend a 4.8 attainment target or if a 4.5 were to be adopted that a quality research-based rubric be used in coordination with the assessment score. The motion was moved by Margie Lopez-Waite and seconded by Terri Sharpe.

## **5. Establishing a Council Policy Statement**

The idea of creating a council policy statement to allow alignment and advocacy across all stakeholder groups represented on the council was shared on behalf of Javier Torrijos. The council agreed that this would be beneficial in advancing the work of the council. A follow-up will be held during the March meeting.

## **6. Preparation for Next Meeting**

Bridget Amory shared with the council the upcoming ELympics to be held in Milford School District on February 8, 2020. Dr. Amory extended an invitation to all council members to attend the academic competition for English learners.

Brody Bluemel shared an update from the Opportunity Fund Oversight Committee. Dr. Bluemel shared that the RAND would be conducting the outside evaluation of the Opportunity Fund. He further shared that Dr. Bunting was in the process of meeting with district/charter chiefs to gather data regarding progress to date. Brody also shared that a showcase event would be held in the Fall.

## **7. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

At 7:30 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Library Conference Room at the Townsend Building, 401 Federal Street in Dover.