

**Governor's Advisory Council on English Learners  
Minutes of Meeting Held On March 12, 2020**

The Governor's Advisory Council on English Learners held a meeting on March 12, 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: Javier Torrijos, Guy Danjoint, Steven Amendum, Brody Bluemel, Allison Castellanos, Bridget Amory, Oribel McFann, John Marinucci, Ennio Zaragoza, Robert Rescigno and Ana Viscarra-Gikas

The following Council members were absent: Terri Sharpe, Clara Martinez, Maria Matos, David Sokola, George Odaris, Margie Lopez-Waite and Heather Collins

The following seats were vacant: Member of House of Representatives Education Subcommittee, and Superintendent.

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

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

At 6:02 p.m., the meeting was called to order and welcoming remarks were provided.

**2. Review and Approval of January 14, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Council members were directed to review meeting minutes.

A motion was made to approve the minutes by Bridget Amory and seconded by Steve Amendum. The motion carried unanimously and meeting minutes were approved.

**3. Council Member Changes for 2020**

Javier Torrijos reminded the council that the role of Secretary was to be appointed each year. Javier asked the council members if there were any members who were interested in replacing the current secretary, Oribel McFann. No members expressed interest. Oribel volunteered to continue serving as Secretary for the council. A motion was made and seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

**4. Council priorities - Policy Statement and Work**

Council co-chair, Javier Torrijos led the group in a discussion about narrowing the focus of the council. Javier expressed the need for the group to develop a policy statement with key priorities for the upcoming year. The priority presented was sustainable funding for English learners. The council members engaged in discussion around other priority areas and the importance of remaining focused on Delaware's English Learner Strategic Plan. Council members shared their view of the role of the council. Discussion concluded with the need for all subcommittees to actively meet, share and narrow focus prior to the May, 2020 meeting.

## **5. Policy Planning Calendar**

Javier Torrijos asked each subcommittee to consider their role in continuing to advance the goals of Delaware's English Learner Strategic Plan. Javier shared that the subcommittee for goal three would be working to engage legislatures to support English learners and a sustainable funding system.

## **6. DOE Updates - Maria Paxson**

Maria Paxson, Education Associate for English learners at the Delaware Department of Education provided an update to the council on the work that has been accomplished since the January meeting. After stakeholder input, the DDOE decided to submit an amendment to the state ESSA plan to change the English learner attainment target from a 5.0 to a 4.7. Maria also shared that the DDOE successfully hosted, with the support of DSU, the second part of a professional learning series entitled "The DELaware Design: High-Quality Instruction for ELs." Over 120 educators engaged in a full-day of learning while 30 additional leaders engaged in a session on the following day.

## **7. ESSA Committee Updates**

There were no updates from the ESSA committee representative.

## **8. Opportunity Grant Oversight Committee Update**

There were no updates from the Opportunity Grant Oversight committee representative.

## **9. New Business**

Alison Castellanos shared with the council the importance of participation in the upcoming census. Alison asked council members to urge their constituencies to engage with communities and encourage participation. Participation is essential for many federally funded programs that support English learner families.

## **10. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

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

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Library Conference Room at the Townsend Building, 401 Federal Street in Dover.