

**Austin Independent School District  
Multilingual Education Advisory Committee (MEAC)  
Meeting Minutes  
February 9, 2021**

## **Attendance**

### **MEAC Members**

Travis Barrett  
Gabriela Campos  
Nu Chanpheng  
Brandy Cheung  
Priscilla S. Emamian  
Tracey Flores  
Blanca Galvez-Perez  
Laura Chris Green  
Krystal Gomez  
Dulce Hernandez

Shelli Hix  
Kevin Jackson  
Thuy Nguyen  
Angela Pack Zia  
Peter Partheymuller  
Vanessa Santamaria Dainton  
María Jesús Sebastián  
Brenda Townsend  
Dariela Villanueva

### **Central Staff**

Erin Aucoin-Barbier  
Maria Alanis  
Corina Limon  
Pedro Gonzales  
David Kauffman  
Salimah Shamsuddin  
Farid Razavi  
Ana Rojas  
Leonor Vargas

## **I. Call Meeting to Order / Review Purpose & Norms**

Meeting called to order at 6:04 PM. Co-chair reviewed the MEAC purpose and norms.

## **II. Public Comments**

1. A parent from Bear Creek Elementary expressed how grateful their family is that their student is learning Spanish at school.
2. Another parent from Bear Creek Elementary provided words of gratitude regarding Bear Creek Elementary. She expressed how thrilled she is with the program.
3. Another Bear Creek parent shared positive words and thoughts regarding the school. He provided examples of how well his student is actively learning and said he looks forward to his student being able to return to campus.
4. A visitor made a statement about serving all of the underserved populations and looking at priority admissions to two-way dual language classrooms and at policies that help preserve the percentage of emergent bilinguals in any dual language classrooms to a minimum of 40%. Lastly, she would like to see a push for alternative evaluations metrics for bilingual students that can really let the schools succeed.

### **III. MEAC Member Comments**

1. A member directed a concern to the Bear Creek community attending the meeting and wondered if they shared in the concerns that were raised at the last MEAC meeting regarding the program at the campus. She asked the Executive Director about the program in place at Bear Creek.
2. A member commented that it is important to reinforce the second language students are learning with either a club or an afterschool program. She also commented on how she attends parent talks frequently and mentioned how she attended the Race Talks by Angela Valenzuela. The speaker spoke on how it is important that children have the option to learn more than one language.
3. A member expressed gratitude to Erin Aucoin-Barbier and Pedro Gonzales for their assistance with her questions regarding high schools, as well as MEAC for the networking opportunity which makes it easier to reach out to contact folks.

### **IV. Minutes**

Shellie Hix moved to approve the January 19 minutes with no edits. Thuy Nguyen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **V. Multilingual Education Team Updates**

The Executive Director for Multilingual Education provided updates on the work being done. He talked about dual language implementation and the importance of making sure that schools are being well supported as well as accountable for implementing the programs and doing them well. Individual meetings are taking place with principals of late exit bilingual campuses to make specific plans for their communities. There is also planning being done on how to effectively provide professional learning for teachers and administrators. He also talked about the collaboration taking place with the Communications team to provide effective parent engagement. He briefly provided an update on the budget and staffing and the collaboration taking place with Human Capital. He announced that Ms. Casas, the Chief of Academics and he will be providing a dual language presentation to the board on Thursday and invited the committee to attend. He suggested adding to a future meeting the discussion of identifying who the programs are for and how to best serve students within these programs as well as how to expand the programs effectively and making sure it is equitable.

### **VI. New Business**

#### **A. Newcomer/ESL Update**

The Secondary Assistant Director provided an update to the committee on ESL programs. She spoke about ESL certification and professional learning for teachers. A 12 member committee is being formed including principals, teachers and parents to help guide and provide advice to the services provided to Newcomer students. The Refugee Family Support Services Coordinator briefly provided an update on the current refugee resettlement numbers announced by the new administration. She also provided a brief overview of the support provided by the team and the languages they speak.

B. MET Budget

The Executive Director of Multilingual Education provided a brief overview of the budget and funding sources for Multilingual Education. He talked about the different ways that the funds are spent and how the funds can be used. He then addressed questions made by the committee members mainly regarding the way the funds are formulated and how they are distributed to the various programs.

**VII. District Committee Reports**

- Dual Language Family Engagement - No report presented at this meeting.
- DAC - The last discussion that took place was regarding the waiver of the SLO's which was sent to the board for approval and was approved.
- BFAC - No report presented at this meeting.
- SEAC - No report presented at this meeting.
- Dyslexia - No report presented at this meeting.
- ACPTA - No report presented at this meeting.
- Board Meeting Update - No report at this meeting.
- African American Dual Language Subcommittee - It was decided to have these meetings the Tuesdays a week before MEAC. The next step is to provide parent engagement to the African American families at campuses.

**VIII. Review Action Items and Future Agenda Items**

1. Who are the dual language programs supposed to be serving and what to do in cases of small populations in schools.

**IX. Announcements**

1. The [link](#) to the newsletter for family engagement and student support is provided for the committee.
2. Zoom link for the upcoming Race Talks for the community which will take place February 16th at 7 p.m.
3. A member provides a reminder to the committee that there is still time to submit proposals for ¡Adelante! and that registration is about to open.

**X. Adjournment**

- A. Blanca Galvez-Perez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Krystal Gomez. Approved without objection. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.
- B. Next MEAC meeting will be held on March 9, 2021 via Zoom from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.