

**AUSTIN**  
Independent School District

**Multilingual  
Education**

**Austin Independent School District**

**Multilingual Education Advisory Committee (MEAC)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**December 4, 2023**

**MEAC members**

Andrew Johnson  
Wendell Norris  
Cody Fernandez  
Yvette Cardenas  
Elizabeth Severance  
Marcela Saenz Blanco  
Rachel Preston  
Delia Cruz-Fernandez  
Ana Cao  
Nu Chanpheng  
Sharon Marroquin  
Nadia Khan  
Yara Flores  
Patricia Zarate  
Janeth Medrano  
Catherine  
Rodriguez

**Other Guests:**

Blanca Galvez-Perez  
Mary Ann Maxwell  
Lakesha Drinks  
Shelli Hix  
Jane Ross  
Eva Konvit  
Caroline  
Chen  
Jeff Smith  
Bianca Basso  
Jay Crossley  
Jen Tsou  
Elizabeth Burke  
Jordan Smith  
Teddy Wang  
Katie Casstevens

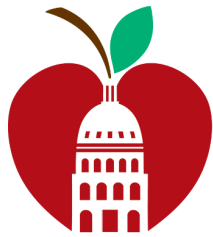
**I CALL TO ORDER**

Shaun Hopkins called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm and reviewed protocols and the committee's purpose.

**II PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jordan Smith: Expressed concern regarding

- The fact that no instructions have been given by the school or the district regarding what will happen with current 5th graders who are about to graduate from the Reilly Mandarin DL program.
- These students have never been tested for Mandarin proficiency in order to know if they are ready for Mandarin 2 in secondary school.
- Questions:  
What is the plan if students are not ready for Mandarin 2?  
Will these students get priority to transfer into Murchison MS and (later) Anderson HS?



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Shelli Hix

- Happy to be here

Blanca Galvez

- Shared a flyer for this Saturday's winter celebration
- AAABE will be on February 24
- Call for proposals
- Parent Institute is in process

### III MEAC COMMENTS

Marcela Sanz Blanco:

- Expressed concern that Waggle is in English and not Spanish, and that it has been heard that Imagine Español will no longer be used next year. They talked with an HMH rep who said that the Spanish (Waggle) version is not ready.

Nadia Kahn: had a questions regarding

- Whether the situation at Reilly (no feeder pattern to continue in Mandarin) exists in other schools.
- Wondering about PK and K enrollment in order to see whether last year's efforts worked, and whether schools are informed regarding their programming.

### IV APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Meeting minutes from October 2nd were approved without revisions or corrections.

### V NEW ENROLLMENT SYSTEM

Katie Casstevens, Interim Executive Director of Enrollment and Student Attendance, shared about Enroll Austin, including:

- The reasons it was created
- It will be for enrollment for 24-25
- Aims to provide clarity, transparency, efficiency
- Available in several languages
- Families can apply for up to 7 programs and rank their order of preference

Katie answered several questions about Enroll Austin. Topics included: dual enrollment in a magnet program and in DL, registering for PK, concern regarding parents not knowing what options are available to them, enrolling when continuing DL in MS, confusion about knowing to click on the DL tile, mechanism to ensure that a student expressing interest in DL beyond 1st grade is ready for it and have principals make phone calls to families about dual language.

Katie shared a QR code for feedback, and the number for the call center to get help.



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## VI ADVANCED ACADEMICS DATA: AP DATA

Dr. Delia Cruz Fernandez, shared:

- Languages that students can take AP exams for, and information about dates, scoring (1-5), college credit (eg. ACC gives credit for a score of 2).
- Percentages of World Language students taking AP tests and scores.
- (Dr. Severance added information regarding College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR) points.)
- Percentages of students scoring 2 or higher on the various exams,
- Kinds of supports being provided to campuses (e.g.: classroom visits, feedback, newsletters, co-teaching, co-planning, modeling, summer professional learning, and a new textbook adoption for Spanish Language and Culture)
- College Board does not provide a Vietnamese AP exam.

Shaun asked:

- How do we ensure that administrators know how to administer the AP exam?

Dr. Severance answered that we now have Job Alike training, and that the College Board provides training (the campus is responsible for complying).

Rachel Preston asked:

- What support is there for other languages that have AP exams? What are we doing to make sure that courses are rigorous? Support for language teachers with curriculum?

Dr. Cruz Fernandez explained ways that the curriculum has been strengthened with a renewed emphasis on Integrated Performance Assessment and the 3 modes of communication for World Languages.

## VII SEALS OF BILITERACY

Cody shared information from The Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA) regarding the states that have a Seal of Biliteracy, and efforts to expand access.

Janeth:

- We now have about 50 candidates for the Seal (this number has grown each year). She explained the criteria.
- Muestra de Proyectos, when students present their portfolio in front of a panel, will be in April.
- The Latino Academic Achievement Awards will take place in April.

Students can also receive a Performance Acknowledgement.

Austin ISD is in the exploration stage of the requirements for the Global Seal Of Biliteracy, which can be used for college credit.

Next steps: inform parents, administrators, and counselors regarding the Seal of Biliteracy and Performance acknowledgements. Consider adding a video with all options for the website.



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VIII LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY ASSESSMENTS

Yvette shared the decisions that have been made regarding this topic.

- Holistic: Las Links descriptors have been added to School City. K-5th grade teachers enter data in this platform so that data can be tracked.
- Online assessment: select 2nd graders (campus-wide campuses for Spanish/English DL and Mandarin/English DL), all 5th graders, and piloting at 7th grade.
- Multilingual Education will provide support for teachers.

Yvette answered questions regarding these assessments.

IX Please send ideas for future topics to either Shaun or Yvette.

X MEETING ADJOURNED



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