



**AUSTIN**  
Independent School District

**Multilingual  
Education**

**Austin Independent School District**

**Multilingual Education Advisory Committee (MEAC)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**February 05, 2024**

**MEAC members**

Shaun Hopkins  
Cody Fernandez  
Yvette Cardenas  
Delia Cruz  
Carla Bonilla  
Dr. Clemence Ozel  
Sharon Marroquin  
Marcela Sanz Blanco  
Andy Johnson  
Vanessa Morgan  
Aurora Yvette Flores  
Lolita Vieux  
Janeth Medrano  
Nadia Khan  
Wendell Norris  
Rachel Preston  
Kara Schultz  
Anh Cao  
Anaka Rivera  
Margarita Acuna

**Other Guests:**

Bianca Basso: interpreter  
Patricia Zarate: interpreter  
Laura Green  
Angela Lim  
Blanca Galvez-Perez  
Sandra  
Shelli Hix  
Sandra Valle  
Susan Diaz  
David Kauffman  
Elizabeth Severance  
Thuy Nguyen

**I CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Shelly highlighted the success observed in other school districts where dual language students graduate from high school with associate's degrees and proceed to enroll in colleges as juniors. She emphasized that this achievement is not mutually exclusive and expressed understanding of the resource constraints faced by their own district over the years. Despite this, Shelly expressed sympathy if similar accomplishments have not yet been attained locally, but she wanted to bring attention to the potential for such initiatives. Shelly concluded her comment by



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thanking the committee.

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### III MEAC MEMBER COMMENTS

Anika Rivera: Raised concerns

- Regarding 8th graders being asked to choose between their dual language pathway and the Seal of Biliteracy in order to pursue ECHS or dual credit courses.
- Shared there needs to be more communication to parents regarding the opportunities.

Margarita Mintzer: Expressed gratitude and asked for clarification:

- Understanding the ESL program in middle school and what does sheltered learning mean
- How students taking STAAR in English when they do not yet know the language impacts campus academic grades and district-level results
- What solutions for responding to the rising number of emergent learners and the lack of certified bilingual teachers?

Nadie Kahn commented :

- Acknowledgment of efforts made over summer for training.
- Request for clarification on regularity and scope of training, especially for new teachers.
- Inquiry about steps for parents to request additional teacher training and how to effectively respond to parental concerns regarding teacher training.
- Consideration of mechanisms in place to address these issues.

### IV APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Minutes from December were approved with no revision or corrections

### V WORLD LANGUAGES CURRICULUM

Dr. Delia Cruz Fernandez, World Language Coordinator supporting campuses and Dr. Clem Ozel, the World Language Specialist shared information about World Languages.

- Austin ISD offers 9 world languages: ASL, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Mandarin Chinese, Spanish, and Vietnamese.
- District's use of communication modes aligns with best practices in world languages education.
  - Curriculum prioritizes communication skills and aligns with TEKS.
  - Shift from grammar-focused to communication-focused instruction.
  - Daily engagement in listening, reading, speaking, and writing activities.
  - Modes of communication include interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational.



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## **VI SECONDARY ESL CURRICULUM AND COURSE PATHWAYS:**

Dr. Cody Fernandez provided an overview of the English as a Second Language (ESL) curriculum, emphasizing tailored support for ESL students at varying proficiency levels.

- ESL courses, including ESOL and ESL Reading, align with grade-level standards while providing targeted support for language growth.
- Highlighted the importance of content-based language instruction, which fosters comprehensible input to develop language and acknowledges students' linguistic and cultural assets.
- Transitioning to course pathways, Cody provided recommended sequences for ESL students in middle and high school, acknowledging differentiation of course offerings based on campus demographics.
- Partnerships with programs like AVID Excel and reading electives further support student needs.
- Overall, the curriculum aims to meet the diverse needs of ESL students while ensuring their sense of belonging in the classroom.

## **VII LATINO ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD- COMMUNITY AWARDS NOMINATIONS**

Janeth Medrano, Coordinator of Secondary Multilingual Education shared information:

- Latino Academic Achievement Awards, which recognize Latino students for their academic accomplishments and community members for their contributions to Latino education.
- She encouraged attendees to nominate community members using a provided form, with multiple nominations accepted per category.
- The deadline for nominations is March 22nd, and Janeth offered assistance for any questions about the awards.

## **IX ADELANTE CONFERENCE**

Blanca, representing the Austin Area Association for Bilingual Education (AABE), announced the upcoming teacher conference on February 24th, with an in-person format at the DoubleTree.

- The conference features over 40 breakout sessions and a keynote speaker, from New Mexico, who will discuss translanguaging.
- She expressed gratitude for the support from the multilingual department and expected attendance of around 200 teachers and administrators from Austin ISD, with additional participants from outside areas.



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- Blanca also mentioned breakout sessions of interest to the community and highlighted the upcoming parent institute on March 28th, which will be held in person for the first time in six years.
- She encouraged parents to present and share their knowledge at the conferences, aiming to empower the community and promote cultural understanding.

### **VII OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SUB COMMITTEES REPORTS**

Shaun proceeded to announce the section of the meeting dedicated to committee and subcommittee reports. He inquired if there were any reports to be presented at that moment. No committees reported.

### **IX REVIEW ACTION ITEMS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Shaun directed participants' attention towards reviewing action items and future agenda items for the next MEAC meeting. He invited attendees to indicate any items they would like to be considered for inclusion in the agenda.

- Shaun provided options for submitting suggestions, either via email to himself, Dr. Fernandez, or Yvette Cardenas.
- Additionally, he mentioned that information about the dates for the Adelante conference was available in the chat.
- Shaun encouraged participants to share any action items they'd like to include by putting them in the chat or emailing him directly.

Dr. David Kaufman, Board of Trustee shared:

- Upcoming revision of student outcome goals by the school board.
- Emphasized the importance of community input in shaping goals for emergent bilingual programs and students.
- Encouraged active participation from committee members, AAABE members, and others supporting emerging bilingual students.
- Urged members to stay informed about upcoming meetings or opportunities for input.

Shaun shared important upcoming meeting dates:

- No meeting in March due to spring break.
- April 1st: Virtual meeting from 6:00 to 7:45 PM.
- May 6th: In-person meeting at Austin ISD HQ from 6:00 to 7:40

### **X MEETING ADJOURNED**

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 PM by Shaun



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