

## Parent Engagement Subcommittee Meeting Minutes,

December 7, 2018

In attendance: Cheng Imm Tan, Body Homicile, Kim Tsai, Allen Dowling, Theophile Tanis, Lisa Harvey, Julia Meijia

1. After introductions and everyone shared something each person was pleased about, the minutes of the last meeting was approved.
2. Updates from OE and OELL: Lisa Harvey shared the pilot project that was trying to track ELL parent participation at BPS district sponsored meetings. Most of these meetings were Build BPS meetings at 12 schools and a DELAC and SPED PAC meeting. Out of a total of 458 attendees, 155 were parents. Of the parents, 71 filled out the survey. 97% filled the surveys out in English, 1% in Haitian Creole and 1% in Spanish. A majority of the parents (59%) heard about the meetings through their schools.

The data was not very complete: Surveys were not passed out at some schools, a different survey as passed out at some meetings. Instructions to parents may not have been clear. As a pilot, it showed where refinements needed to be made.

Lisa Harvey also presented a dashboard for the 5 core Title 1 family engagement requirements. It collected data on SSC, SPC, SSC bylaws, School-home compact and information on student leadership. It showed schools that had provided the information and those that have not yet provided information. It will be made public when it is ready but it is not ready yet. This will be one way to track compliance on ELL parent participation on the school level. School visits will greatly help to provide a better view of ELL parent participation at schools.

OE's strategy is to provide resources to schools that are ready and want to engage. The ELL Task Force and subcommittee on parent engagement does not think this is enough or should we settle for this. The subcommittee discussed how to increase parent engagement and not settle for this. In the past, schools who have not actively engaged parents (but not sure what the criteria of engagement was then) were denied Title 1 funds. Tommy Chang was not amendable to this strategy. The ELL Parent Task Force's recommendation to include "proficiency in family engagement" before principals can be deemed "proficient" in their evaluation

3. School Visits: The following school visits have been scheduled and confirmed.  
Hurley K-8: January 4 from 10-12  
Mildred K-8: January 10, 8-10AM  
Orchard Gardens: April 5, from 10-12

4. DELAC November Meeting Debrief: Julia Meijja and Rev Tan facilitated a conversation with parents at the meeting. It was a very good turnout despite the bad weather and parents felt safe to share their concerns openly.

The conversation was very interesting. Some parents felt well informed by their schools on what is going on, while some did not. One parent in particular felt her school was very unresponsive to the needs of her child who had a disability. There were several responses around interpretation at IEP meetings. Parents wanted the interpreters to be advocates and help them. There was also concerns that interpreters were not familiar with the terminologies, IEPs and Special Education issue etc.

Allen Dowling from BPS Translation & Interpretation department is going to train community partners who provide interpretation for BPS parents to help them better understand how to better understand Special Education and IEPs.

Julia reported that DESE has a task force on Translation & Interpretation which are making recommendations statewide. Parents can have a meeting with interpreters before so parents can understand interpreters are not advocates. Interpreters need to be better trained on IEP issues and terms. Allen suggested a cheat sheet of questions for parents to ask so they can better advocate for themselves. He said his department can easily come up with the cheat sheet.

The Look Bill report at DELAC was very informative and sought to engage parents. Perhaps the next DELAC meeting could include a Build BPS presentation.

NEXT Meeting is on March 1. OE and OELL will report on and populate data asked for in the Tracker, which will be sent to committee members ahead of time to ensure there is time for full discussion. Invite either Colin Rose or Allen Dowling to present on Recommendation 2 or respectively. Since Allen is flexible, check with Colin to see whether March or June is better for him.