

MAC (Multilingual Advisory Committee) minutes

March 18th, 2025/9:00 am/Westchester Elementary

Committee members' attendance:

Danielle Hoffman
Amanda Almeida
Sara Korol
Maria Catalina Rubio

Chair (Elementary School Parent)
Recording Secretary (Elementary School Parent) Middle School Parent
Elementary School Parent

n person In person In person In person

Quorum: no

Call to order: 9:10 am – Adjourned: 10:27 am

First morning meeting

- thanks to Westchester for hosting us today
- quorum not met, meeting will be informative only no voting
- February meeting minutes will be voted on next meeting

School visits

- Reviewed data obtained from school visits
- MAC configuring top 3 points learned from visits including challenges
- MAC has by now figured which questions should be asked points discussed, will be improved upon each year
- MAC has asked district to obtain testing data from schools visited
- this data can be pulled from the school

o admittedly not an easily attainable request but valuable information

- data found that students in elementary schools with DL scored on average 9% higher than their peers

- students in middle schools with DL programs scored on average 3% higher than their peers

o Elementary schools with DL programs are most established than the middle schools, some of which are only a couple years into the program

- MAC is requesting to work with district more closely to obtain data quarterly to help promote program

Teacher survey

- Anonymous

- 10% of teachers responded across county

- Purpose of survey was to learn teacher sentiment towards DL

Results

- Many DL educators had been teachers for 10 plus years o 51% had been in DL for just 1-3 years

- Most popular model taught was dual teacher at 58%

- 31% had isolated model

- 58% dual teacher model

- 10% was decompartmentalized

- 57% of teachers valued teaching DL

- 37% felt valued by their school admin

- 17% felt valued by the district
 - o possibly due to lack of extra compensation
- 69% felt valued by DL parents
- felt valued by their students
- teachers liked a variety of teaching aids
 - o liked BrainPOP en Espanol does not evaluate in Spanish
- teachers valued iStation and Benchmark
- Elevation and Nearpod were use the least amongst all teachers surveyed
- teachers had lots of opinions on how DL can be enhanced and shared with other schools

MAC

- district liaison expressed that this had been an ongoing discussion and request for years is requesting from district, to explore options for obtaining licensing options for BrainPOP
- Discussion about materials available for DL teachers especially new ones o Welcome meetings are available every year for all DL teachers
- District cannot make teachers come to welcome meetings for DL
all teachers are invited and given a USB drive with all the available materials for DL if in attendance
- Discussion about switching form iStation to BrainPOP
 - o doesn't have assessments so not a practical alternative
- Teachers are asking for iReady in Spanish
- Question about JEDI camp text book
 - o created by district during COVID years for each grade
 - o JEDI was cut this year due to department being in deficit - Discussion again about resources for teachers

- o MAC proposing possibly having all resources available in 1 place virtually and easily accessible so teachers new and old of DL don't have to physically come to meeting or downtown to access materials and resources

Policy 1070

- Governs what all advisory committees look like, including MAC

- o MAC bylaws and policies cannot be in conflict with 1070

- last month district proposed restructuring, dissolving or merging many committee

- o there was discussion about MAC moving under another committee

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- o At district quarterly committee meeting update proposal was pulled for now

- ask force was created to review the committees and policy 1070, this will be revisited later

May 6th tentative date to discuss data obtained from task force o MAC chair Danielle was asked to be apart of task force

- o It was noted at the quarterly meeting all the support that showed up for DL programs, as everyone in support showed up in yellow anyone can email MAC chair to request a shirt for DL Discussion on DL brochure recently created Questions

- It was realized that brochure is promoting DL but catered only to predominantly English speaking households

- o Households with Spanish or other any other predominant language other than English would have different questions and concerns discussion needs to had about brochures explaining DL program and addressing their concerns

- Also noted that brochures were not available for parents on school campuses when parents would need the information the most

- o District can accommodate this request

- Suggestion to have brochures ready before last kindergarten roundup

- Another suggestion to have brochures available in schools welcome packet, they go for print

in July

- o MAC is requesting that some testing data be added to brochure to help promote the program MAC elections

- Next meeting at Westglades Middle, April 8th, 6pm
- all positions are available and up for reelection
- anyone can run for position a parent representative position or officer position, you do not need to know which position you are interested in at time or running the officer positions will be elected after new committee is elected
 - o Anyone interested must be present in person, you may wish to have a small intro or about you ready to speak at the election

More discussion about iStation and some frustrations

- Most parents are not aware that they can log into a parent side of the iStation to see what child is actually working on, and view child's minutes used in program
 - o This access needs to be granted by teacher
- It is understood that some school teachers had sent this information out

Continuing education opportunity

- FAVE at FIU Saturday April 5th 8 am to 5 pm
- District has some teacher going to be present including attending as features speaker of DL program and success stories
- This info will be promoted on DL website