

**San Bernardino City Unified School District
Multilingual Programs Department
District English Learner Advisory Committee
DELAC**

**January 16, 2026
December 5, 2025 Minutes**

1. DELAC Committee Officers Present:

Elizabeth Romero (President), Consuelo A. Rubio Mendoza (Secretary), Maricela Nuñez (Parliamentarian), Rommy Gamino (Advisor), Les Ojeda (Director of Elementary Schools, Multilingual Department), Victor Mendoza (Coordinator of the Multilingual Department).

2. Opening:

Ms. Romero (President) called the meeting to order at 9:32 am, thanking everyone for their attendance and as always, recognizing the parents who are new to participating in our DELAC meetings. Ms. Romero offered a special message of well wishes to everyone for the holiday season and the best for the New Year.

3. Expectations of DELAC:

The council focused on expectation number six: "We value and respect parental knowledge and involvement."

4. Permanent Topic of the Superintendent:

Mr. Arellano (Superintendent) greeted the attendees cheerfully and shared reflections on the Golden Bell Award. He reflected on the journey required to achieve such recognition. The Golden Bell Award is granted by the California School Boards Association (CSBA), it is a very prestigious and difficult honor to obtain. Mr. Arellano and Mrs. Applegate received the award on behalf of the district. Accompanying them was the legacy of 25 years of effort by parents who fought to preserve the bilingual and dual immersion programs in the district. The purpose was to view that program with sensitivity, a sense of belonging and to celebrate diversity during a time when government leaders of the era supported English-only education. With pride and joy, many of those parents continue to provide support today, serving as an example to other districts that by working together, things can be accomplished.

Gratitude was expressed to the Board of Education, the Multilingual Department, the students, DELAC, Ms. Melanie McGrath and also Mrs. Applegate—who was in charge during that era—for looking toward the future. A special recognition was given to the students of today. With parental support, more than 700 high school students received the Seal of Biliteracy last year alone, and the programs continue to grow. Mr. Arellano also thanked everyone who helped in the past and those who continue to help today to make all of this possible. He concluded by wishing everyone happy holidays.

Mrs. Applegate greeted everyone and remarked that the DELAC group is her 'favorite,' as she always enjoys being present at the DELAC meetings. She expressed her gratitude for the trust placed in her to carry out her work over these past 20 years alongside her entire team, noting that the results are becoming evident. Additionally, she thanked the parents for their support and the students for their hard work. She concluded by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a wonderful time with their families.

Dr. Sandra Rodríguez greeted the attendees and expressed gratitude for the continued support. She noted that the department's mission is to serve and to work collaboratively to ensure student success through a mindset of unity; when everyone loves what they do, the work is easier.

5. Attendance:

In the absence of Yolanda Quintero (Vice President), Ms. Rommy Gamino (Advisor) conducted the roll call for all schools, where representatives or parents answered “present.” There were a total of 34 people attending via Zoom in addition to those present in the room.

6. Reading of the Minutes:

The Secretary, Consuelo A. Rubio Mendoza, read the minutes from the December 5th meeting and two votes were requested to approve them. Ms. María Elena Martínez (Representative for Newmark and Shandin Hills) and Ms. María Luisa Ramírez (parent from Arrowview and Middle College) made the motions; the minutes were approved.

7. Presentation: Trilingual Program

Mr. Ojeda provided a presentation on the Trilingual Program currently in development within the district which integrates English, Spanish and Vietnamese. Currently, it is only offered at Belvedere Elementary School. He spoke about how the trilingual program is implemented at that school and gave the introduction to the teacher, Mr. Tran, who was dressed in his country's traditional attire. He migrated to the country at the age of 9 and is now a

credentialed teacher with deeply held roots of his native country, in charge of teaching the Trilingual class. He briefly explained how he conducts his classes and how students develop a multicultural education, progressing gradually from kindergarten through sixth grade. All those in attendance had the opportunity to practice a few words in Vietnamese. At the moment, the trilingual program is only implemented at Belvedere Elementary and there are plans to expand the program in the future.

8. Presentation: School Safety

Mr. Donahue (Assistant Chief of Police) provided information regarding the department's team and the cadets, who are not only in the schools, but also active in the community. He mentioned that positions are open to any gender and that an exhaustive background check is conducted for hiring. The cadets are trained on how to work with students and also learn the school district's protocols; they undergo examinations, and if they qualify, they are assigned to elementary, middle, and high schools. All of this is possible thanks to the Board of Education and Mr. Arellano, as there has been increased effort over the last two years to ensure safety for all students. They focus on each students' culture while maintaining a list of elementary, middle and high schools, sending both male and female officers to resolve various issues that may arise. They also hold meetings to improve the support the schools require.

Mr. Donahue spoke about two programs currently in development. The Explorer Program, which serves youth ages 14 to 21 that meets on Thursdays after school. He also shared about The Cadet Program, so named because it focuses on the community and is intended for students who have already graduated from high school. Two new officers who will be in the schools were introduced, as well as another individual training to become a police officer. He mentioned that recruitment is still open for 14 more positions and that students have opportunities for promotion within the different branches of the police department.

9. Public Comments:

Gratitude was expressed to the departments, providing interpretation in English, Vietnamese, and American Sign Language (ASL).

Feedback cards were distributed to collect opinions on the qualities the district's new Chief of Police should possess.

Ms. Eduvina Lozano commented that at Vermont Elementary, some parents do not follow traffic rules, and by failing to do so, they jeopardize student safety. She requested an increased police presence during student drop-off and pick-up times.

Ms. Claudia Barbosa, attending via Zoom, commented that George Brown Elementary faces the same issue with parents not following traffic rules. She emphasized that some parents have even resorted to physical violence and, similarly, requested an increased police presence during student drop-off and pick-up times.

10. Closure:

The President adjourned the meeting at 11:08 am.