

**Austin Independent School District
Multilingual Education Advisory Committee (MEAC)
Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2021**

Attendance

III. MEAC Member Comments

1. A member directed a concern to the Bear Creek community attending the meeting and wondered if they shared in the concerns that were raised at the last MEAC meeting regarding the program at the campus. She asked the Executive Director about the program in place at Bear Creek.
2. A member commented that it is important to reinforce the second language students are learning with either a club or an afterschool program. She also commented on how she attends parent talks frequently and mentioned how she attended the Race Talks by Angela Valenzuela. The speaker spoke on how it is important that children have the option to learn more than one language.
3. A member expressed gratitude to Erin Aucoin-Barbier and Pedro Gonzales for their assistance with her questions regarding high schools, as well as MEAC for the networking opportunity which makes it easier to reach out to contact folks.

IV. Minutes

Shellie Hix moved to approve the January 19 minutes with no edits. Thuy Nguyen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Multilingual Education Team Updates

The Executive Director for Multilingual Education provided updates on the work being done. He talked about dual language implementation and the importance of making sure that schools are being well supported as well as accountable for implementing the programs and doing them well. Individual meetings are taking place with principals of late exit bilingual campuses to make specific plans for their communities. There is also planning being done on how to effectively provide professional learning for teachers and administrators. He also talked about the collaboration taking place with the Communications team to provide effective parent engagement. He briefly provided an update on the budget and staffing and the collaboration taking place with Human Capital. He announced that Ms. Casas, the Chief of Academics and he will be providing a dual language presentation to the board on Thursday and invited the committee to attend. He suggested adding to a future meeting the discussion of identifying who the programs are for and how to best serve students within these programs as well as how to expand the programs effectively and making sure it is equitable.

VI. New Business

A. Newcomer/ESL Update

The Secondary Assistant Director provided an update to the committee on ESL programs. She spoke about ESL certification and professional learning for teachers. A 12 member committee is being formed including principals, teachers and parents to help guide and provide advice to the services provided to Newcomer students. The Refugee Family Support Services Coordinator briefly provided an update on the current refugee resettlement numbers announced by the new administration. She also provided a brief overview of the support provided by the team and the languages they speak.

