



WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Academic Committee
Zoom Video Conference

March 8, 2021

Minutes

I. Opening Procedures

A. Roll Call, Introductions and Land Acknowledgement

Chairperson Jamela Smith-Folds called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM and recognized International Women's Day. Trustee Gonzalez-Hoy read the land acknowledgment.

Committee Members Present: Jamela Smith-Folds; Demetrio Gonzalez-Hoy

Staff Present: Rubén Aurelio, Associate Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer; Sherri Rivenbark, Administrative Assistant; Otilia Espinoza, Interpreter; Christi Roscigno, Director of EL/Literacy; Alison Evert, Principal of Chavez; Marci Williams, Chief Personnel Officer of Human Resources; Sylvia Greenwood, Director of Human Resources; William McGee, Director of OAASA; Farnaz Heydari, Principal of Grant Elementary

B. Approval of Agenda

Chair Smith-Folds asked for any adjustments to the agenda. No changes. Trustee Gonzalez-Hoy moved approval of the agenda and Chair Smith-Folds seconded. Motion carried.

C. Approval of Minutes: February 8, 2021

Trustee Gonzalez-Hoy motioned approval of the minutes for February 8, 2021. Chair Smith-Folds seconded. Motion carried.

D. Public Comment (for items not on the agenda)

no public comment

II. Discussion Items

A. Multilingual Education - Dual Language Immersion (DLI)

Ms. Christi Roscigno, Director of English Learner Student Achievement provided a further update from the February 8th Academic Committee on Multilingual Education - Dual Language Immersion in WCCUSD along Alison Evert, Principal of Chavez Elementary and Rubén Aurelio, Associate Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer. An update was provided on the goals of DLI, guiding principles and research base, short term and longer term goals, data for all ELs, and reclassification.

Trustees asked questions around current DLI grade levels, PD support for transitioning from TBE to DLI, future of the high school program, inclusion of families-especially of African American families, summer programming for ELs, criteria for reclassification, newcomer program at Grant (transfers, communication, access for families, is there an issue with space). Principal from Grant was brought in to speak about her site. Trustees questions continued around support for a variety of parents outside of DLI program (in person interpretation, documents translated), one way/two way tracks, adding exposure to all students for multiple languages, summary of reclassification process. Mr. Aurelio suggested adding it as a Friday memo item.

Public Comment:

no public comment

Discussion:

Trustees would like to have Stewart school brought back as an agenda item in the future, discussed transportation to Korematsu from Stewart, concerns about long term program at Korematsu, suggested De Anza as a possible location to expand. Concerns were brought up about potential inequity in the IB track, possible pathway Stewart to Crespi to De Anza pathway. More resources for the newcomer program at Grant Elementary--recommend to Budget Committee Trustees to discuss. Recognition for Grant Newcomer teacher at future board meeting. Agendize the black experience in dual immersion. Mr. McGee, Director of OAASA joined to share on the black experience in dual immersion, support for children through SPSA development, rerouting of funds for additional tutoring for second language.

B. Teacher Recruitment Cycle

Ms. Marci Williams, Chief Personnel Officer of HumanResource and Dr. Sylvia Greenwood, Director of Human Resources presented an overview of the teacher recruitment cycle in WCCUSD.

Trustees asked questions around barriers on recruiting more teachers of color, would providing incentives to retire be helpful this year, education academy for students, is TFA contract needed, is there a higher retention of TFA core members, is there a referral/bonus process in our district, and how many years is the TFA contract. It is 3 years.

Public Comment:

Carlo Juntilla; Farnaz Heydari; Alexandra Cowan; Jhon Valdes Klinger; Jose De Leon; Taylor Parham; Katherine Acosta-Verprauskus; Julie Yoon; Sara Muench; Monique Dumar; Jesus Galindo

Discussion:

Trustees discussed exploring possibly paying for training/support for substitutes to get their CBEST, likes the residency programming that is recruiting in-house, concerned about recruitment of educators and would like to look at providing signing bonuses by sending a letter to the budget committee to discuss. TFA has challenges nationwide but experience locally is different and Trustee Gonzalez-Hoy will recommend the TFA contract to the full board for discussion to continue recruitment. Develop mentorship program that is more than TIP with stipend for mentors. Representation matters and students need teachers that look like them. Start picking up best practices from current TFA teachers by asking what makes it work. Trustee Smith-Folds is also okay with bringing the TFA contract to the board with the conditions that TFA will bring us teachers who are black males, black females and persons of color. Build our internal bandwidth. Supports the idea of a teacher academy and a referral process.

III. Academic Committee Next Meeting

The next meeting date was set for Monday, March 22, 2021.

IV. Future Agenda Items

Invited human resources back to further discuss recruitment, retention and support; update on summer school, Stewart DLI program, Grant newcomer program, Black experience in DLI, possible education/teacher academy, update on virtual school

V. Adjournment

Chairperson Smith-Folds adjourned the meeting at 5:58 PM.