



WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Academic Committee
Zoom Video Conference

April 21, 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. Trustee Gonzalez-Hoy read the land acknowledgement.

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

Staff Present/Parents on panel: Rubén Aurelio, Associate Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer; Sherri Rivenbark, Administrative Assistant; Otilia Espinoza, Interpreter; Christi Roscigno, Director of English Learner Achievement; Eric Peterson, Principal of West County Mandarin; Lisa Levi, Principal of Washington; Julie Plaisance, Principal of Stewart; William McGee, Director of Office of African American Student Achievement (OAASA); Andre Shumake Sr., School Community Outreach Worker of OAASA; Maresha Johnson, Teacher of West County Mandarin; Jie Ni, IB Coordinator/Teacher at West County Mandarin; Kristyn Jones, Teacher at Washington; Monica Lira, Teacher at Stewart; Odessa Cooper, Parent at West County Mandarin; Rodney Legardy Jr., Parent at West County Mandarin; Idrissa Lattier, Parent at Stewart; Ebony Blake, Parent at West County Mandarin; Sheryl Lane, Parent at Stewart; Tenay Woodard-Hernandez, Parent at Washington; Tiffany Snowwhite, Parent at Stewart

B. Approval of Agenda

Chairperson Smith-Folds asked Trustee Gonzalez-Hoy for a motion to approve the agenda or if he had any changes. Trustee Gonzalez-Hoy moved approval of the agenda with no changes and Chairperson Smith-Folds seconded. Motion carried.

C. Public Comment

Mariela Cuellar; Andrea Garcia-Perez; TJ Warfield; Asedo Wilson; Tenay Woodard-Hernandez; Zelon Harrison

II. Discussion Items

A. Dual Language Immersion (Black student experience)

Ms. Roscigno provided a brief introduction before the panel discussion around Dual Language Immersion (DLI) (black student experience), on why African American students should enroll in DLI and the number of African American students currently enrolled in DLI programs in the district. Panel discussion started with the site administrators Eric Peterson from West County Mandarin, Julie Plaisance from Stewart and Lisa Levi from Washington who answered questions on support for African American Students, support for parents and what more they would like to do for their site. Next Dual Language Immersion teachers, Maresha Johnson, Teacher of West County Mandarin; Monica Lira, Teacher at Stewart; Kristyn Jones, Teacher at Washington; Jie Ni, IB Coordinator/Teacher at West County Mandarin, answered the same questions. Then DLI parents shared their experiences and their children's experiences in the DLI program by answering what their site administrator and teacher does to help them and their children in the DLI program and what more they want done. Mr. McGee also shared thoughts on behalf of the Office of African American Student Achievement.

Trustee Gonzalez-Hoy asked questions of the panelists around some challenges that have

prevented the growth of the program to increase our African American community with the schools, what can we do better to recruit African American teachers and in particular bilingual African American teachers, thoughts on retaining our African American teachers and particularly around the bilingual program, additional things the district can do to support and grow the program within the African American community, and what are some of the causes that have led to the lack of recruiting/retaining of African American students at the longest running DLI program at Washington. Due to time constraints, he welcomes anyone to email him with any additional comments.

Trustee Smith-Folds asked questions of the panelists if testing is offered in English, Spanish or Mandarin for state and local assessments.

Motion: Trustee Gonzalez-Hoy motioned to extend the meeting to 6:40 PM. Chairperson Smith-Folds seconded. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

Mariella Cuellar; Celetta Hunter; Rylei Barnes; Joanna Pace; Tenay Woodard-Hernandez; Bekah Guerrero

Discussion:

Trustees enjoyed hearing from the parents, principals and teachers on their experience in the schools. This is one of many conversations that they want to have. Looking forward to hearing recommendations coming back from staff on a district level to support African American students and increasing the number of students to join and stay in the program and keeping our educators in this district long term. Trustees would love to see cross district collaboration between the school programs, parent and teacher groups with district personnel present to provide support. We need more promotion of the programs and can learn from the Mandarin school's efforts. Trustees would like to see more funding to help provide additional support for students, parents and staff. Trustees thanked parents, teachers and administrators for the fight that they do for their children/students. There needs to be standardization across the district for these DLI programs. This is where we create these global citizens. We need to put people in front of children that look like them and can speak other languages. We need a clear transition from Middle to High school. Everyone is invited but everyone needs to feel welcome and know that they belong in the program. Mr. Aurelio expressed his appreciation to the parents, teachers and principals.

B. Council of Elders Proposal

Due to time, this item was tabled to the Monday, April 26, 2021 Academic Committee meeting.

III. Academic Committee Next Meeting

The next meeting date was set for Monday, April 26, 2021, May 24, 2021 and June 28, 2021. Possible conflict for May 24th as the reclassification ceremony is that evening, date or time may be adjusted.

IV. Future Agenda Items

April 26-Council of Elders Proposal; Summer School Update and Special Education/
Extended School Year (ESY) update;
May 24-New School Programs (VAPA, Virtual, Academics, Afro-centric school) & Ethnic Studies;
June 28-Race & Equity Update;
Additional future agenda items-A-G credits, curriculum in schools including electives, Common Core Standards, class choices, bring counselors in, continue DLI conversation/discussion, recommendations from OASSA/AASAT/AAPAC, etc., sports for PE credit, EBI program, invite Dr. Hurst to a May meeting, Fall reopening, quick update each meeting on Spring reopening.

V. Adjournment

Chairperson Smith-Folds adjourned the meeting at 6:35 PM.