



## **EEE Committee Meeting Minutes**

**April 28, 2016**

A meeting of the EEE committee took place on April 28, 2016 in the Mellon Board Room. Committee members in attendance were: Dr. Judy Wiegand, Angela Smith, Dr. Laura Taylor, Azark Cobbs, Kathy Shannon, Lee Ann Kelly, Jamila Appleby, Jonathan Westfield, Dr. Raina Dyer-Barr, and Jessica LaBon. Guests in attendance were Maria, Alanis, Tyler Jackson, Jaime Roundtree, Dr. Elizabeth deGruy, Dr. Gianina Baker, and Kathy Richards.

Ms. Smith welcomed the group to the final meeting of the school year. Jessica LaBon, new dean at Jefferson Middle School, was introduced as a new team member representing the schools.

Committee members reviewed the February minutes. Changes were noted and minutes were approved.

**TIMELINES:** Ms. Smith thanked Dr. Zola, Amy Hayden and her team for pulling together the information for the Birth to Pre-School timeline. The amount of information does not fit the current timeline format utilized for the elementary, middle school and high school timelines. Format, language accessibility, links to resources and determining if information for birth to three-year olds is appropriate are the next steps for this project. DHS may have better information and resources for birth to three.

Special Education timelines are sent to individual students. Dr. Elizabeth deGruy explained to the group the only commonality among special education students is the length of time they are entitled to needed services: students may enter at 3 and age out at 22. Everything else is individualized. Dr. deGruy fielded questions concerning the District's services and community resources. There is currently an interagency agreement with different stakeholders in the community. One of the most pressing issues is how to reach families who for a variety of reasons do not see a physician during critical development times.

The group asked if there are ways to demystify special education for parents and those outside of the special education community and how to become better advocates. There is a link on the website to request a referral for services. Families who receive an IEP/504 receive a wealth of information from the district including their Rights, a contact sheet, and a list of acronyms.

The team will continue to brainstorm ways to destigmatize, demystify and develop better communication in this area. The vast amount of information makes it difficult to condense into a small timeline format.

Ms. Smith thanked Dr. deGruy for providing insight and guidance on this project.

**SURVEYS:** Sample questions were provided to the group for their review. Suggestions were made for clarity and word accessibility. Distribution of surveys will take place during elementary open house dates and registration dates for grades 6-12. There is a possibility of an online version that can be promoted during PAC meetings, at community groups and by PTA. Tyler Jackson demonstrated the use of a QR Code that takes participants directly to the online survey. Maria Alanis offered the services of the

ESL/Bilingual department to translate the survey. Triangulation of data curated from the EEE Survey, an upcoming Cradle 2 Career survey, and the buildings' five essentials will hopefully provide information needed to better serve our families and community.

ELL: Ms. Maria Alanis' presentation, *English Learners in CUSD #4*, highlighted the demographics, education, and challenges of English Language Learning students. Currently there are 59 different languages spoken in the district. The top six are: Spanish, French, Vietnamese, Korean, Arabic, and Mandarin. 8.4% of the district's enrollment was not born in the United States, over 70 different countries are represented.

Ms. Alanis shared the guiding principles of her department which include bilingualism is an asset and its acquisition is a long-term process. Also, student success is a shared responsibility among school, home and community. There is a strong need to nurture the intersection of socio-culture, language, academic and cognitive process as well to help students thrive and succeed. Students may be placed in one of five different programs: Transitional Program of Instruction (also known as ESL), Transitional Bilingual Education, 50/50 Dual Language, Newcomer Essentials, or Bridges. International Prep Academy uses Dual Language Immersion and Newcomer Essentials at the school.

Ms. Alanis stated there are a total of 839 EL students, or almost 10% of our enrollment. She also shared her staff consists of 53 teachers and aides. Each year K-12 English learners are assessed for academic progress and proficiency growth.

Ms. Smith thanked Ms. Alanis and her department for their commitment to our students.

WEBSITE: Mr. Tyler Jackson provided an update on the website. It will highlight current events and initiatives, host approved minutes, and provide membership details. Please check back often and provide Mr. Jackson with any feedback you may have.

Ms. Smith asked that members provide Mr. Jackson with a picture if they have not done so. She also thanked Mr. Jackson for his work retooling and improving the website.

LITERACY: Ms. Smith asked the group to consider ways to create a culture of literacy as we move into the next year. Some suggestions were to add/fill bookshelves in day care facilities and provide more books to community groups.

UPCOMING EVENT: The All Staff Retreat hosted by the Minority Teacher Recruitment and Retention Committee (MTRRC) will be held on June 17, 2016 at the Hilton Garden Inn. The event focuses on leveraging the strength of a diverse community. Dan Duster, great-grandson of Ida B. Wells, is the keynote. Breakout sessions are in the final planning stages and will reflect the diversity of our school and community.

Adjournment at 5:31.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Ferguson