

**BAKERSFIELD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Multilingual Education Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, March 11, 2024**  
**Vía Zoom**  
**4:00-5:30 p.m. - Meeting open to the public**  
**Minutes**

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting started at 4:05 p.m. Under the direction of Mr. Alfonso Ceja, Executive Director MEP, everyone was welcomed to the meeting.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Mark Luque	Superintendent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mrs. Laura Orozco	Ed Services Representative
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mrs. Laura Guerrero - Salgado	Board Member
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mrs. Brooke Malley Ault	Board Member
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Alfonso Ceja	MEP Representative
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mrs. Christine Chapman	C&I Representative
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mrs. Michelle Santoyo	Human Resources Representative
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mrs. Anne Lopez	Harris Administrator
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mrs. Sharleen McKelvey	Voorhies Administrator
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mrs. Melinda Koerner	Stiern Administrator
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ms. Jessica Ricketts	Harris Teacher Representative
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mrs. Maria Lopez Gonzalez	Voorhies Teacher Representative
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ms. Dulce Pena	Stiern Teacher Representative
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mrs. Armida Madrid	BETA Representative
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mrs. Lila Perez	BETA Representative
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mrs. Annie Avina	K-3 Parent Voorhies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ms. Diana Reyes	K-3 Parent Harris
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mrs. Maryann Parada	4-6 Parent Voorhies
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Kyle Susa	4-5 Parent Harris
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mrs. Ana Karen Garcia	7-8 Parent Stiern
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mrs. Diyarina Motta	DELAC Representative
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mrs. Maricruz Vielma-Morales	DELAC Representative
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vacant	Kern High Representative
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ms. Dina Esparza Diaz	KCSOS Representative
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Adam Sawyer	CSUB Representative
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vacant	BC Representative

## **Visitors**

Denys Garcia Program Specialist MEP, Goretti Torres MEP Clerk, Martin Ramirez Translator, Brenda Andrade MEP Secretary, Martha Pacheco Guest, Rhea Nazareno Guest, Monica Avalos Guest, Maria Caneco Muñoz Guest, and Maria Juarez.

## **II. ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Public Comments**

Maria Lopez Gonzalez, Voorhies Teacher Representative addressed the excessive testing DI students go through, and that there might be a way to consolidate some of the testing. She also commented that there are negative consequences regarding over testing, and focused on two items one that stress and anxiety students are under with all the testing, and two the equity issue the message is that having two languages is awesome but the message students are getting is that having two languages means more testing so by over testing DI students it's creating and equity issue.

Lila Perez, BETA Representative and Harris DI teacher agreed with Maria Lopez Gonzalez regarding the excessive testing and believes that this subject should be an item in our agenda to be discussed at a future meeting.

### **B. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes were reviewed and approved. Lila Perez gave the 1st motion and Diana Reyes gave the 2nd motion. Minutes were approved.

## **III. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **A. Revised Dual Immersion Program Timeline**

#### **Alfonso Ceja, Executive Director, Multilingual Education Programs**

shared that the Timeline was here for you to look at the future of the DI program within the BCSD. A small revision to the timeline was that in 24-25 6th grade from Voorhies will be moving to Stiern, but per board action we will be keeping 6th grade DI at Harris, that is the revision from the last MEC meeting that we are bringing as an update, we also have based on previous conversations our Parent Survey to determine interest on our next DI school starting in 24-25. During our last MEC meeting a draft was presented of the survey and I'm bringing it back for a last look, and then we will have them ready to start surveying our parents during 24-25, we will be working closely with our FACE and Communications Departments to be able to put out the Parent survey in our community to determine where our next DI school will be. For 23-26 we have a planning year for that school to start recruiting teachers and students so that we can launch Kinder at that school for year 26-27. There is a lot of work ahead of us to make this happen but there is a lot of good happening at BCSD in regards to the DI program.

**B. Pathway to Proficiency consideration to change from 6th to 5th grade**

**Alfonso Ceja, Executive Director, Multilingual Education Programs**

Shared that the Pathway to Proficiency consideration from 6th grade to 5th grade. The committee was interested in hearing from the 6th grade teachers before making a decision, I met with all 5th grade DI teachers and invited them to present today, Mrs Pacheco shared that there are four points why the 6th Recognition should be kept in 6th grade:

- This project necessitates a two-year preparation period.
- Students maturity level at 6th grade is appropriate for what is required
- It is an incentive to continue the program through middle school.
- Given the heavy workload of 5th graders, there's minimal time available to fully dedicate to the project.

Mrs. Pacheco went over the same information in Spanish. For these reasons the teachers would like to keep the Pathway to Proficiency in 5th grade instead of 6th grade. Lila Perez made the first motion to keep the Pathway to Proficiency in 6th grade, and Diyarina Motta second it, motion was approved.

**C. BCSD Dual Language Immersion Parent & Community Interest Survey 24-25**

**Alfonso Ceja, Executive Director, Multilingual Education Programs**

brought the draft survey to survey our parents and community for interest in our next DI school. This draft is a template used before but now has new dates, it was presented at our last MEC meeting for input. This survey has not been seen by the FACE department since we wanted to bring it to the MEC committee before moving forward. We want to provide more access and see where the interest is. Mr. Luque commented that we are aware that the greatest barrier is transportation, but are not able to provide it, and do not want to give the parents false hope. The plan for distribution is that we will be working with the Communications and FACE Departments to get the survey out to our community. We will recommend this draft to the Superintendent's office for approval and then move forward with the survey.

**D. SLA Adoption for 7th /8th**

**Alfonso Ceja, Executive Director, Multilingual Education Programs**

shared that we have an update on the 7th and 8th grade Spanish language adoption from our last meeting. We have received curriculum from Klett World Languages and Carnegie Learning and we are still waiting to receive the curriculum from Vista Higher Learning. The plan is to take the curriculum to the DI teachers at Stiern to review first the two that we have and as soon as we receive the third also send it for review, and when we have received the curriculum from all three publishers we will send an invitation with a couple of dates to the MEC committee to also review them. We want to make a solid recommendation to which of the three publishers we want for our 7th and 8th grade curriculum.

**E. Resolution to Create the Multilingual Education Committee**  
**Alfonso Ceja, Executive Director, Multilingual Education Programs** has brought to you a draft revised Board resolution for the MEC committee. There is no need to revise since based on our last Board meeting our 6th graders are staying at Harris, we don't need to revise the change from Harris to Curran since Harris 6th grade won't be moving to Curran. We wanted to give the MEC committee that update.

**F. BILA update**  
**Alfonso Ceja, Executive Director, Multilingual Education Programs** shared a quick update, this a funded program and our biggest recommendation to the Superintendent's office to continue to fund the BILA program. We put teachers through the program, pay for their tuition and their textbooks, and their credentials to be able to teach at our DI program. Every year we are able to send up to 15 teachers through the BILA program, last year we had 3 teachers, and this year we have 5. Our goal is to one day fill all 15 spots. The program runs into 3 different courses, the first at CSUB, second is taught in collaboration with Greenfield School District, and the third one is held at Voorhies Elementary. I'm in conversation with Mr. Sawyer regarding next year's cohort. Today I'm going to ask the committee if you want to continue the partnership with CSUB and be able to set up some dates to recruit teachers. My question today is do we want to continue to recommend the BILA program.

**G. Recommendation to the Superintendent**  
**Alfonso Ceja, Executive Director, Multilingual Education Programs** shared our recommendations are to move forward with:

- Pathway to Proficiency Decision
- BCSD Dual Language Immersion Parent & Community Interest Survey 24-25
- SLA Adoption for 7th/8th
- BILA Program - Up to 15 teachers

Mr. Ceja asked for a motion to approve the recommendation, Sharleen McKelvey made the first motion and Melinda Koerner made the Second motion to approve the recommendations. Motion was approved.

**H. Dual Immersion Site Updates**

**Ms. Lopez, Principal Harris Elementary School** shared that they have a lot going on. They celebrated Black History Month, where they held an amazing walking museum, an assembly, and door decorating. We also for Attendance Incentive have had a monthly glow in the dark dance, a quarterly parent luncheon, and weekly deal or no deal where the students pick a deal or no deal for different incentives. We also had Read Across America with about 60 visitors that read to our students.

**Mrs. McKelvey, Principal, Voorhies Elementary School** shared that they also have a lot going on. They had Read Across America and Mrs. Orozco was there reading to our students, they had family literacy night and we had an outstanding show of families. They asked that we stay tuned this Friday on the BCSD news. Our student who won the first ever Master Chef Jr. will be showcased with her dish of green spaghetti with chicken which on the 7th of March all cafeteria students from BCSD were able to try it. They also had our first ever Women's Career Day and it was fabulous with many different presentations and, lastly we sent 70 students to Camp Keep.

**Ms. Koerner, Principal, Stiern Middle School** shared that they had their Dual Immersion Field Trip on Wednesday, Jan. 31st and the students visited La Plaza de Culturas y Artes in Los Angeles, students learned about latino culture in the U.S. and important events in History. Stiern was also celebrating Culture and Diversity, we had a Black History Month door decorating contest and daily morning show reports for the month of February on African American Leaders. Our Culminating Project, we assigned to students on February 26th, students are currently working on their research question and gathering resources to form their conclusions and create their presentation.

**IV. NEXT MEETING DATE**

- **Monday, September 9, 2024**

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

- A.** First motion by Diyarina Motta, seconded by Sharleen McKelvey, it was ordered by a vote of the members present to adjourn the session at 5:33 p.m. All members present were in favor. Motion carried.