

Pittsburg Unified School District
DELAC Meeting - 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm
August 24, 2020
Via Zoom while on Distant Learning

Foothill: Aidee Cisneros

Heights:

Highlands:

Los Medanos: Dulce Bernal, Yanet Toledo, Irma Gonzalez, Mónica Escobedo

Marina Vista:

Parkside:

Stoneman:

Willow Cove: Miguel Alvarado, Heliodoro Moreno

Hillview: Aidee Cisneros, Virginia Martinez, Maria Magallon, and Teacher: Melissa Rodrigue

Rancho Medanos JH: Sandra Aguayo, Heliodoro Moreno, Miguel Alvarado, Irma Gonzalez, Silvia Portillo, Maria Chávez, Mónica Escobedo, Yanet Toledo, Cecilia Olmos Teacher Mrs. Martínez

MLK, Jr. JH: Teacher Dawn Beverly

PHS: María Chávez, Heliodoro Moreno, Martha Torres, Josefina Martínez, Catalina Cruz

Black Diamond High:

Educational Services: Eileen Chen, Sandra Guardado, Maria Gomez, Lorena Asdourian

Welcome/Introductions: Mrs. Sandra Guardado welcomed everyone. She went over the functions of zoom and asked the members to enter any of their questions on the chat. Mrs. Guardado asked the members for their permission to record the meeting. All members agreed to have the meeting recorded. She thanked everyone and introduced the DELAC president.

Mr. Miguel Alvarado, DELAC president welcomed everyone and asked them to introduce themselves. All members and participants introduced themselves.

Mrs. Guardado reviewed the items on the agenda and proceeded with the next item.

Presentation and Review of Consolidated Application Reporting System (CARS).

Mrs. Eileen Chen, Executive Director, Educational Services.

Mrs. Chen introduced herself and explained Consolidated Application Report. She explained that this portion of her report is simple just making the committee aware that we are applying to receive federal funding. She continued by reminding the members that she usually does the bigger presentation in February or March.

The Consolidated Application is how we apply for funds for Title I, Title II, Title III and this year we are applying for Title IV.

- Title I is for Low Income students
- Title II is for Professional Development
- Title III for support of English Learners
- Title IV is for student and school support

Mrs. Chen shared that we will be applying for Title IV funds this year, given that we have not had it in years but the Department of Education reinstated it last year.

She emphasized that we marked No for Title III Immigrants. Last year we did not qualify. In order to qualify for Title III funding you have to have 20 or more students who fit the definition set forth by the Department of Education. Students who were not born in the US and have been attending school in the US for less than 3 years.

Mr. Moreno, asked for clarification on Title III. Do students have to have attended 3 year of less in school overall or just in the US?

Mrs. Chen explained that this funding is for students age 3 to 21 years old who have not attended schools for more than 3 years.

Mrs. Guardado, mentioned that we may have students that have been in other districts in US. We are talking of students that are not born here, they are 3-21 years old. They could have attended school in another state. Mrs. Guardado also explained that the majority of our English Learners in our district are actually students who were born and raised in CA.

Mrs. Chen mentioned that if our numbers happen to increase when we do the reporting to the California Department of Education on **CALPADS**, (California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System), we will know and she will change the application. Mrs. Guardado commented that given our current numbers we should be able to qualify.

Mrs. Chen proceeded and explained that she corresponded with the Private Schools within our consortium in the Spring to consult with them regarding the funding they qualify for. St. Peter Martyr School solicited funding only for Title I, And Title II but did not request funding for Title III. She shared that St. Peter Martyr uses their Title I funding to pay for a full time counselor and Title II to help with teacher development. Mrs. Chen gave time for questions but there were none from the members.

Mrs. Guardado mentioned that Title III are the funds that this committee gives input on. In the schools if you are involved in the English Learners Advisory Committee (ELAC) and the School Site Council (SSC) you advise the sites on how to utilize the Title I funds. Mrs. Chen thanked everyone.

Distance Learning – Identify what is working and current needs. Mrs. Sandra Guardado

Mrs. Guardado asked the members the following 3 questions. She explained to the members that they could either share their responses verbally by unmuting themselves or submit their response in writing through the chat function.

1. Do you think distance education is working better now than it did in the spring?
2. Do you think your student(s) have the connectivity and resources needed for distance education?
3. What else would you like to share about how distance education is working so far - and what needs still exist?

Mr. Alvarado

- Thinks that without a doubt, it is more organized than during the spring, but we still find some inconveniences. With Rancho Medanos JH there were some difficulties with the code to enter with some teachers, and the groups. There were some confusion.
- We were worry on the first day of school, because it was hard to get in. We worry about being able to log on and being able to enter the zoom sessions especially now since attendance is being counted.
- He finds Special Ed to still be something that needs attention since it feels like there is no specific plan regarding how students with IEP will receive their services and supports. He connected with his daughter's teacher who manages the IEP and asked her how she would be receiving support? Based on her response he feels like there is still a lot to be worked out. He suggested to her that she should run smaller groups to meet the needs of the students that way. The teacher mentioned that she would talk to the principal and see what she could put in place to provide support for the students that need it.
- Stated that he feels like some teachers expect the parents to be by their student side to help support and guide them when that is not something that should be relied on since not all parents have the luxury to be able to sit next to their students and help them.

Mrs. Chavez

- Mentioned that she thinks that the area that needs to be improved the most is regarding students being able to log in successfully and access all of the zoom links needed for the students to join their class sessions. She shared that she received a call from the school letting her know that her student did not enter the class when she was sitting next to him and he was in. She asked what teachers are doing to make sure that their attendance is correct?

Mrs. Guardado mentioned to the members that the best way to address any attendance concerns is to communicate directly with the student's teacher. It is important that parents make the teacher aware when they are having technical issues to make sure that they take that into account when taking attendance and making corrections.

Mrs. Cisneros

- Shared that she feels like distance learning is working and it is better than in the Spring. She does however also experienced difficulties with logging into zoom meetings with the links that the teacher has provided her daughter with. For whatever reason she has noticed that in some instances her daughter cannot enter the session and when she communicates with the teacher the teacher has let her know that other students are on and the session is going. She worries that her daughter is being marked as late when she tried to log in on time but was unable to do so. She asked what could be done in those instances.

Mrs. Guardado again explained to the members that they need to communicate with the teachers in real time. Whenever they have any issues logging in, she encouraged them that at that moment they need to communicate with the teacher, via email, Class Dojo, or Remind, and let the teacher know that they are having trouble.

Mrs. Cisneros

- Mentioned that when they have had trouble logging in they have tried using their cell phone and her daughter has been able to successfully join the session but for whatever reason it does not work when she tried logging in on the computer. She said that this is frustrating because her daughter does not like to be late, as even emphasized that she has her daughter try logging in early to have time to troubleshoot if it does not work. But it's nerve-racking.

Mrs. Guardado, mentioned that we understand that technology can be challenging and sometimes it feels like its unexplainable why the connection does not work. She explained that for example today, some teachers and students could not access Zoom or Clever because of something that was not working properly on their end. Luckily, both Zoom and Clever quickly corrected the problem and it did not disrupt the school day for too long.

Mrs. Bernal

- Thinks that is much better than in the Spring, it is my first year in Rancho Medanos, and I see that the teachers have a lot of energy and are helping the students.
- Has seen that the teachers have a good communication with the parents and also the principal, the counselors also, I had a question for the counselor and rapidly answer to me. My child is happy and feels supported by the teachers at Rancho Medanos.

Mr. Moreno

- Agreed, that it is much better now. He also mentioned the difficulty of logging into zoom and how challenging it can be do locate the information to log in since there is no standard place where teachers are posting the zoom link. He mentioned that some teachers send the zoom meeting information and password via Class Dojo, others posted on their Google Classroom and some have it accessible through Clever. Because of this it is difficult to know where to find the information especially on Google Classroom because you have to scroll to find the information. He suggested that it would be helpful to have a standard place to post the zoom links that are needed.
- Also mentioned his concern regarding the over Physical Education. His daughter who attends PHS has not received much instruction in PE and the teacher has not done much to connect and explain to the students how that class is going to work.
- Talked about the fact that parents should not be expected to have to provide the support and re-direction for the students while in distance learning since there are many parents in our community who are essential workers or have jobs that require them to go in, so not every student has the support of a parent at home. He asked, what is going to be done to help support the students that cannot attend school during the day since the parents are not able to help them because they are essential workers?

Mrs. Guardado shared that the school sites and district will be providing support to families that are having difficulties connecting during the day. Unlike the Spring, this time around we will be able to provide support after school to the students who need it. Those interventions programs should be starting this next month.

Mrs. Portillo

- Mentioned that was not ready for all that she is having to learn about technology. She feels like she is not good with technology but she is doing her best to learn it to be able to help her student. She shared that her student has missed some classes and has tried connecting with the school but has not be able to reach any one, she left messages and she has still not heard back from them. She would appreciate more support from the school site. She feels it is important that parents are involved and do all they can to help support their students in this. She shared that she had to change her internet provider to a faster connection to help her student be able to connect and do all that he needs to do.

Mrs. Magallón.

- Expressed having connection problems as well. And similarly, she was able to get her student to connect to zoom using her cell phone but not on the computer. She expressed that Hillview staff has been responsive and when she has reached out to the school they have answered her call. She reminded the members that this is all new for everyone one and that everyone including the teachers and schools are learning and to be patient.

Mrs. Guardado stated that thus far the most common challenges are being able to connect to zoom easily and how that impacts attendance being recorded by the teacher.

Mrs. Toledo

- Mentioned that as she was listening to Mr. Alvarado she wanted to offer another perspective. She has a student at Los Medanos Elementary with an IEP and they are providing adequate support and information on how they will be helping her student. So, she felt that it might just be an issue at Willow Cove and not the entire Special Ed department since things are working for her at Los Medanos Elementary. She also has a student who attends Rancho Medanos and she is doing well there, the teachers are very organized and supportive. She also feels like the staff at Rancho Medanos are doing all they can to help all those who need help and answering phones. She reminded the members to have patience because the schools are getting a lot of calls but she feels like Rancho Medanos is doing what they can to respond to all the calls.

Mrs. J. Martinez

- Shared that her student was not able to enter his 1st period class this morning. She received a phone call letting her know that her student was absent but he missed because he was unable to log in. She attempted to communicate with someone at the school site but was unable to connect with someone. She even tried calling the district and she was told that they could not help her.
- As a parent I got scared because I did not know what else to do to help my student. It is disappointing when you call the school site or district and you cannot get the help that you need. Understands that everyone is learning but support still needs to be provided.

Mrs. Guardado shared her office number with the members and encourage them to contact her if they cannot reach anyone at the site.

Mrs. Gonzalez

- Shared that she has received good service at Los Medanos and Rancho Medanos. She does know that Rancho Medanos is receiving a lot of phone calls because when she has called she has not being able to get through. She resorted to going to the school and was able to receive support there and noticed how busy the office staff was answering phone calls. She also expressed the need to be patient to and to keep in mind that there are hundreds of parents calling the sites and to give them time to get back to them. She encouraged parents to go in person if unable to reach someone.

- Emphasized the importance on being connected to Class Dojo since that is the way many of the teachers communicate with the parents. Rancho Medanos also uses Remind and they have a School Remind account, that is how the principal communicates with the parents all the events and information they need to know.

Mrs. Aguayo

- Stated that she has students in 8th Grade at Rancho Medanos and the Physical Education is excellent!

Mrs. Guardado reassured the members that attendance marks can be corrected. She explained that this is why it is important that they communicate with the teacher in real time when they have an issue connecting that way the time is documented on the email you send them or the voice mail. You can also reach out to the school administrators and let them know if you are having any issues. But, communicating with the teacher is the first person you need to attempt to communicate with.

Mrs. Toledo

- Mentioned that it is difficult to contact the schools since not everyone has personnel that are bilingual. She wonders why the district decided to cut the positions of Parent Liaisons when they are essential and they play such an integral role in keeping parents connected and informed. The district should reconsider reinstating those positions since they are really needed in our community especially now.
- Emphasized the fact that there are a large number of parents present that are from Rancho Medanos and maybe that's why it sounds like Rancho Medanos has more complaints, when really they are doing all they can to help the parents.

Mrs. Bernal

- Agreed that the positions of Parent Liaison that were cut need to be reconsidered because they are invaluable. They provide parents with a lot of the direct support and are available to answer questions. She shared that she is getting a lot of questions now from parents asking her for information and support.
- Asked, how are English Learners receiving support at the elementary level?

Mrs. Guardado explained that English Learners at the elementary level should be receiving 20 minutes of ELD during Universal Access time. During these 20 minutes, the students should be receiving direct support from their teacher to develop English. During these 20 minutes teachers can use either our Wonders ELD materials or other supplemental material to help support the students. They should also complete 20 minutes of work on Imagine Learning which is an adaptive program that works on developing and reinforcing language and literacy skills. ELD support at the secondary level looks a little different since at the secondary level we have designated ELD teachers that provide our EL students with language support during a dedicated class period or periods for our newcomer students. Mrs. Guardado shared that two of the three ELD teachers are the junior highs are here joining us tonight, Mrs. Rodriguez from Hillview and Mrs. Martinez from Rancho Medanos. Ms. Beverly joined us at the beginning but logged off.

Mr. Alvarado

- Had questions regarding the Group A and B. It is a little confusing to understand when each group is supposed to sign in and log off. This makes it difficult on parents who have younger kids since they have to help keep track time when to log in and off.
- Mentioned that some of the independent work students are being assigned is just tedious work. Stressed that the work that students are assigned should be easy for students to navigate independently that way students do not have to rely on the support of the parent to log them in. This is something that really needs to be considered for younger students (elementary). He felt like this is not as difficult for older students but the age of the student should be taken into account when assigning work.

Mrs. Gonzalez.

- Shared that for her 7 year old student the schedule seems to be working fine. She received the schedule from her teacher with the details as to what her student needs to do and when as it is easy to follow. Since the teacher gives her all the information it is easy for her and her student to stay on track and do all that is expected both when she is in class and working independently. She mentioned that she feels this might just depend on the teacher and the information that is shared with parents.

Mr. Alvarado

- Stated that he just wants to make sure that teachers take into account that not all parents are available to provide their students with the support they need all day. So, it should be something that is taken into account, independent work and the directions should be easy and clear for the student to be able to do on their own.

Mrs. Guardado thanked the members for their input. She shared with parents things that they could do to help their students with distance learning. She recommended to parents the need to:

- Designate a learning space
- Create a schedule
- Limit distractions
- Check-in with you child
- Communicate with their teachers
- Don't forget to exercise
- Don't be a helicopter
- Take care of yourself

Mrs. Guardado showed the members examples of how they can create learning spaces for their students by purchasing a tri-fold poster board. This set up will help minimize distractions and can serve as a signal for the rest of the family members that the student logged in. Mrs. Guardado shared with the members that we have received reports from teachers that inappropriate language is being used in the homes and being picked up on the zoom sessions as well as family members in inappropriate attire that make it embarrassing and distracting for the students. The poster set up can help by minimizing that time of disruptions. Mrs. Guardado also mentioned that another tip is to have the students use headphones that way they can focus better and can also ensure it does not pick up the exterior audio.

Mr. Moreno

- Having students wear headphones is a great idea when they are working independently but not such a great idea when it comes to knowing what the teacher says regarding homework. If students have headphones on when the teacher is giving directions and instructions as to what the students need to work on independently then the parents are not aware of what was said or explained. This is especially difficult for the younger students if parents are not aware of what they are supposed to do because they did not hear the instructions.
- Made the suggestion that when teachers assign the independent work or homework they communicate it in multiple ways and not just verbalize it over zoom. The parents should have a way to have a schedule and written information regarding the assignments. Teachers should have a standard location where they post that information so that parents can access it.

Mr. Alvarado

- Mentioned that is important to teach the students to know how to silence or mute the microphones that way it does not pick up the noise or comments from other family members at home. This will help minimize the disruptions that are happening by not muting themselves.

Mrs. Escobedo

- Shared that time goes really fast and her 1st grader seems very engaged. The teacher is well prepared and sends information to parents to help them stay organized and know what is expected. She suggested that teachers should not assign a lot of homework given how much time the student is on screen.

- Stated that the PE teacher at PHS has not assigned anything to her student and wondered what she should expect given that the teacher has not connected with her student.

Future meetings – Dates and Topics

Mrs. Guardado explained to the members that this year we started our DELAC meetings earlier than usual per member request. Typically our first DELAC meeting is in October to give school sites the opportunity to identify their DELAC representatives and establish their parent leaders. So, although we will have two meetings prior to our October meeting, October will still be the meeting where we will introduce the new DELAC representatives. She then asked the members to give input regarding what topics they would like to see discussed or presented at the next meetings. Two of our meetings in the Spring are accounted for since those are the meetings that we have in February and March along with DAC to give input on the Consolidated Application and our LCAP process.

Mr. Alvarado

- Suggested that we make time to go over the topics that were not covered last year due to the Shelter in Place. The two topics that were not covered were Special Education and Social Emotional Support.
- He mentioned that he was glad, that some other schools, are doing well with Special Education but feels Willow Cove needs support in this area.

Other members agreed with that request. More support in how to help their students with distance learning was requested as well.

Mrs. Guardado shared that we have a new Special Education Director that she will reach out to and schedule some time to have her come talk to DELAC. She would do the same with regards to Social Emotional supports.

Announcements/Update

Next DELAC Zoom Meeting will be Monday, September 14, 2020

Mrs. Asdourian asked the parents to send her an email with information on their student's name and school to the new parents present in the meeting. lasdourian@pittsburg.k12.ca.us

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 PM.