

September 16, 2013

small meetings behind the scenes. His motion would be one of just an announcement to be a responsible government body. Bad government makes bad decisions. Co-Chair Belisle indicated that he would be happy to discuss Robert's Rules with Director Buel at a later date and thanked Director Buel for recognizing that we do have Board policies and protocols for our

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IN-PROCESS UPDATE: DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION EXPANSION

Debbie Armendariz, Interim Director of Dual Language Programs, reported that the materials provided to the Board were very raw and staff has not landed on a specific decision. Ms. Armendariz stated that staff was moving ahead with feasibility studies. There are expansions of programs that we would like to do, and we have applied for a grant from ODE for a Vietnamese dual immersion program.

Director Regan noted that there have been tensions between having immersion programs vs. a neighborhood school strand. What are the challenges and opportunities of a full school model? Melissa Goff, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, responded that the challenge was around neighborhood school attendance and opportunities to site programs in communities where you have high native speaking populations and sustainability in those neighborhoods as they change over time. Groups may no longer live in the neighborhood that has a neighborhood school strand.

Director Morton commented that he was inspired that we were creating a process to look at this in the future. Also, the sense he gets is that this is a community driven interest as well.

Director Regan stated that she would like the Board to think about a process issue of allowing public comment on non-action items. Director Regan suggested looking at making a preference to allow heritage students to attend immersion program if their neighborhood school does not have one. Currently, our enrollment and transfer policy will not allow it. Ms. Armendariz responded that staff could take a look at that and try to leverage their decisions in the best interest of the students. Co-Chair Belisle stated that a factor could not be race or ethnicity. Ms. Armendariz responded that staff would not use race, but rather the fact if the student was a native speaker.

Co-Chair Knowles mentioned that she would like to know the cost for implementing each recommendation that is proposed. She would also like to know all of our language magnet programs. Ms. Armendariz responded that Richmond was the only magnet program, all others are neighborhood schools. Co-Chair Knowles reminded staff that it was important to think about parents and travel to the immersion programs and asked what we were doing to consider attrition. Ms. Armendariz responded that staff wants to have programs that are so strong that kids want to stay in them. Sometimes families move outside the District and there was nothing we could do about that.. When we are beginning programs, our preferred way is to start a program with two Kindergarten classrooms so that you have enough children to sustain a program, even with attrition. Staff was partnering with SACET so that we are aligned and collaborative with their thinking. We are also looking with Human Resources to see if we can staff the programs differently and have a more aggressive recruitment.

Director Buel asked if we were making sure the children were getting a good, solid education in the immersion programs. Ms. Armendariz responded that there are benefits to our students that go way beyond what we can put on a graph with testing. They tend to have teachers that are diverse who bring their cultures to the classroom. Director Buel questioned if there were teachers on the committee. Ms. Armendariz responded yes, and that they were listed in the Board packet.

ADJOURN

Co-Chair Belisle adjourned the meeting at 7:50pm.