

# Superintendent's Lay Advisory Council (SLAC)

## AGENDA & MEETING MINUTES for Monday, 1/13/25



### Attendees Present:

- Acting Superintendent Dr. Dale Reimann
- Secretary **Laura Boniello Miller** and Co-Secretary Jennifer Spatz
- Guests: *Dr. Sharon Schaefer - Director of C&I, Mrs. Linda Long - Supervisor of Multilingual Learning, Mrs. Jennifer Kaufmann - K-12 English Language Development Consultant*

### • SLAC Members:

#### **HS**

- ☒ Melanie Allen
- ☒ Jill Speizer
- ☒ Anne Marie Swinehart
- ☒ Laura Boniello Miller
- ☐ Sharee Livingston Anderson

#### **MS**

- ☒ Jackie Wachinski
- ☐ Meghan Ryan-Keller
- ☒ Alex Massie
- ☒ Janny Kim Lee

#### **Landis Run**

- ☒ Shannon Zimmerman
- ☒ Cindy Ferris
- ☒ Melissa Grosh
- ☐ Marie Dennis

#### **Brecht**

- ☒ Landon Detweiler
- ☒ Michael King
- ☒ Abby Fiorentino

#### **Bucher**

- ☒ Libby Muehlbach
- ☒ Katy Miller
- ☒ Soraya Hintz

#### **Neff**

- ☐ Rachel Levine
- ☐ Kisha Johnson

☐ Lori DeTemple

**Nitrauer**

☒ Allie Hardy

☒ Karin Gemade

☒ Danielle Schmehl

**Reidenbaugh**

☐ Vivian Montoya

☐ Jessie Styers

☒ Madison South

**Schaeffer**

☐ Jennifer Spatz

☒ Michelle Frisby

☐ Adam Hosey

**Members Absent:**

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1. Attendance & Welcome

*a. Dr. Dale Reimann, Acting Superintendent*

2. Approval of 11/11/24 Meeting Minutes

*a. SLAC Leadership*

*b. Soraya Hintz motion to amend meeting minutes:*

- i. Dr. Reiman answered concern that there was tech in the bathrooms and there was follow up to speak to the administration at the middle and high school for adult supervision for the gym class (during changing).*
- ii. Add bullet to high school pick up. Dr. Felty added that she would get a committee together to help improve the athlete safety pick up area.*
- iii. Alex Massie seconded the motion to amend the meeting minutes*

Follow up from the previous meeting (Dr. Reimann)

- Halo sensors in the bathrooms
- Adding that equipment to the high school bathrooms (approval to be requested from the board at the next meeting.)
- Dr. Reimann will look into the follow up for the athletic pick up area (was previously assigned to Dr. Felty)

### 3. EL (English Learners) Services Presentation

- a. Topics: What are EL services? Who is eligible? What do services look like?
- b. *Presenters:*
  - i. *Dr. Sharon Schaefer - Director of C&I*
  - ii. *Mrs. Linda Long - Supervisor of Multilingual Learning*
  - iii. *Mrs. Jennifer Kaufmann - K-12 English Language Development Consultant*
- c. Four characteristics of English Learners:
  - i. age 3-21
  - ii. Enrolled or preparing to enroll in elementary school/secondary school
  - iii. Not born in the US or native language other than english
  - iv. Difficulties in speaking, reading, writing, and understanding of english language sufficient for learning
- d. 408 English learners across the district
- e. Top Language is spanish (44.3%)
  - i. Nepali is 8.5%, then Vietnamese
- f. Public schools have a responsibility to ensure equitable treatment in education (not equal, but equitable). Differentiating based on individual needs or designing with equity in mind from the beginning.
- g. Program Description: aims to increase an EL social and academic language proficiency. Instruction is delivered by certified ELD teachers and non ELD teachers during core instruction
  - i. Ensure supports, understanding, and access.
- h. Delivery models:
  - i. Pull out
  - ii. Push in
  - iii. Newcomer
  - iv. Sheltered ELA
- i. Supporting our students & families
  - i. Case meetings
  - ii. ECOS meetings
  - iii. Welcome meetings
  - iv. Community Partnerships
- j. EL Student Profiles
- k. Accommodations Guidelines
- l. Collaboration with departments
- m. Schoology Group
- n. Professional development

### 4. Questions:

- a. Alex Massie asked “what does the environment entail (home spoken language)”

- i. What they are looking at is what is the language spoken at home or in their living situation. How has another language been a part of that? Has it been a part of their experience such that English is not developed as well. There is an interview process to get an idea of the extent to which another language is in the home.
- b. Karin Gemade asked “Can a parent opt their child out of ELL classes if they feel their child's English level is sufficient even if English isn't the native language of the parents?”
  - i. Yes. They can opt out. It may be a detailed process to make sure that the parent is informed.
- c. Jill S asked “Are there opportunities for the non-ESL students to hear about the experiences / feedback (provided they want to share their story)?”
  - i. Yes, teachers are encouraged to be sensitive to potential triggers and to also encourage inclusion of the different cultures and experiences of students
- d. Soraya Hintz asked “Are PTOs advised on how to socially include and remove barriers to entry for ELs for the events PTOs support at the schools?”
  - i. Yes PTOs are encouraged to consider students who are perhaps in need of access, invitations in home language, etc
- e. Soraya Hintz asked “Are non-EL host families (perhaps who share the ELs language) assigned to ELs?”
  - i. Nothing across all buildings but could perhaps integrate that more broadly into welcome meetings
  - ii. Could be happening through conferences but is not formalized throughout the district
  - iii. ELD family night forges connections between families
- f. Alex Massie asked “cafeteria ee here...I have witnessed EL Students come in without anyone to assist and have difficulties in understanding and communicating how lunch works”
  - i. Ask others for assistance (principle, other staff etc)
  - ii. High school has buddies for lunch
- g. Karin Gemade asked “Does the high school currently have ELs that are exchange students and if so how does the district encourage the host family?”
  - i. Yes, same as other students.
- h. Shannon Zimmerman asked “Has/Does the federal gov't ever change the definition of English Learners? Can you share about the MTSD graduation credential that students can receive? I recall hearing that this achievement applies to ELL students (dual language credential).”
  - i. Has not changed since 1965

- ii. Graduation credential (dual language credential) - PA Seal of Biliteracy offered to Seniors. If students can demonstrate proficiency in english and another language, they can earn the seal of Biliteracy.
  - i. Soraya Hintz asked “Especially for immigrant learners is it standard for there to be a "tour the school" that happens prior to their first day?”
    - i. Yes. Happens for every student and that includes newly arrived immigrant students
  - j. Janny Kim asked “If we hear of anyone who want to offer help (support or mentoring/buddies) for immigrant families, who should we contact at the MTSD or the specific building?”
    - i. Linda Long, email - longlil@mtwp.net
    - ii. Jennifer Kaufmann, email - kaufmaje@mtwp.net
5. New Business
- a. None
6. PTO Sharing - Reflections & Questions
- a. App access on FID days and supporting immigrant families
    - i. Elementary students were trying to sign on to apps during the FID day and they were unable to access certain apps (but need to know the apps.)
    - ii. Teachers were helpful and responsive
    - iii. There is a number on the website to the tech department if there is an issue
  - b. If a student does not do their assignment because of access, there is a follow up to make sure that internet access is not a barrier.
    - i. Need to provide alternate means

Motion to adjourn: Landon Detweiler, Motion, Jill Speizer Seconds the motion.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mission Statement</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Nurture and challenge for success.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>North Star</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>To create a welcoming and supportive environment where all students, staff and families feel a sense of belonging</i></p>
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