



Chicano Latino Affairs Council
Education Committee Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2012

Board Members: BM Margaret Villanueva, Chairwoman; BM Krystell Escobar

Staff: Hector Garcia

Community Members: Mary Lou Drebach, OHE; Mary Cecconi, Parents United

Agenda Item	Discussion/Action Summary/Motions Adopted	Follow-Up/ Timeline	Person(s) Responsible
Welcome & Review of Agenda			
Conference call with Allison Shurilla, Project Coordinator HACER	<p>Alli from HACER reported that they have gotten most of the rural sites on board with the research they are doing and they are still working on getting the urban schools on board. Owatonna, Worthington, Northfield and Willmar have been confirmed. And they are in communication with Austin. They have come up with a barrier with the St. Paul Public Schools, one of the schools HACER contacted requested a district research approval which could take months to complete, but Hector is working on getting that taken care of because so many of the school identified are in that district. In the project, the focus will be on high schools to keep consistent and to focus on workforce development.</p> <p>ED Garcia asked if any schools in Hopkins MN were identified as a school to do research. Alli responded Hopkins High school was put in a second tier, part of the top 15. Then ED Garcia commented that because of CLAC's relation with the Hopkins District, they could be a part of the pilot project.</p> <p>BM Escobar asked if there emerged in the schools, programs that are not directly sponsored by the schools but by other social organizations or community sponsored programs that may also be contributing to the success of some of these schools. One of the finding they are seeing in both the interviews and the literature is that building connections in the community is a big part of being successful in supporting students. For example, things like building connections with other schools in the area or churches or</p>		

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	<p>business and this is being said by students, and families.</p> <p>BM Escobar pointed out in the status section of the report from HACER, to be as specific as possible in terms of timing because it will be important to the General Board. Alli commented that in that section, there are three schools left for the end of the August but it is more likely that it will be extended.</p> <p>ED Garcia asked if Alli could let him know if she is the one who will identify the impediments to replicating best practices. Alli said she could add it to her recommendations, and that will also be a part of the discussion that BM Villanueva also discussed in terms of barriers that keeps schools from implementing programs.</p> <p>ED Garcia asked if the committee and the members from the Education Advisory Committee send him their recommendations from this discussion by email so he can make sure HACER can implement them.</p>		
Review and Discuss Education Report			
Board Meeting/Retreat Sept. 8 th	<p>Mary Cecconi spoke of her involvement in pushing the department of Education to use the Joyce Epstein model which focuses on partnerships in elementary schools. In her research she found that if you honor and work with cultures. And the main component is that family engagement is not an add on, it has to be there. Right now the people Mary is working with in MDE are Elia Bruggeman and Deb.</p> <p>The old model depended on parent trusting the education system and they would join PTAs and raised funds for the school to use. Now new parents don't trust the education system so the old model does not work. BM Villanueva commented that in St. Cloud the Latino Community feels like the schools just feed them information they did not ask for. Mary explains that this does happen because schools don't want parents making decisions in terms of choosing books or the curriculum and they shut the whole thing down.</p> <p>MDE filled out a waiver; in the wavier they had to set up a new accountability model. In the new accountability model it measures how many students are proficient, how fast the school is closing their achievement gap, how much everyone in that school is growing, and what is the school's</p>		

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	<p>graduation rate. This model is on its first year and it only depends on the MCAs Test.</p> <p>The intent from the Commissioner is to highlight the schools that have achievement gaps and are closing them. This will allow the ability to see which schools are closing their achievement gaps at a rapid pace and find the reason for their success then try to replicate it.</p>		
New Business			
Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 1:37 pm		