

Coffee with the Executive Director

English Meeting Minutes

4/15/2020

12:00-1:00 p.m.

28 participants

Mercedes opens the meeting at 12:05 with a welcome to the Wednesday Coffee. Shares that it is so good to see everyone because even when we aren't together, you are all always in our hearts and on our minds. We all know we are doing the best we can as mothers, fathers, teachers, and and...We are all traveling in a direction that we have never traveled and we are all doing the best we can. The opportunity of the Coffee is to discuss what is working well and what isn't going well and to hopefully bring solutions to the table. It may also be an opportunity for you to share how you feel. We can't do anything about how you feel, but there may be a request or need begin it we can help you with.

Mercedes shares that we have many staff members on the call and the questions can be directed to anyone. We have our Academic Dean, Dr. Shirley Moux as well as many teachers and even our school nurse. Greets, Nurse Kim. Glad that she is on the call because this is an opportunity for her to connect with parents. This is a great opportunity because I know you may be connecting with parents via office hours. Once you give us those office hours we will be posting them.

Kim shares that she is looking forward to that and connecting with parents. She is looking forward to it.

Mercedes also shares that we have many other staff members on the call including Sylvia Simmons, our ED, our Culture Deans, our leader of the hotline, our maven of the hotline, Ms. Pat Johnson. Our GR Director, Lisa Flynn is on the call. We also have our Director of Communications, Mayara Costa, as well as Jen Jones who is working with our digital platform.

Mercedes reminds that this is your call. Please unmute yourself or contribute in the chat.

Staff members please also know that if you have something to contribute, you too can unmute yourself or contribute in the chat.

Parent shares that she just got off the Zoom check in with Ms. Organek and Ms Cosme. Something came up with one of the parents. The Math is in Spanish. One of the parents brought to the attention of what if a parent doesn't speak or understand Spanish. The teachers advises that you can use Google translate, but we know that isn't always effective. The parent offered to reach out to the other parent on a one on one basis to help. The parent shares that she personally underappreciated teachers way too much . This has brought that to her attention. Ms. Organek also suggested that she attend the Zoom call. The parent shares that perhaps we can set something up so parents can help one another. The other parent texted her and they set something up so that she can help the other parent at the end of the day because at the end of the day, we have to get the assignments done.

Parents shares that, it is dope and she is in.

Dr. Shirley thanks the parent for stepping up. It also bring what Hispanics have struggled with their entire lives. It brings to light what students have struggled with, not only Hispanic students, but Turkish , Chinese, African, etc. This is something that children struggle with all over the United States. Thank you for bringing this up and ..dog barks, unintelligible

Parent shares that she is always happy to help wherever she can. Whether it is helping an English only speaking family or even a Spanish only family. She is open to that. She knows other parents are willing to do this as well.

Mercedes asks if she can asks a question of all. She believes a lot of parents are starting to feel deep in their bones what their children are going through. People are starting to see the rigor of what their children are doing on a daily basis. Learning content in another language is much is much more than learning Spanish. But, I hear your offer, but is there an ask or a request behind it.

Parent shares that she is thinking that perhaps the school can set up a time for parents to connect to help one another. She knows of the child in her son's class, but she doesn't have the ability to reach out to all.

Mercedes shares that she is imagining that between herself, Mayara, Jen Jones and perhaps a few others can sit with the parents to discuss how we could push this initiative forward.

Mayara shares that she would like to apologize because she can't connect on her compute today and only her phone. But, she agrees that they should sit together to discuss, but there is a lot that needs to be defined.

A parent shares that the PTO is created a private Facebook group. It is being translated right ow so all have clear directions in both English and Spanish. This would be the perfect platform for that. We can even set it up with threads by grade level.

Mercedes asks how will it work in terms of communicating it out.

The parent shares that they will be sending the rules for approval to Mercedes and once approved they will share it out. People will have to request access and once approved they can begin connecting with other parents.

Mercedes shares that it is wonderful. This really shows how parents are stepping up and supporting one another. If there is any need for support, Mayara and she will get on. Keep us posted.

Parent shares that she thinks Facebook will be a great resources for many parents.

Shirley shares that even using Facebook Live to help students. She knows that parents, teachers, and other staff members have created videos and it helps. We know that it is our present and our future, so we want to thank you for the lovely support that we have with parents and parents helping each other.

Shirley asks if Mercedes wants to share about how a parent in Columbia is helping right now.

Mercedes shares that when on the Spanish Coffee last week, we learned that there is a parent who lives in Columbia. He spends 2 days a week completing the work with his student. He also speaks English so he may be of help to the PTO as well. But the way in which he is able to connect to the platforms and help his student is testimony to the human will. He put his mind to it and doing what he can do.

Shirley shares that he is also helping other Hispanic parents deal with Maravilla, Wonders, and Mis Mathematicas.

Mercedes asks if there is anything else that someone would like to let anyone know.

Reading Assist Reading Interventionists is wondering if there is a way to get in touch with students. She has been able to get in touch with all except for one. Could she call the parent who's contact information she has or should she ask the Nurse if she has any other contact information.

Mercedes ask that she send an email and maybe someone on the call can type the names specifically, but send an email to Wilma Almonte, Danielle Benson, Kim, myself because someone along the way may have a better number with how to get in touch with the parent. One of us may have another number that is not on eSchool.

RI repeats the names.

Mercedes confirms the names.

Kim asks if she can interject.

Sure, Mercedes.

Kim shares that Class Dojo is another great way of communicating.

Mercedes shares that their teachers have access to Class Dojo. You may want to reach out to the teacher and ask them to write a message for you.

Kim shares that it also translates.

PTO Parent asks a question of Ms. Jones. Is there a way to send a video to teachers through messaging. She hasn't seen it but she didn't know if it is a capability that just needs to be enabled. I know we can send pictures, but not sure about video.

Jen believes that it is now a feature now that they are doing Distant Learning. But, she will have to double check because it has been added since her time with using Class Dojo. She will check and get back to the group.

Michael A and Shirley share that you can create a link and open it from their. You send a link to the teacher and the teacher can access the link.

Michael A shares that you must first download a certain app which he can send and help her with.

Shirley confirms that it is separate from Class Dojo.

PTO Parent shares that they will be doing Teacher Appreciation Week digitally. There may be some who want to do a video and share it with the teacher but may not feel comfortable with sharing their video somewhere else first. But, let me know.

Parent question about Class Dojo. Does Class Dojo allow me to print because one of the teacher sent the homework assignment for math. I am able to open and expand it, but for whatever reason...typically if you hold it down it will give you an option to print, but it is not giving me the option. When I do attempt to print it out, there are blocks with black ink or it is distorted. She didn't know if it is possible or if there is a way,

Shirley shares that if you download the app, the McGraw Hill app, you can see the workbook, you can even write on the worksheet and the teacher can see it

The parent shares that she tried it but it is asking for an administrative log in.

Shirley shares that she needs to contact the teacher. The teacher simplified the password, but she does have the actual password.

Parent asks if she can send the link to download the app. There is a easier way to get to the info with out..Once you download it. You just click open and it will automatically launch, but you need to use Google Chrome.

Shirley, shares that if you are trying to log in and you cannot, check your browser. Our platforms need to be used on Google Chrome.

Parent shares that that would be important to share with the families. She was contacting the teacher last week because of issues using her Surface. But, they were thankfully able to work through it.

Jean shares that you may also want to make sure you are close to the router. Stay as close as possible to the Wi-Fi so you can get better connection.

Parent shares that the app itself is coded for tablets. There may be glitches because you are using a webs based program on tablet.

Shirley shares that that will all work personal iPads, but not school devices.

Parents shares that Wayne has remotely downloaded all the info to school devices.

Parent question do you know if it is for Apple or Android.

Parent shares that it is for both. When you search it, you get two apps. Both work, but the one that has the sky and red banner doesn't have what you need as a parent to get it done. The connected app has the parent resources that you need. If you download on a hotspot, you can probably still do the work at home even if you do not have Internet.

Shirley shares that this is an amazing piece of discovery for our parents who do not have internet. The parent will share that info with Ruben and Jean.

Mercedes asks the question if this information can be shared with teachers.

Jen shares that yes, teachers have access. It was shared yesterday. The information is in multiple places. It is on the website, the platform, and teachers were asked to share it out.

Mercedes shares that it is important enough that perhaps we send that email again because it came up in the Coffee.

Shirley shares to please include that this is a resource especially for parents who do not have access to internet.

Parent shares that she will be making another video soon. The next video will focus on handwriting help. She shares kudos to all because there is a way but it is about the will. We are tired, but these are our kids The teachers are passionate, the staff is passionate. We as parents need to match that energy. Whatever we can do to help, let's help. Reach out to your teacher, Mayara, Mercedes, Dr. Shirley...

Mercedes shares that as she thinks about next year because she is always visioning out. We need to make sure that in the beginning of the year we go out about facilitating these parent workshops. I am thinking that we may never have another snow day again. We need to make sure that our parents are well equipped in the event this were to ever happen again. We need to take what we have done and think about how we can forward it. We do not want to lose momentum or this parent support. Not that you will be teaching form

home, but you will be so fascicle that a real partnership can exist. I get excited because of how this can impact future learning and future partnerships at La Academia.

Alex shares that as a SPED teacher because they are doing either one on one or group sessions, please try yur best to be on time with your kiddo because we are back to back to back with meetings. Please also make sure, which I know it seems silly, but students need to be fully clothed. Shirts are necessary.

Mercedes shares that I am glad that you said that. This is all a part of self care. This is also a way in which to teach our children etiquette as this is a way in which they may communicate in the future. What does it mean when you are in a classroom with your teacher. How you present yourself in the classroom with that teacher is very important. You ate giving your child a skill.

Mercedes asks that the PTO parent pass this information along when they are communicating with parents. We need help to get the message out their, of our parents being our students number one teachers.

Mercedes thanks the teacher for sharing

RI shares that she knows that teachers aren't teaching online, but more so through Dojo. She has seen an app called Adobe Captivate which allows people to make course content online. It is \$40 for a subscription. But, that might be an idea that teachers may want to use. Michael also messaged and say that she could also email teachers to add her to Class Dojo.

Mercedes shares yes, anything you can do to connect.

Shirley shares that you need to download and go in there. You have to download the app in order for them to include you and for you to accept.

RI asks for confirmation if it works better on tablets or computers.

Jen shares that it works on all platforms. Which makes it nice for teachers because they don't have to be in the classroom to use it. Once you go in, she'll get a notification and you'll be approved. Let Dr. Shirley know that she has been reset and approved.

Mercedes asks Mayara if she has any update specifically on enrollment.

Mayara shares that enrollment has been challenging because many parents did not have a time to come to the school, but we have been in contact with the parents and the parents have been on board with the circumstances we are experiencing. But, if you know anyone who is interested, please tell them to call the hotline. She will give Mayara the message to reach out to the parent. She would also like to thank everyone for being so proactive. Every week we have more parents coming. I hope the Robo calls are helpful. If you are having any trouble please reach out to me so that we can work out any glitches.

Question if we are only accepting Kinder and 1st.

Mayara shares that choice is closed, but if you know someone who is interested that is not in Kinder or 1st, please have them reach out to the school, email Mayara, or write a question in on the website. On the calendar, the only thing you will receive for this month about Professional Dev. Teachers will be unavailable so reach out on the hotline if you need assistance.

PTO Parent wants to thank the Specialists. As parents, we are focused on academics, but the light at the end of the tunnel is the kids being able to choose their Special. I for one am appreciative.

Mercedes reminds that it is not just for students. I was doing Chris Devany's daily dozen. But thank you for remind us, Anyone else?

Parent asks for a Zoom explaining how to download apps because hse is not very text savvy. She has had problems with getting things understood. Luckily, she is friends with someone, but others may not and they may be lost.

Mercedes shares that the Facebook page may be helpful for this as well.

Shirley shares that another parent has already done that.

Mayara shares that she is going to share the tutorial on the website as well as asking teachers to re send on Class Dojo.

Parent asks to make sure that it is re-sent to teachers as well because it will be a different link.

Mercedes shares that here are 2 more minutes.

Shirley shares that she is going to excise herself because she is going to problem solve with a company,

Mercedes ask if there are any other questions.

Parent shares that she is also willing to host any other Zoom meeting for parents who need more.

Mayara shares that that may be coordinated through the Facebook page.

Mercedes closes the meeting at 1:00 p.m.