

Coffee with the Executive Director (English)

Wednesday April 22, 2020

12:00-1:00 p.m.

28 Participants

Mercedes begins with a welcome and a thank you to all on the call. Reminder that the purpose of the coffee is just like it is when we are at school. It is an opportunity for us to have a conversation around things that are on y our mind or on your heart. Things that you are grateful to see or challenges that you would like to address. We may not have an answer for you but we can make sure that we do get an answer for you. I would like to welcome questions via the chat or you can unmute yourself and ask the question directly through the Zoom call.

Parent question in chat: Is there any way to get the Spanish workbooks in English.

Mercedes asks Dr. Shirley if she would like to jump in to answer the question.

Shirley shares that our math classes are in Spanish. When we purchase our workbooks we must purchase what is shown in our Charter. Therefore, our books are purchased in Spanish so that they match the Spanish teacher books that are purchased. That does not mean that a teacher cannot provide English translation as needed, but we cannot provide books in English that are taught in Spanish.

Mercedes shares that any follow up can be done via the chat or you can unmute yourself.

The parent unmutes herself and asks if she is heard.

Mercedes confirms.

The parent asks if it is possible to get the.....I'm not sure what it is referred to as, the ISBN Number from the books? She contacted McGraw Hill and they are able to match up the books by some number on the teacher's books so that she would be able to purchase the same one in English.

Shirley asks another parents if there is an app that parents can access where they can download the book.

The parent confirms, that yes, once you download the app, you can download the books. But, you can only do Mis Mathematicas.

Shirley confirms that because it is to match the teacher's editions.

The parent says the best way to translate it is to go to the app using Google Chrome. If you go using Google Chrome you will be able to translate it.

The parent shares that her child is in 5th grade and she is not as concerned with him being able to match the teacher's edition, she is more so concerned with him being able to continue to make progress. Since being out, he has completed the 5th grade curriculum and is beginning to work on 6th grade curriculum. He was behind while in school and therefore she had purchased a curriculum.

Shirley shares that if you go to My Math, if you want, you can purchase the first edition, but if you want to purchase it, you can purchase My Math.

Parent shares that she purchased My Math Volume 2 and it was about \$14.00.

Shirley shares that she believes that it is the one he should be doing.

Parent shares that if you have Google Chrome on your phone, you can point your phone at the text and it will translate it in real time. It will not be a perfect translation, but it will give you the gist of it . It will leave the text in Spanish so she is still getting the Spanish foundation.

Mercedes asks a clarifying question. When you say he finished the curriculum for Imagine Learning and Dreambox, do you mean he finished the curriculum for Mis Mathematicas as well?

The parent says, no. He was struggling so she is going back and re teaching herself and him. When he was using the online platform, by the time he began to understand what he was learning the teachers were going on to the next subject so he didn't have time to apply the learning that he had just acquired.

Shirley shares that it is an easy fix. The deadlines can be extended for him individually.

Mercedes confirms the question to ensure that we are speaking about the same issue.

Parents confirms that her child finished the reading program, Imagine Learning.

Mercedes asks if the parent can PM Shirley the name of the child, the phone numbers, so that they can discuss next steps. She has a few different options that they can do to help.

Mercedes thanks the parents and says she will be in good hands with Dr. Shirley.

Parent shares that her son is doing his work and they have a schedule, from 10:00 -2:00 p.m. The only issue is that for each day, she needs the work listed. The Spanish teacher makes it easy so she knows what needs to be submitted each day. The English teacher shows what needs to be done for the week. She is not able to submit for each day to mark his attendance for the English. Once you submit for the English you are not able to submit for the rest of the week. I am not sure if other parents are having this issue.

Mercedes asks if the child's teacher is on. Is it Breyana Smith?

Mercedes shares that it is a bad connection.

Shirley shares that she will verify with the 1st grade team. She believes that sometimes you can assign per week and sometimes you can assign by day. Ask if when you go in, does it list by day?

Parent says all of the assignments are there, but some of the assignments are duplicates and some of them aren't there . But, I find it easier for parents who have other obligations if it is set up for the day. Because when I log out for the meeting, I prefer for him to keep going instead of having to come downstairs....My concern is if it is possible for each assignment to be by day for English because I find it easier for him to complete it in Spanish because of the way it is listed.

Shirley will check into it. Thank you, parent.

Mercedes asks for the next question or comment.

Parent says that her child has his Zoom meeting at 3. From 3-3:15. Is it possible for them to do it longer than 15 minutes or is there an restriction? Is it possible to do it longer? Her son is an only child and she would like for him to be able to interact with his classmates.

Shirley shared that if she would like her son to socialize more, you can also create your own Zoom account and create Zoom playdates.

Parent asks if you need to get permission from the teacher or make a suggestion?

Shirley suggests reaching out to the Facebook page and asking if other parents have kids who would like to interact.

Michael also shares that the student can also attend the Specials' Zoom meetings.

Mayara shares that Wednesdays are a busy day for Zoom meetings. The Specialist have meetings as well as Ms. Meri has meetings to.

Mayara shares that it is shared on Dojo and that she will repost it on the link as well.

Wilma shares that Danielle Benson the Dean of School Culture and Climate meet on Tuesday from 12:15 -12:45 p.m.

Wilma shares our SES, Ms. Jones and Mr. A also have a time on Thursday to connect. It is open to anyone and it is a time to just connect with one another.

Mercedes shares that the time period was shortened for safety. That was the rationale for the shorter period of time but that is why we have multiple opportunities of time.

Shirley shares that it is also because of their attention span as kids in Kinder and 1st grade have shorter attention spans that older kids.

Parent shares that she will add that to his daily schedule since now he has 2 more opportunities.

Parent begins to speak, but freezes.

Mercedes shares that it is difficult to hear her.

Parent shares that she is in the woods.

Mercedes shares that you are frozen and we cannot hear.

Parent shares if you type then we will be able to read it.

Mercedes says you can try again, but I don't want to miss it.

Parents thanks for the help with adding to his calendar.

Shirley thanks the parent for reaching out for solving such a problem as socializing as that is the purpose of this platform.

Mercedes reminds parents of staff members who are on the phone if they would like to direct questions. Questions can go across the organization as we have folks who can answer for all these areas.

Parent asks a question to Mr. Alverio. We paid for a full wrestling session and the kids only got to do 1. I saw the check was cashed. Will we get a refund? Question 2, only I was able to. I needed to reach out to Mr. Dan, he is a 5th grader, but Mr. Dan wasn't getting back to me , but Mr. Dan was having issues with his email. Her son wasn't getting anything from Mr. Dan. Mr. Dan said he wasn't getting any work from his son.

Mercedes asks for clarification on when this was happening.

Parent shares that this has been since this started. Mr. Rommel has gone out of his way to help us, even on a Saturday. But every time I send an email to Mr. Dan even on Class Dojo, it takes 3 or 4 days to get back to me. I understand that we are all going through things, but I need to make sure my student is ready to go to 6th grade.

Mercedes shares that the piece around Mr. Dan can be done through PM with Shirley and she can get back to you. You would not be in better hands for that piece. Mr. Alverio can address the other piece here since it pertains to the whole group. I want to make sure the student gets everything that he needs and I want to make sure that it addressed privately.

Mr. A shares that for the afterschool program what they are going to do is whenever we come back to school, we are going to continue with these classes. For your child, since he is in 6th grade....

Parent interjects that she thinks as parents that eve if they start on May 15, parents have to be careful.

Mr. Alverio shares that if we do not go back on May 15, you will be refunded.

Parent shares that even if we go back on May 15, should we be touching one another. Social distancing will be very important.

Mr. Alverio shares that in her case, the money will be refunded.

Parent asks Mercedes if there has ever been any information that has gone out about reaching out to Dr. Shirley about issues.

Mercedes shares that this is the venue that Shirley is available to the whole group.

Mercedes asks if she means in regards to having issues with the teacher?

Parent shares that she didn't know she was available for questions about being kicked out of the program.

Mercedes asks if Mayara can get on to speak about where that information can be found.

Mayara shares that we have posted a lot of information about where parents can go to get connected. This meeting that we are having right now has been happening every week. Shirley has been in the meeting since it began. No emails have been sent. Our school has a small amount of parents who have emails so information has not been sent in that way. The information is posted on the parent Portal, it is sent through Dojo, and we have these meetings.

Shirley shares the reason that the student cant connect to Imagine Learning is because he has finished the curriculum. He was given a certificate and was recognized at school. We purchased a curriculum for students who completed imagine Learning called Imagine Reading which is a curriculum for 6th -8th grade. As far as the other curriculum, he may need to access Google Classrooms since that is where some of the work is being completed. But, I have posted my telephone number and if you would like ot share yours we can work through it together.

The parent thanks Shirley for the information as she wasn't aware of the him completing the curriculum. She understands that other parents don't have an email, but that is to her problem. She didn't know.

Mayara shares that she is glad that the parent is here today because in last week's call ,the parents who had email said that they preferred to get info through Dojo. We need feedback from parents.

Parent shares that she is not usually able to come to the meetings because of her work schedule and that from 4-5 she has a schedule for her son after school. She even asked the school to not set her up for anything at noon because she needed to speak to her son's school.

Parents thanks the staff members for their help. She has the telephone numbers and she will reach out to the appropriate people. Because right now he is doing a lot of stuff with Mr. Rivera. Right now, he works form 9a.m – 3pm so he is working for a long time. So, we want to make sure that we keep him working and one way we can do that is making sure we keep open communication. I will do my best to come to the Coffees. If I can't come to the English Coffee, I will come to the Spanish Coffee because I want him to be ready for 6th grade.

Mayara shares that that is exactly what we want as well. Also, if you are not able to come to the meeting, be sure to go to the parent portal because the meeting minutes are available to be read in both English and Spanish.

Mercedes asks who else would like to asks a question or comment.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to getting through these questions, which is why it is so important to have everyone on the call.

Parent asks that if students do not return as of May 15 and we end up closing the school year out with technology as the learning way for the children. Are there any concerns about children not being prepared for the upcoming grade? Are you ..have you heard anything about things over the summer. What is the worst case scenario that you are being faced with if we do not go back to school on May 15th.

Mercedes shares that it is a great question and the question about whether we return is heavy on all of our hearts. I do not have any more information unfortunately; you know I would tell you guys. But we have not receive any update or directions from the Governor in the event that we return or we don't return and what options will be available to us Those are very big questions that none of us have answers to. As soon as I get more information, I will get out communication. I am sorry that I do not have more information.

Parent shares that she understands. She just wants her son to be prepared for what is to come. Her main concern is to make sure that he is prepared for the next grade because they do not speak Spanish in the household. As much of the tools that that are available I know how important it is for him to be exposed to bilingual speakers. It is important for me to make sure that he is not behind.

Mercedes shares that we have a bi weekly call with the state to let them know what we need in terms of support. I believe where the rubber meets the road is we may need additional funds or staffing in September to make sure...I don't care what school you are in, or what means you have available to you, this is an unnatural way to learn and some are not learning...but we will need the resources in September. You as parents, as much as you can hit our Governor with letters and communications, in a time where you may want to cut the budget, we need to make sure that we are doing everything possible to provide financial assistance because that is when we will need the help. We need you to flood our legislators our senators. That is what I am saying to the Board as well. Does that make sense?

Parent shares that anything she can do, she will do. Knowing these things will help her to do her part.

Mercedes thanks her and tells her to pass it along.

Parent question about will students have access during the summer.

Mercedes shares that some platforms are teacher run. The platform that are teacher run will only be available up until June 12 because that is when our 10 month teachers are finished.

Mercedes asks Shirley to speak to Dreambox and Imagine Learning?

Shirley shares that Imagine Learning and Dreambox are available through the summer. The only thing she has to check is when the contractual date ends. For Imagine Learning...

Mercedes interjects in regards to 5th graders, they will have access through the summer, but after that the licenses have to be given to incoming kindergarten and rising 4th graders. For example for the other parent who's student is now on Imagine reading, access will more than likely end August 1 because of the data roll over.

Shirley shares that she needs to check for Dreambox, but for Imagine Learning , Imagine Reading and Imagine Espanol they will be available through August 1.

Jean shares that for 4th and 5th graders, Google Classroom will be open .

Parent asks if there is an end to Imagine Spanish and Imagine Reading? Does Imagine Spanish and Imagine Reading end?

Shirley shares that yes, when you get to the end a certificate will pop up. Usually at school, the teacher takes a picture of the child and they get a certificate that goes on the wall of fame. But ,Imagine Reading is very hard to finish because we just started it.

Parent shares that they finished Imagine Learning in December but she didn't want her to finish Imagine reading and not have anything to do.

Shirley shares that she has a lot of work to do in Imagine Reading. It is strictly reading. It is very high learning. I guarantee that she will not finish it for 1 to 2 years.

Parent share sin chat that there are parents who have volunteered to help with Spanish and English translation through the Facebook Page.

Mercedes asks when the Parent Facebook will be launching?

Mayara shares that on last piece of information needs to be reviewed and approved by Mayara and Mercedes.

Mercedes shares that we are going to shoot for early next week.

Parent ask about graduation. I have been waiting for so long. What are we going to do, are we going to do virtual? Kindergarten was wonderful and I was looking forward to it.

Mercedes shares that we have created multiple plans but we can roll out those plans until we have direction on whether or not we return on May 15 or extend the closure. I know that these students were part of the founding class and it is heartbreaking knowing that there are milestones that may not be celebrated in the traditional way. But, we can't roll out until we have direction with which way we are going.

Parent shares that perhaps they could even get a yearbook.

Mercedes asks that parents stay tuned as parents will need to be a part of the conversation just to gather ideas so we can go back and make some decisions.

Parents thanks Mercedes.

Mercedes asks if there is anything else.

Parent shares a summer party?

Mercedes shares that that would be great, especially if it is someone who we have not been sequestered with!

Parent asks about Kindergarten graduation.

Mercedes says that Kindergarten is the same. We will have more information once we have direction.

Parent asks that once the restrictions are lifted, if there is a chance for the kids to see each other in person. Because it looks like they are going to pass the school year. His child misses school because he misses his school friends.

Mercedes says that she understands, are you talking about something like a reunion?

Parent says yes, perhaps they could have a gym class where they could see each other and do something.

Mercedes shares that the challenging thing that if this goes through June 12, confirms that you are referring to in school..

Parent yes

Mercedes shares that if it goes through June 10, our teachers are 10 month employees, but you know me, I am always open to creative ideas, but we have to be aware that we will lose our teachers on June 10. The details of how we would do that would fall heavily on us. But, I am open. I am open to figuring out how we can do that in a safe way.

Parent says that yes, I think it is important so that the kids don't forget what school looks like and get pumped for next year.

Mercedes shares that yes, we will certainly talk about this and I will be happy to go offline with parents.

Mercedes closes the meeting at 1:05 with a thank you for pushing us to be better. Ask Ms. Tera Taylor to stay on and we will have our coffee next week.

Shirley asks for the parent to send her number.

Parent shares that she already sent it, but will resend it.

Shirley asks Mercedes to stay on so that she can get the number.

Meeting closes at 1:06p.m.