

May 20, 2020

Coffee with the Executive Director

English Meeting Minutes

24 Participants

12:00 – 12:55p.m.

Mercedes opens the meeting at 12:06 p.m. with a welcome and a thank you to the Parent Booster Club. It was very helpful to have the Minutes so the Admin Team could work to problem solve to what came out of the meeting. Wilma has something that she would like to share later that we were able to brainstorm that came out of the meeting. We will talk about that later in the Coffee.

Mercedes welcomes some of the staff members on the call.

Mercedes says remember that this is your Coffee to share whatever is on your head and on your hearts.

Parent shares that she was unable to attend that meeting (PTO meeting). Will she have access to the Meeting Minutes?

Lolita shares that she will check with Jen. But, she believes that they are being shared on the Parent Portal section of the website.

Mercedes shares that she knows that Meeting Minutes help her when she is unable to be in 10 places at once.

Mercedes asks what is up for the group as it is a beautiful day...a little chilly...but beautiful nonetheless.

Parent asks, with the Spanish subjects, they have been doing their best. But, yesterday, her son was not really into answering back in Spanish. She still submitted the homework in English, but should she still push for Spanish.

Shirley shares absolutely not. It depends on the student's level of understanding. When we talk about language we are talking about listening, reading, speaking. For the younger students in Kinder and 1st it is easier for

them to speak because they may not have the language yet to be able to write it or produce it.

Parent says that that is helpful because she has been pushing...but she isn't sure.

Mercedes says think of it as a baby. As students are growing, they first develop receptive language, the capacity to understand. She will be able to do what you tell her to do but she won't be able to talk back. Then she will be able to begin to speak back. She will be able to eventually string words together. And, then she will get to the reading and the speaking. But, it is a process. It begins with receptive and then it becomes the expressive. Think about growing a baby. It is the same way a language gets developed. Be patient. Let him do it as he does it.

Shirley shares that if you put him on Imagine Espanol they are repeating vocabulary. They are learning how to repeat and how to say the word. That is why we encourage kids to do Imagine Espanol because it will help them learn and develop where they are. But, Maravillas and Mis Matematicas have to be in the Spanish grade level, but that is why we brought in Imagine Espanol.

Mercedes thanks the parent as she is sure she is not the only parent in that situation.

Parent question. She was taught Spanish in a very different way as her son is being taught in Immersion as opposed to how she was taught in a Spanish class. She see that her son is getting frustrated, but she thinks that is the point of it.

Mercedes shares that she was learning Spanish as a foreign language which is very different from home her child is using it. He is using the language to learn the content. You were taught the basic communication schools, but they actually...that is why when we introduce parents to the school we say that this is not just about the language, this is about teaching them content through the second language. The second language becomes a tool. The experience is very different. The rigor is very different. It is going to be a process which is why the learning is supported with realia, props, and picture. The good news is that the more fluid a child is in their first language. The more they have their first language in tact as far as the 4 skills, the more that transfers into the

second language. The struggle is normal. It is normal. Be patient. Help them find the clues. Put a detective hat on. Keep putting it in that context.

Shirley shares that in Imagine Espanol, there is native language support. Are the instructions in English?

Parent say no.

Shirley asks for the child's name and says she will check during the conversation. Imagine Learning does support in the native language in order to make up for proficiency and support the curriculum.

Parent shares that she is typically doing the translation for him since she knows the words. But, because she wasn't taught that way, she wasn't sure. She had no idea because she wasn't taught that way. She has been Google translating and he has been sitting next to him because he needs a lot of help.

Shirley confirms that he is in Kinder which is the hardest. But, he will get there as he gets older. She sees 1st graders working even in small groups without the teacher.

Parent shares that she can speak to that. Her child is in 1st grade and it does get easier. He is able to understand more. He even is able to tell her some things. Next year, they know more and more and more. I know now that with him working at home, he does know a lot more from last year to this year.

Mercedes shares that as the child progresses, it is the expectation of the teacher to allow less and less English as they move along. It is the teacher's job to make sure they transition from responding in English to responding in Spanish because otherwise they will only develop the receptive language. I use the example of my daughter. When she was young, if she wanted milk, I wouldn't give it to her until she said leche. And eventually she learned that she had to respond in Spanish so she would develop the expressive language. So at your children's age it is very natural that they are working in the receptive.

Shirley shares that she double- checked and the student was set to Spanish as a default. But, as the child progresses. The program will begin taking more support away.

Mercedes shares that these are good questions.

Mayara shares that she is scared. How will she teach her child all three languages?

Mercedes shares don't worry, you will make mistakes.

Mercedes shares that the School Counselor is on the call as well as Mayara and the teachers. Please take advantage of the breadth of who is on.

Michael shares that the Specialist are recording the times for their classes. After the class, they put the recording on Zoom. So if your child is participating in something with the Culture Club...Team or Ms. Meri, your child can see the live recording later.

Mercedes shares to please not miss the classes. I think that I have seen it all and then the next one comes. I just had seen Holly Bendezu's class and then Chris Devany's please..I wish I could show what they are doing. It is super important to provide the balance for your student. Do not miss these. Get on whatever time you can. They are a treat. It doesn't matter what age you are. I just watch them and smile and then forward them to the Board. I think the Academia staff and faculty are some of the greatest in the world.

Mercedes shares that the SPED Team is here so make sure you are asking your questions.

Shirley shared that she did Michael's video and a strong recommendation to stretch first parents.

Michael shares that you should stretch. He will make a video for stretching later.

Shirley thanks him for stretching for the elderly.

Mercedes asks what else is going on.

What else.

Speaking of Specials and Parent asks if students are receiving grades or is it participation. Sometimes they don't get to Specials because of the Academics.

Michael shares that right now it is focused on participation. They do not want to add stress to the students as they are focused on the Academics. If they want to, they can send a video or picture, if they want to. But no stress. Just have a good time and have fun.

Mercedes asks what else. We have the nurse on too. We can ask nurse related questions.

Parent wants to congratulate Mr. Alverio for being Teacher of the Year.

Michael thanks him.

Mayara formally thanks the Parent Booster Club for the amazing basket with crochet. And thank you for the amazing t-shirts for teachers and paraprofessionals that we will share on our Facebook page today. We are quarenteachers. We Roll with it!

Parent shares that they were created by Logo Works.

Mercedes shares that Shirley, Lisa, and herself were there to hand out to the teachers on Monday

Mercedes asks Wilma if she would like to share what has been created by the Culture team.

After seeing the feedback, beginning this Friday, our Compassionate School Team will launch the Fun day Lunch Bunch. It will give our students an opportunity to connect during the lunch time. We are inviting the whole community to join us. Teachers, families. It will be on Friday at Noon at K-2. At then from 12:30 -1:00 p.m. will be 3-5th grade. We are having fun planning and haring. You can join with your student or you can have your student to log in. It is part of our vision and mission to have joyful learners. It is not only about academics it is about our students being joyful as well. We know that these joyful moments are also important for learning as well.

Mayara shares that it will also be posted on Dojo.

Wilma shares that her 2nd grader know the phrase and is looking forward to the Lunch Bunch.

Wilma shares that K-2 will be from 12:00 -12 :30 p.m. and 3-5 will be from 12:30 -1:00 p.m.

Mercedes asks does this mean you and Danielle will on lunch duty?

Meri shares that she will be there too!

Mercedes shares a question on ESY.

Pat asks if Sylvia has any early thoughts on ESY.

Sylvia hares that we will definitely have ESY. ESY is a service for students who have IEPs. It is a mandated part of IEPs. We do not know what it will look like as we will be planning it this coming week. But, it will definitely be occurring.

Mercedes asks Pat to please ask Sylvia if anything comes through on the hotline for SPED and ESY.

Mercedes shares that this brings her back to the IDEA award that we won today because of all that our parents are doing. She imagines that it was shared with the group as far as how the group was recognized.

Lolita shares that they shared following the award in February and then they weren't able to connect in person after that.

Mercedes shares that she was wondering how that information went out. The fact that the Charter Organization recognized this organization...everything that you guys are doing is more grist for the mill as far as what you are doing. Not that you need recognition of the charter world we hope you feel live and appreciate but we want to make it very clear that we love you and we appreciate what you are doing. We bring this up because we want folks to know that you guys are not only recognized in the community but in the larger community as well. So I cannot thank you enough.

Lolita shares that she appreciates it. Maybe we need to communicate I tout because I realized that maybe we only shared it in the group. It would be a good idea to recognize them again. There are a lot of people who do things behind the scenes not just me. But we are so passionate because everything we do goes back to our kids.

We will have our next meeting on a Saturday so that we can include more working parents. We saw new faces this past Saturday. If not one more this month than definitely one next month. We will keep this up through the summer.

Mercedes shares that this is going to be very important this year. Our Culture Team has been very intentional. Endings are so important. It is been co designed with our Responsive Classroom Coach so that we can honor all of

the hard work your student has done so that we move into the summer with closure. This is a very important ending and we are going to be very intentional and strategic.

Danielle shares that it is a bit early and we don't want to be presumptive, but we will be focusing on bringing closure to the school year so they have a sense of ending and are able to start the next school year refreshed and rejuvenated for the next school year.

Wilma shares that we are being intentional and helping our skids end with a sense of hope.

Mercedes confirms parents question around ending the school year. The last day for student and teachers is June 12.

Shirley shares that remember, kids will still have access until August 1 to help children retain their language learning through- out the summer.

Shirley is not sure if Dreambox will be available, but she will get back to the parent on the next Coffee regarding that answer.

Shirley shares that there are also free resources that you can use in the event that Dreambox is not available such as Prodigy.

Parents asks around recognition. I know during the school year, Shirley was doing recognition for the students and that was super meaningful. Should I talk to his teacher about printing certificates for my student.

Shirley shares that that is all a part of the end of year planning.

Parent shares that yes, she was paused because she received a call.

Mercedes tells the parent to tell him to hold on.

Shirley shares that it is a part of the end of year. We are going to be doing certificates with general information around their yearlong progress. We are still talking about other things. But, yes, that is to come.

Mayara shares that Monday May 25 is a holiday so parents keep in mind that there will be no connection for student. Zoom will resume on Tuesday.

Mayara confirms that it is Memorial Day.

Mercedes asks if there is anything else.

Mercedes thanks everyone for being there. If there is nothing else, she doesn't want to hold anyone up.

Question comes in chat. Are the everyday Zooms mandatory or just for kids that need extra help?

Mercedes shares that she believes it is a class lesson, not just for kids who need extra help.

Shirley shares that they are to help students to understand what they are supposed to be doing. It is not just for kids who need extra help. Especially because our teachers are going to be doing special activities through here in fact our teachers are receiving professional development about how to end the school year. The reason we are doing these meetings is because parents requested it which is why it is recorded. So this counts for participation.

Parent says that ok she will move things around so her child can get on.

Mercedes says yes, get her on.

Wilma shares that it is a great way to transition out of the Zoom meeting to the actual work in the platform.

Mercedes confirms that she is talking as a parent.

Mercedes says she doesn't want to keep you guys on, but we certainly look forward to next week. Have a wonderful long holiday weekend. Just take care. Thank you all for being here.

Lotlita asks that the group not leave yet. She wanted to mention that they are going to be having a hangout time for kids to chat a little bit. That is all she wanted to say.

Meri shares that she is hoping that that is what her chat time will be, but it hasn't happened.

Mayara shares that we saw that on the notes. When you look over the schedule, it is happening across the schedule. It happens informally when Wilma and Danielle connect with them on Tuesday. Wednesday when Meri connects with them. Thursday with Cesar and Abenlemah and then on Friday with the Lunch Bunch.

Lolita shares that hopefully we will get more connection.

Mercedes shares that the kids, especially the little ones. They don't associate things with Monday Tuesday Wednesday. So for our kids it is important that we differentiate. We don't want to send mixed messages since they are not aware of the differences between a Monday and Friday. That's why we have specific social times for them to jump on. So that way our teachers don't have to wrangle them in so much during the instruction time.

Lolita shares that it Is not just on the school. We are trying to come up with different ways for them to connect. They are wanting to connect with the kids in their class. But, we will see how it goes. I will get my kid on.

Meri shares that that is her hope for her chats.

Mercedes says she hopes that rationale makes sense.

Mercedes asks are we good? Ok. Take care.

Mercedes closes the meeting at 12:52 p.m.