

Coffee with the Executive Director

May 27, 2020

Meeting Minutes (English)

22 Participants

12:00-12:51 p.m.

Mercedes opens the meeting at 12:00 p.m. There are lots of people on the call from different parts of the organization so make sure you extend your questions across. We have our school nurse. Say hi Kim. We have our Academic Dean, Dr. Shirley. We have our Deans of Culture. We have our Director of Communications. We have our teachers on. So it can be of that nature...that nature...what was that about. I can just keep talking so I am going to mute myself.

Ok, that didn't last very long. Anything? What is going on for people.

Lolita says, did you have something to say, I didn't want to cut you off Mercedes.

Mercedes says no. Go ahead.

Lolita asks about medication. I know it has been mentioned before, but I didn't hear anything.

Kim shares that next week teachers will be in to pack up student belongings and they will be packing it up. If you are in need of it sooner, you can come and get it I am here everyday.

Mayara clarifies that instead of two deliverables. It will all be done on one day. When you come to pick up your students belongings, it will be ready the same day.

Lolita confirms that she doesn't need it before than.

Mercedes shares that many medications are expensive and if a parent needs the medication before the time of pick up, please have them reach out to Kim to make arrangements.

Mercedes says hello to Sylvia Simmons from Special Education.

Lolita shares that it occurred to her that the Spring book Fair was cancelled. We are not having a book fair obviously because even virtually it would be tricky because not all families use debit cards or credit cards. Is there a way...you know how I am...I want books in the hands of all the students. Is that something I should bring up now?

Mercedes shares that we do have the free library outside that I am stocking all the time. I know parents are driving by and getting books. I even sometimes leave stuffed animals out there and they are all going so somebody is picking them up. Did you have something specific in mind?

Lolita shares that she knows that when they have had scholastic dollars they could potentially use those to buy books and put them in the bags for the students. Many students only have access to what they have in their homes so they may not be reading a lot. I am not sure if the libraries are open.

Shirley shares that Imagine Learning and Imagine Espanol does provide digital books to kids. I know it is not the tradition books, but they do have access to books. I strongly recommend all students read so that they will not fall behind.

Lolita shares that it does make sense. Speaking from her own child's experience, he has access to hundreds of books on his tablet, but he doesn't like to read on there, he likes to have the book in hand...

Shirley shares that she does too.

Lolita shares that she is just thinking out loud. She wants all the kids to read. Maybe there can be a reminder that go out.

Shirley shares that maybe we can do a letter about a reminder for the free library.

Mercedes shares that she believes that we should construct a letter with how to remind parents about what they can do for the summer, perhaps Meri could even bring in a Social Emotional piece. But, I hear that need that we can craft a letter that provides guidance for parents with what they can do in the summer lull.

Shirley shares that she agrees and that she even has books. She would much rather have them in the hands of students that in boxes.

Mercedes shares that we will definitely write that letter and get that out from the Culture and Academic side.

Mayara shares that perhaps we can reach out to Scholastic and see if they are donating books.

Jen shares that right now Scholastic is pushing the online piece but Lolita is right as far as parents not wanting to use credit cards. She is not sure what the turn around time is with sending things. She did post resources on the portal from the library.

Meri shares that one of her sisters works for Scholastic and she is back to work. She is not in Delaware but she knows that they are packing up books and they do a lot of donations.

Lolita shares that she has Esther's contact info so she will call and ask her. That is a good idea to call and see if they will do a donation.

Shirley shares that there are other companies that ...maybe I should write that down. Like the Lego magazines. If you go in and fill out the subscription you can get 6 free books a year. There are other things that are free that we can find and give the information to our parents in English and Spanish. It is free and they will receive it at their house. Just imagine how exciting that is. I have done that with my kids before and they love it.

Mercedes shares that she is thinking that we can put this on some part of the portal. Summer ideas, summer. I don't know ...something that we can put front and center on the page that can help guide parents during the summer. It could be academic, it could be social emotional. I don't know. It may not be a letter, but having it all in one place.

Lolita shares that it would be very helpful to have it all in one place. Bringing it up to parents would be helpful.

Mercedes shares that you have got her thinking, stop it!

Shirley shares that there is a calendar that can help parents with developing certain skills. So we can come up with a calendar for our parents.

Mercedes shares yup! So what else is on your mind. Especially given with going from 10 people to 250 people. I think it is crazy!

Lolita shares, yes, I think it is crazy as well! We have some questions about 5th grade graduation

Mercedes shares, yes! He could not have come up with it at a better time. Like yes, you guys can come up with another plan.

Lolita shares so you didn't come up with a 250 plan, instantly.

Mercedes shares that, I think what we need to remember is that the schools remain closed which is why we are looking at this and saying we need to stay steady. It will still be a nice celebration. We still don't know the outcome of this. Literally overnight, the long weekend is over, and then it was 250. I don't know where it came from. We do not know what the outcome of that circumstance is going to be.

Mayara shares that his order for June 1 and the graduation is for June 9. So we do not know what the outcome is going to be. I don't think we should expose ourselves to a situation that is so unstable. I don't know how this decision was made suddenly after this period of closure with COVID.

Mercedes shares, right.

Shirley shares that the numbers didn't make sense. Zit would make sense to jump from 10 to 15, and then maybe 15 to 50 but not to 250.

Parents question. Mercedes shares that the question can be asked in Spanish and we will translate.

Parent question (translated) whether or not for 5th grade graduation if they would be able to travel in two cars. Answer, of course there are going to be families which is why we did some staggering. There will be families that are too large to fit into one so you can bring additional cars. There was a question around could they bring a pick-up truck and because they are going slowly, can they put a few kids in the back of the pick-up truck. Response, yes as long as you are not going off into the highway and you are going slowly.

Question translated: Where there any additional guidelines for the 5th grade. Response. They were already sent out and delineated in the letter. They will be guided along the way. When they get to the building they will be guided and when they get up there, there will be a parent volunteer photographer to take the picture of the child, only the child will get out of the vehicle to take the picture. The photos will be uploaded to a website for parents to access.

Parents may take their own pictures but they must take them from their own cars.

Question translated: Whether or not there will be a table where the 5th graders can leave notes or gifts to different members they have connected with or want to give something to as a sign of appreciation from their time at Academia. Response: yes, we will let the 5th grade now. There will be a table where they can leave memorabilia or notes for someone.

Lolita shares that that is so sweet, she loves that idea.

Parent response, in Spanish.

Jean speaks in Spanish.

Mercedes translates that the student is wonderful and how well prepared the student is to step out I the world. He is well resourced and how Mom should be proud from the labor of love of being his mother.

Mercedes thanks Jean for that.

Mom shares that she is thankful and she really appreciates that.

Parent question about Dreambox. For Dr. Shirley. She was talking to her teachers and she has completed up to the end of 2nd grade and is beginning 3rd grade in Math, but, she is getting the certificates, but she has no more ability to click on the fairies or animals and she is almost done with the pirates. Will it restart so that she can do 3rd through whatever grade it ends, I think it ends at 6th grade....(Please go sit, I am talking)...

Shirley...Hello?

Parent says did you hear me.

Shirley shares she didn't hear the ending part, but all she knows that Dreambox is pretty different form Imagine Learning. Even though she did complete 2nd grade there are still skills that she didn't master. I think the teacher would have to reassign the skills that she didn't master. Dreambox is not like Imagine Learning where it puts you in the next grade, she would have to ask about that. In terms of her ability, if I were you, I would go into Prodigy or Cool Math. Right Jean? Because prodigy and Cool math will help her with the fluency and key concepts she will need to learn instead of just the concepts in ...Because remember, she is learning Math in Spanish.

Parent says yes, right now she is relearning. She knows it in English, but if Ms. Gonzalez ask her in Spanish it takes her a minute.

Jean shares that right now it is a good time to move on. Right now, with Prodigy, it is highly interactive. It is educational videos and games. You can let her be in because she is not going get tired of it. She will be thinking she is playing games but in reality she is learning educational skills.

Shirley shares that that is the limitation of Dreambox. It doesn't have a self - tutor. It has to have so much teacher involvement that it can't meet all of the needs of the student.

Parent shares that she was worried about that for the summer.

Shirley shares that she recommends Prodigy and Cool Math. The kids love it.

Parent shares that she hadn't heard of it, but hearing Shirley say it she will look into it.

Shirley shares that the kids have been doing it in Technology so she knows how to do it.

Parent and Jean thank Shirley.

Mercedes asks if there is anything else.

McCall says that he doesn't know how many 5th graders he has on, but he is trying to put the 5th grade class singing the school song online. He is hoping to put it on. The sheet music is online already on the portal under his thing. There is also a video describing how to sing it. Any 5th grade parents share the word if you can. I don't know how many parents are fluent in sharing the online information, but I like to share it any time I can.

Mercedes and Mayara thank Greg.

Mercedes shares that it is going to be awesome. Thank you, Greg.

Mayara wants to clarify to a parent who joined a little bit later. In the beginning, we were talking about medication. I know you were waiting about Scholastic books for your daughter. But the day you come to pick up your belongings will be the day you come to pick up your medication too.

Parent thanks Mayara.

Mayara asks if there are any more questions.

Wilma shares that she would like to remind everybody that on Friday we will have our Lunch Bunch. On Friday we had a great time. It is just that space for families, teachers, and staff to connect and to play. It is a part of who we are. It is not only our mission to have life long learners, but to have joyful learners as well. Fridays at 12:00 and 12:30 p.m.

Parent shares that the Lunch Bunch was really fun.

Mercedes shares that she wanted to play, but they were ignoring her answers.

Parent says that yes, it was so important and fun for kids to know that they can do it together.

Mercedes shares that yes, it is so important and it is such an important reminder that we need to engage that portion of the brain.

Parent shares that she compares it to when her child goes to the park. She says ok Mommy, I am going to go and make a friend.

Mercedes shares that yes, kids are great reminders of that.

Michael shares that he would like to share an update on the Jump Rope for Heart. They are still accepting donations online. It is a process so it takes time. But the prizes will be there. Hopefully in August. We have kindergarten who collected \$240. I may share the name if I get permission from the parent later this week. We will have a letter that will be going out.

Mayara shares that yes the letter will go out this afternoon on Dojo. She will also be sharing it with teachers this afternoon.

Lolita says a question for Ms. Meri. Her son asked her to show it to Ms. Meri. He thought that maybe if you had a different game or more interesting game, maybe we could play it. There is a game they have called "Go Find It." So it has words like heavy. And you would go find something heavy. So he thought that maybe you could play it during your call today.

Meri shares that she will love it and that her son can direct it.

Mom shares that she will listen in and remind him to be kind.

Lolita shares that that is something that parents would like to do during the summer. They are open for suggestions for what kids can play over the

summer as they are apart. Because they are not getting together even with the 250.

Mercedes shares that it is great. Some of us need more information and that is to be respected. It is all good.

Michael shares that most of their videos are YouTube so kids can still access that over the summer. The videos can be done over and over. They can practice the skills over the summer

Mercedes shares that that is great and confirms that Jen is still on the call. That will be so important because we can include that list of videos for the summer list. Thank you for the reminder. I really appreciate that.

Parent speaks in Spanish. Translation not provided.

Mercedes asks if there are any updates for the calendar.

Mayara shares that no we do not have anymore 4-day weekends. Just to keep up with building hope. Thank you and let's keep up until the very last day We are almost there.

Mercedes thanks Mayara. Any other reminders from any other staff and faculty. Are we good?

Mercedes closes the meeting at 12:51 p.m.

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