

## CEC 2

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## CEC 3

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### Joint CEC2 / CEC3 Multilingual Committee Meeting Summary

**Date:** Monday, 6/10/19  
**Location:** The Clinton School (Library), 10 E. 15<sup>th</sup> St  
**Time:** 6:00 PM

**Committee Chairs:** Maude Maron, CEC D2, Lucas Liu, CEC D3  
**Committee Members:** Amy Cheung, CEC D2, Chihlan Lu, CEC D2

Meeting started with attendees introducing themselves and talking about their interests and experiences related to dual language education, programs, personal experiences and children learning or retaining their heritage language.

Attendees included current and incoming CEC members from Districts 2 & 3, District 2 Superintendent Donalda Chumney, parents of ELL and DL students, teachers, DOE Office of Food and Nutrition Services, and NYSED.

#### Starting new DL programs

CEC2 goal is to start new DL programs and support existing DL programs. District 2 Superintendent Donalda Chumney has been Superintendent since January 2, 2019 and is interested in supporting and growing DL programs.

Olga Ilyashenko spoke about the effort to start the Russian DL Program at PS145. Support received from families and getting support from other organizations. Identifying a school, getting the Principal's support, and identifying teachers. Low enrollment even though there was significant interest prior to the program starting and during its first year. However enrollment is up this year. Many feel the program is underfunded.

There was a discussion around identifying a school and principal willing to start a new DL program, and challenges: 1) look for a probationary principal, 2) new principals more willing to work with people, and 3) look to see what is going to happen within the school and what would be next step for students, and how will help student's development.

Discussed Special Education and bilingual education, many D75 students are misidentified as ELLs. There needs to be a solid early screening mechanism in place.

Benedetta Scadovi Mounier discussed the process and challenges she and others went through to start the Italian Dual Language program at PS242. Had a campaign multiple times to get families to register online or at the school. School needs to get families to actually enroll.

Schools should try to create a cultural environment, French DL programs are supported by the French Consulate. It is a continuous effort to maintain awareness of programs.

#### Challenges to starting and maintaining new DL programs

Maintaining 50/50 ratio is difficult. With many 3k and pre-k programs students may not be categorized as ELL when assessed in K. Working group with DOE and Linda Chen, Mirza Medina and Hydra Mendoza discussing challenges for DL programs and what can be done to support DL programs such as changes to policies, what funding is needed and how to improve outreach to families.

Emily Little discussed how 163 is facing the possibility of bridging in their Spanish DL program due to low enrollment in their 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes and how parents have been meeting with Principal every 2 weeks to keep everyone

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informed and making sure everyone is doing what needs to be done to recruit families into the program. Need to be on top of administration to ensure they are following up with families. Principal held a “Café” to meet with and inform PS163 non-DL Spanish speaking parents about the DL program and to recruit new families. Current DL families also reaching out to recruit new families from other schools who are interested in Spanish DL programs for their kids. Parents need clarification on how to enroll out of zone families who are interested in program.

PS87 discussed how they promote their program, many emails, texts, speaking in person to parents. Establish annual events. Also a good way to start fundraising and keep parents updated.

Office of School Nutrition discussed how school menu is created and how it needs to be approved by the state, can be a 2 year process to add new food items, easy to adjust flavorings and seasonings. There are ethnic foods that are available as menu choices for schools to select. How can the schools lunch menu be used to share and support cultural awareness?

Fundraising via the PTA is needed, PTA can raise funds that support school, cannot fundraise to directly pay for DL teacher. Principal at times need to get creative with budgets.

Can there be dedicated fundraising? PTA and school committees have events. Not all principals are as familiar or adept at manipulating budgets. Is there a way to get DL program principals together to discuss challenges and solutions? Share best practices, and understand the DL process.

State has bilingual progression standards from PreK – 12 in speaking, listening and writing, need to make sure appropriately implemented in schools. Falls on schools to make sure standards are properly implemented.

A Dual Language program requires additional costs. Parents in D30 trying to start a Greek DL program were told that it can be expensive, cost of teacher is \$100k. Can be challenging if the principal needs to replace a teacher in each grade with a DL teacher. Schools are funded based on the number of students, not number of classes. If schools fill each classroom, that will help to solve the funding problem. Each elementary school is funded approximately \$4,100 per Gen Ed student. If a student is an ELL, IEP or Title 1, school gets additional funding.

How can parents and teachers work together to advocate for DL programs? Teachers need to advocate to have multicultural days to bring in ethnic foods to the cafeteria.

### **DOE Policies**

What data is available? Teacher’s College and other graduate schools have data.

DOE has many programs and challenges they are trying to fund. We need to advocate for changes to the budget and policies. What policies need to be modified or enacted to support DL programs?

Need to make our needs and desires known and translate that into policies.

### **Funding**

Olga Ilyashenko highlighted what the Funding working group discussed. DOE currently feels DL programs are sufficiently funded. Need to ask parents to look at budgets to see if schools are using their funds efficiently. All district parents need to work together on a solution. Need clarification and training on what the SLTs do so parents can better understand.

CEC3 Multilingual Committee has been working to get funding for DL programs. DL programs and CECs need to work

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together to get voices heard. Cannot be done just by one district. CEC3 is creating a Facebook page for its DL programs. In D2 many families feel DL programs are for ELL students and fear grades will drop if student has to focus on 2 language. There needs to be an education process to inform parents of the benefits of a DL program. Increasing enrollment in DL programs will help solve some of the funding challenges DL programs face.

Principals need to hold informational sessions with parents to educate them on DL programs.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM

DRAFT