



English Learner Services Department  
District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC)  
October 8, 2020 | 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. | Virtual Zoom Meeting  
Minutes

## **Welcome & Introductions**

Alberto Becerra started the meeting by reviewing the norms for using Zoom, and explained how to change your name on Zoom if a parent is using their child's computer. He reviewed instructions on how to navigate the Zoom screen, to keep microphones off if not making a comment, how to use the chat box, use interpretation, etc.

He then asked everyone to unmute themselves and say their name and the school they are representing. He thanked everyone for joining the meeting.

The agenda for the evening was reviewed.

Alberto put the link to the minutes from the last meeting in the chat box for everyone to review and asked if there were any comments or questions; none were noted.

Alberto then introduced Dr. Lori Grace to share some important information.

## **District Information – Dr. Grace**

Dr. Grace shared information regarding Sacramento County moving from a purple color to a red color that allows our school district to think about bringing back students for in-person instruction. She said she presented different models on how to do this at the last Board meeting.

Dr. Grace shared the models presented at the Board meeting and provided information about our next steps and thinking about how to bring students back to in-person instruction; some information that's out there, and some things we have been doing to get input from parents, and answered questions about the models.

She discussed they have been doing listening sessions with English Learner parents, and some things they have heard from the parents regarding distance learning have been some frustrations that she said district staff placed into 3 different categories. Having children not being let into Zoom all the time; trying to juggle distance learning while their students are on Zoom; and connectivity and strength of internet connection.

She clarified we don't have a set date for return right now, and that's something they are going to talk with the school Board regarding the future Board Workshop. Returning to in-person instruction is still going to look a lot different. Will look like something like a hybrid model, meaning some will be in-person instruction and some will be Zoom instruction or distance learning.

Dr. Grace explained that most of the models being considered are having half of the students return in class while the other half of the class stays home and does distance learning and then flip-flopping that, where the other half of the class attends. She explained the regulations from Sacramento County Health Department require us to have lots of safety precautions in place before we bring students back to keep them safe.

She answered a question about having students who are working from home being able to stream in to the classroom with those students who are in person; and explained options such as this have to be agreed to by our teachers' union, but said these options are being discussed.

Dr. Grace reviewed the positives and negatives of each of the models she shared.

She said we do have a lot of parents concerned with sending students back, and a survey went out asking if your child wants to remain distance learning, because they are presenting an option for all students to remain distance learning for the entire school year. It may look a little different than what it looks like right now. May be some teacher changes that are necessary.

A parent said if they answer the survey now they may change their mind in January. Dr. Grace said they are doing their best trying to accommodate our students and our educators. She said if a parent changes their mind before we come back we will be able to accommodate it, but if it's after we are back they will have to work on it on a case by case basis. She said the whole presentation is on the district website under Board Meetings.

She said she would like to take a couple of questions. A question was asked about the DI program. Dr. Grace said they are still working to figure out how to work that schedule in both a hybrid model and distance only.

A question was asked if there will be health officials monitoring how the re-entry process is conducted, check-ups on how it's carried out to reduce the spread of virus. Dr. Grace said we have lots of staff on our campuses that will support the safety measures and our nurses have been amazing helping us monitor, and right now we have an independent company who is going through every one of our school sites and evaluating all of the safety protocols in every classroom to make sure we are ready to bring kids back.

A question asked what is the impact on students who return versus students who don't return? Dr. Grace said as far as grading that is going to remain constant. She said parents have to decide if the current model is working for their child or is it more important they return in person. She said we are doing everything we can do to keep our sites as safe as possible and follow guidelines, but also understands if parents want to keep their children in distance learning.

Another question, if our children remain at home will they get the same teacher or a different teacher? Dr. Grace said we don't know, it's possible they may receive a

different teacher, but we are going to try and disrupt our classrooms as little as possible. She indicated as in the second model she shared it is feasible we can keep them with the same teacher. We also know we have some educators who won't be able to physically come back and teach in the classroom so there will be some moving and matching students with teachers. She said we want to minimize this as much as possible but can't guarantee your child will stay with the same teacher.

Another question, what happens if a parent doesn't want to send their kids back to school? Dr. Grace said that's where we need them to fill out the request to remain distance learning. They should contact their principal if they haven't received the form and they will be able to send them the form to submit it and then they can be put on the distance learning list.

A question was asked how can we guarantee a student won't get infected when they return to school? Dr. Grace said we can't guarantee that, what we can guarantee is that we are going to take every precaution we can to minimize how kids mix and that's why we are working to keep them in small cohorts of no bigger than 15 to 17 students so that those are the only students they interact with when they are in person.

Some parents said they feel intimidated in filling out the form and feel that they will be excluded if they fill it out. Dr. Grace said the only thing we are using the form for is to identify parents who want to keep their children distance learning.

Dr. Grace said in order for us to open up the schools and know what model we can make work, we have to know how many parents and students want to stay distance learning, it is a really difficult situation.

A question was asked, for elementary schools what is length of time children will be at school? Dr. Grace said it is about 166 minutes, about 2 ½ hours prior to lunch dismissal, for the half day program. For the full day program it would be about 6 hours.

Dr. Grace explained that unfortunately we have teachers that have medical conditions that would prohibit them from coming back so that's why we will be matching some of our distance learning students with those teachers. She said we are trying to minimize the change in teachers for students as much as possible, to minimize disruption to students at this point in the school year.

Dr. Grace thanked everyone and thanked Alberto for allowing her to be on the agenda.

Alberto shared a comment from the chat box; very important that in one way or another students continue to learn and we should continue to stay positive.

### **The Purpose of DELAC/ELAC**

Alberto reviewed the slides shared with everyone, explaining our 3 focus areas, our district goals. He reviewed demographic charts and primary languages spoken within our district, with English and Spanish as the majority.

Alberto reviewed the purpose of the DELAC committee, District English Learner Advisory Committee. An advisory committee to the district local governing board on programs and services for English learners, to help us develop plans and is a venue that allows you to share information with us that we can then share with our supervisors.

The composition for DELAC, we have to have 51% of our members or representatives should be parents of English Language learners, the other 49% could be parents of students who are not English learners. An election process is to be held at each site to elect ELAC representatives. Some of this committee's responsibilities are advising the school governing board and provide feedback and advice on development of our district master plan for educating English learners.

### **English Learner Programs and Services**

Alberto reviewed the English Learner programs and services provided. They include translating documents and school communication in the appropriate language; having district level translators who attend meetings, etc. as needed, as well as using outside translating services.

A question was asked what happens if there is no representation from a school for DELAC? Alberto said we have been asking principals to put together their ELAC because that is where the DELAC rep is going to come from. We always encourage them to make sure they have a DELAC representative. He said it is kind of a disadvantage for sites who don't have a rep and that's why we appreciate our members who are present to share information with our parents and families.

The Home Language Survey process was discussed. It lets us know that we are going to administer the initial ELPAC assessment to a student. Prior to administering the test there is an initial ELPAC pre-test letter that is sent home. Alberto said if a parent gets the letter due to a mistake on the Home Language Survey they can make the appropriate changes to the survey.

Alberto explained that once the student takes the ELPAC, the parent will get a letter informing of the test results. The student will either be considered an English learner or English proficient. He reviewed programs and services provided based on their specific needs.

Since the meeting time was coming to a close, Alberto asked if everyone would like to resume discussing the remainder of this item at the next meeting, to explain the different programs we have in place to support our students under English Learner Services Department. Thumbs up were given

Alberto thanked everyone for joining us this evening and looks forward to the next meeting.