

Immersion Stakeholder Committee



12 April 2021 / 4:30 PM / Zoom

ATTENDEES

Amy Grundy, Harold Shaw, Helen Yung, Missy Brady, Jen Lougheed, Barb Silber, Fancia Tang, Ashley Sabo, Matthew Jenkins, Christopher Jackson, Fay Kennish, Cherry Gupta, George Peart, Dayan Knox, Jessica Annand, Rosalind Chang

AGENDA

Last Meeting Follow-up (N/A)

New Business

- Introductions/Acknowledgments
- The Way We Will Operate
- Our Overall Goals
- The Current Reality
- Sharing Our Interests
- Overview of the State Immersion Models/Current State of the State Models
- Collecting More Data
- Next Meeting

NOTES

- **Dr. Grundy reviewed norms, no one objected- option was given to add/edit later if needed**
- **Dr. Grundy reviewed Interest vs. Position Approach**
 - Use objective criteria and be open to multiple perspectives
- **Dr. Shaw explained the overall goal of the stakeholder committee and acknowledged our misstep of canceling the program before engaging the parents. Explained “stay” on the program meaning some form of immersion will stay, but the purpose of this team is to determine what it will look like.**

- **Data: Immersion Participation by Cohort: Decreasing interest over years**

- CJ asked if the 24 in current Kinder was all that applied for the program or the school's choice. Mrs. Brady explained that we were being proactive based on capacity and enrollment and asked DOE to support 1 classroom model since we were already at 95 feeder students.
- FK asked why we didn't pull more students in the program each year, for example the drop from 50 - 44 students from Kn to 1st grade, why not pull 6 new kids from the waitlist in. Mrs. Brady explained the DOE guidance of not allowing new students after 1st grade 1st MP. Dr. Shaw recorded the question to follow up on Choice Waitlist.
 - *Clarification from Helen Yung after meeting: It is recommended that after Kindergarten, that students or families who are wanting to enter the program are given an assessment to determine their language proficiency.*
- AS asked if the 110 is fire capacity, Dr. Grundy clarified it is capacity that board approves

- **Data: Immersion Participation by grade level: Feeder vs. Choice students**

- Dr. Shaw explained that the data shows a shift towards more choice students than feeder students in program
- MJ stated that this committee needs to create a plan to convert feeder students to Immersion students
- Dr. Shaw explained that if we get 50 students we will still have the concern over class sizes as students leave the program

- **Data: AAPL Assessment**

- Dr. Shaw & HY acknowledged that COVID could have affected the data
- FK asked how and when the test was given. Mrs. Brady shared in February by the 3rd grade Immersion teacher with Kindergarten Immersion teacher helping
- FK asked if families could be given the objectives for the test. Mrs. Chang explained that it is not a test children can or should study for
- HY explained AAPL testing in detail and will share more resources with the team
- MJ shared that he got information about the assessment and did practice questions with his 3rd grade child.

- **“Interests” Roundtable Activity:**

Dr. Grundy- *Interest in world language programs for students and also interest in balanced classes and equitable access for all students at Linden Hill.*

MJ- *Interest in students learning another language at a young age for a competitive edge in the world later. Interest in the program staying through high school and for his younger children.*

CJ- *Interest in his children and all children having more opportunities and pathways, Interest in Chinese because it has the most vibrant economy and understanding the language can open doors for children.*

FK- *Interest in building the program up so it can be a resource for the community. Interest in her daughter being exposed to more cultural experiences and for her to embrace diversity. This program is young and it requires a certain amount of hand-holding to be successful, I would like to see someone who wants to take a special interest in it at a district level.*

CG- *Interest and appreciation in the diversity and culture behind learning another language. Interest in her children and all children having the opportunity to join the program at any age.*

DK- *Interest in diversity, appreciating differences and other cultures, interest in an innovative program in a public school and it is more than just learning Chinese*

JA- *Interest in coming up with a solution where all stakeholders' best interests are taken into consideration, immersion and non-immersion students as well as immersion and non-immersion teachers.*

RC- *Interest and love of teaching Chinese and interest in helping to bridge the gap between program design and expectations of parents such as including more cultural and conversational elements to keep students interested and engaged.*

MB- *Interest in being a building leader and having the best school in the neighborhood, pride in the school, pride in the diversity present in the school, interested in celebrating cultures, interest in managing everything we want at Linden Hill while still thinking about all students, all stakeholders, staff contract and staff morale.*

HY- *Interest in being able to help grow global citizens, interest in supporting DOE buildings, teachers and families to find solutions*

BS- *Interested in the program giving children from bilingual homes to build relationships with other students in the program, interest in connecting cultures together.*

- **DOE State Models-** Helen Yung shared the Immersion state models in detail
- **Proposed Surveys-** Dr. Shaw shared 2 proposed surveys to gather feedback:

FK- Ask questions on a scale of 1-5 so parents don't have to pick one option

MJ- Feeder vs. non feeder question

MB- Is this the place to ask for parent volunteers- No

FK- Ask for a question about commitment through 5th grade

DK- Should we have an open ended question so they can be specific about what they like best

- **Exit Survey Feedback:**

FK- Add a question about why family left the program...challenges with Covid, student struggling etc. and a follow up question: would you return if your child received tutoring

HY- If you left for ____ reason, do you have suggestions or comments for ways to make the program better.

ACTION ITEMS

- **Revisit Interests**
- **Finalize and send out survey**
 - **Building Admin will share exit with families who have left**
- **Analyze survey**
- **Choice Question to follow up on: “Why were children who were waitlisted on the non feeder side not pulled in to round out (to 50) the Kindergarten classrooms and fill the other classrooms back towards capacity?”**

NEXT WEEK'S PROPOSED AGENDA *(meeting's occur every Monday, 4:30pm)*

- **Share/Revisit Interests**
- **Analyze Survey results- if available**
- **Showcase possible models/generate options**