

FOREIGN LANGUAGE IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (FLES) COMMITTEE

PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: January 9, 2008

MINUTES FOR FLES MEETING OF JANUARY 9, 2008

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Members present:

Ron Baker, Terman/Briones – Parent
Terry Godfrey, Escondido – Parent
Anne Jensen, Gunn – World Language I.S.
Jacqui Kandell, JLS - Teacher
Jennifer Landesmann, Addison – Parent
Beth Most, Nixon – Parent
Jenna Segall, Escondido – Teacher
Lonnie Spencer, Hoover – Teacher

Others present:

Becki Cohn-Vargas, FLES Committee Co-Chair
Marilyn Cook, FLES Committee Co-Chair
Corey Potter, Duveneck – Teacher

Welcome/Updates on the Board Process

Cook said the Board report would be available online on Friday, January 11, 2008 as part of the January 15, 2008 Board meeting packet, and that it would be the first item on the Board's Action/Discussion agenda. She also noted that this Committee's report would be followed by a state budget update, which was expected to reflect a possible downturn in funding to schools.

Review the Board Enclosure

Cook said the current version of the Board agenda item incorporated the additional items discussed at the last Committee meeting, but that it was not considerably longer. The group reviewed and discussed the draft report. Among the edits and clarifications suggested were:

- Data should be included to back up the decision to start FLES in third grade.
- The communicative approach should be more clearly defined and more should be written on the many cognitive benefits of this approach to language learning aside from language proficiency.
- The statement about proficiency on the second page of the report should be clarified and footnoted with reference to the OPI.
- It was agreed that "articulation" would be replaced with a more understandable phrase, such as "linked."
- Release time vs. instructional time should be clarified, and that it should be stated that the school day would be longer.
- "Additional Considerations" should be renamed "Necessary Steps."
- The "FLES Description" paragraph should follow "Student Outcomes."
- Item 8 on Page 4 regarding after school options if FLES cannot be implemented should be deleted.

Evaluate Our Work Together

Members of the committee evaluated their work together as a committee from October to January.

Approved:

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Next Steps

Cook noted that the January 15 Board meeting would begin at 6:30 p.m. and invited the entire committee to attend.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Approved: