

FOREIGN LANGUAGE IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (FLES) COMMITTEE

PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: December 10, 2007

MINUTES FOR FLES MEETING OF DECEMBER 10, 2007

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

Members present:

Ron Baker, Terman/Briones – Parent
Suzanne Barbarasch, Jordan – Principal
Susan Charles, Ohlone – Principal
Terry Godfrey, Escondido – Parent
Triona Gogarty, Greendell – Speech/Lang, PAEA President
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
Pat Hanley, Palo Verde - Librarian

Welcome/Agenda Review

Cook said community responses have been coming in, and were being tallied by Potter. In addition, Cook had prepared a draft Board report for the group's review. In January, it would be finalized.

Cohn-Vargas said she had discussed program impacts with elementary librarians, then introduced Pat Hanley, the Palo Verde librarian. Pat thanked the group for including the librarians in the discussion, then said that there were now fewer librarians. Some interests were:

- Librarians were very interested in working more closely with teachers
- Is FLES in the district's Strategic Plan? And how will it help close the achievement gap?
- How will the program be implemented? Can it be an elective?
- How have programs like this with district-wide funding made a positive significant impact at other districts?

Review Minutes from 11/29/07 Meeting and Updates Since the Last Meeting

The group reviewed, edited, and approved the minutes from the November 29, 2007 meeting.

Cook observed that the group appeared to solidly support 3-5 FLES, with some additional language acquisition in K-2 at a lower cost.

Review Input from the

Community input received thus far was reviewed. So far 30 responses had been received

Approved:

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<u>Community</u>	and tabulated. They included a large variety of concerns and suggestions.
<u>Review the Initial Draft of the Board Report</u>	<p>The draft of the report to be presented at the Board of Education meeting of January 15, 2008 was reviewed, discussed, and edited by the group. Some additional items the group wanted to add to the report were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• More detail on research done and various options considered• Research articles and links for further research• Explanation of the "Five C's"• Include Board policy in rationale, including how early language learning will contribute to meeting the district's foreign language goal• How FLES objectives are aligned to this district• Acknowledgement of the results reported in the prior year's Bregman and Associates survey
<u>Next Steps</u>	<p>The report would be presented by the Superintendent to the Board of Education on January 15, 2008. Following the presentation, a discussion would take place involving the Board, the Superintendent, staff, and the community.</p> <p>The group discussed K-2 foreign language education. It was noted that Amado Padilla, of Stanford University, had said he believed FLES was most effective starting in Grade 3. Another group member suggested that earlier foreign language acquisition really depended on each individual child. It was not believed that the community would be willing to pay for a K-2 FLEX program, as it would have no measurable outcome. It was also noted that if there was no foreign language specialist for the lower grades, teachers would need to add to their curriculum planning role. The group opted to withdraw K-2 FLEX from their preliminary recommendation. The unanimous decision was to propose only a 3-5 FLES model.</p> <p>The next FLES Committee meeting would be held on January 9, 2008 to review the final draft of the report to be presented on January 15 to the Board.</p> <p>Elementary Principals would be updated on December 13th, so they could update staff as well.</p>
<u>Adjournment</u>	The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.