



EL RANCHO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
District Advisory Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2022

DAC Members Present:

Laurin Gonzalez Segovia, Birney Tech Academy
Juliana Aguirre, Durfee Elementary
Liliana Blackmon, Rio Vista Elementary
Alejandro Abarca, Rivera Elementary
Diana Lemus, South Ranchito Dual Language
Yesenia Gonzalez, Valencia Academy of the Arts
Hector LaFarga, Rivera Middle School
Rosanna Cabrera, STEAM Academy @ Burke
Christine Saavedra, El Rancho High School
Brenda Gonzalez, Ellen Ochoa Prep Academy

DAC Members Absent:

Adam Lara, Magee Elementary
Vacant, No. Ranchito Elementary
Vacant, North Park Academy of the Arts
Annette Furlough, Salazar High School

District Personnel:

Jazmin Chavez-Diaz, Director of Secondary Education
Luis Danny Perez, Resource Teacher
Jenny Coronado, Administrative Secretary
Rosaura Elenes, Translator
Kimmie Sandoval, State and Federal Programs Clerk

Community Members:

Rosalia Luevano

Guests:

Dr. Frances Esparza, Superintendent
Dean Cochran, Director of Special Education
Monica Farris

Call to Order

Called to order at 5:07 p.m. by Ms. Christine Saavedra
Mr. Dean Cochran led the flag salute.

Welcome

Mrs. Jazmin Chavez-Diaz welcomed parents.
Dr. Esparza expressed her gratitude to everyone in attendance and thanked everyone who is working to make our schools a safe haven.

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion to Approve: Mr. Hector LaFarga
Second: Ms. Rosanna Cabrera
Quorum: Yes

Approval of November 17, 2021 Minutes:

Motion to Approve: Mr. Hector LaFarga
Second: Ms. Diana Lemus
*Minutes approved with one correction.

New Business:

I. LCAP Update:

The LCAP update is due on February 28, 2022, and will be presented to the community on February 15, 2022.

- Share one-time supplements
- Available data on District identified metrics
- Update on expenditures and implementation data on actions

II: COVID Safety Protocols:

Mr. Dean Cochran went over the District's exposure management plan. He gave a breakdown of the guidance for general illness, home isolation, and home quarantine.

III: Other Business as needed:

Ms. Christine Saavedra requested that DAC meetings begin at 4:45pm to allow representatives a few minutes to socialize and share any updates they may have pertaining to their respective school sites. She also requested an update on Tutor.com, future meetings (i.e. college readiness), and the Parent Resource Center. She also suggested a tutorial on how to log on to Tutor.com be shared with parents through ParentSquare.

Mrs. Chavez-Diaz informed representatives that Tutor.com has been readily available to students.

Mrs. Chavez-Diaz provided future DAC meeting dates and topics:

- March 16, 2022-State Testing
- April 20, 2022-College Readiness
- May 18, 2022-LCAP Update

Mrs. Chavez-Diaz also updated representatives with the progress of the Parent Resource Center. She mentioned that the center has been cleared out and that cabinets will be removed. The room will be outfitted to be more conducive.

IV: Questions/Comments:

Q: How often will students and staff be tested?

A: Students and staff will be tested on a weekly basis.

Q: What if you have a fever and it goes away, then returns. Do you have to start your quarantine count all over again?

A: If you have a fever, you should stay home. It may be recommended to test once again.

Q: Who is performing the testing on students?

A: With the partnership of pharmacy representatives, students are administering the test themselves. There is an option for assistance in some areas depending on a student's needs.

Q: Will outside tests be accepted?

A: Lab based results are accepted.

Q: What about special needs students? Can you work with teachers and students for those who are a bit more sensitive.

A: Yes

Q: Are you using close contact and exposure interchangeably, or what is the difference?

A: Close contact results from exposure. Exposure is that someone is in close proximity with someone who tested positive. Close contact is defined by Public Health as closer than six feet for more than 15 minutes in a 24 hour period. It depends on the content of the exposure and how long it will be.

Q: How often will students be tested?

A: Students will be tested on a weekly basis.

Q: What is going to happen with close contacts at school? How are you going to monitor those?

A: Nursing staff is working on this. School Administration is also helping with this. We are looking at seating charts to see where the students were at and who they have been with. We are providing instruction to the families.

Q: Are students who are being sent home for close contact being marked as unexcused absences?

A: We know why students who are being sent home to quarantine are absent. Those would be excused absences. A student who is being sent home to quarantine is being put on short term independent studies. When they turn in the assignments, they will be marked present. The students are given the opportunity to submit their assignments.

Ms. Saavedra mentioned that this is very important information and mentioned that it should be sent to all parents.

Mr. Cochran responded that Dr. Esparza has been putting out the information as it changes and it is available on the district website.

Q: I'm trying to understand the close contact and when you are exposed. The school called to inform me that my daughter was exposed to someone on Wednesday. I got the call on Friday. Was she supposed to get tested? Was she supposed to miss school?

A: We don't know the specifics about this case, but we can tell you what may have happened. What may happen is that your child was exposed to someone on Wednesday, the parent of the student whom she was exposed to calls to inform us on Friday that they got sick, got tested, and came out positive. We need to do contact tracing. We did not have the availability of the information before that or who they were in contact with prior to this. We need to determine when the student was infectious at school. It is always recommended to take the student to take the test. A test to return to school will not count until after day five. If you are not feeling well, stay home and stay away from others.

Q: My daughter missed school, and I missed work because my daughter was exposed to someone who tested positive. My daughter is vaccinated, did not show any symptoms, and tested negative on day five. Based on the information received, my daughter should not have to have been quarantined. When contacted about this case, no one asked me about her daughter's vaccination status.

A: Mr. Cochran apologized. He said that vaccination status does change the quarantine rules. The first day of quarantine starts on the last day of exposure. For parents who are caring for their children, the first day of quarantine starts when the students end their quarantine period.

Q: Does the district know how many of the children ages 12-17 who are vaccinated in the city attend school in the district?

A: We do not. Not at this time. We will be looking at collecting this information in the fall with Data Confirmation.

Q: Would it help if parents provide that information to the schools now?

A: The district nurses have access to the information on the State database, but they are only looking into it case by case based on the situations that arise. They are looking at the immediate care. The district will always err on the side of caution to make sure students are safe.

Q: Are parents able to take their children to get tested somewhere or do they need to wait for the school to refer them?

A: Parents will be informed which day the students will be able to return and where they are able to go to be tested.

Q: What is going to happen with the students that have close contact and participate in sports. Will they be able to participate in afterschool activities and sports?

A: Students who participate in sports will not be able to participate during the time that they need to quarantine, and will not be able to participate during the 10 days since they have close contact with other students during participation. The restrictions are more specific for sports. We are not using the modified quarantine, we are using the early re-entry. Our goal is to keep kids safe and healthy.

Q: Will the schools have a Rapid antigen test available?

A: There are two types of tests. The rapid antigen test and the PCR. We are using the rapid antigen test for the exception of some sports who are using the PCR. The current guideline states that if a student tests positive in the rapid antigen test, they should not take the PCR test for 90 days. For re-entry it is recommended that students take the rapid antigen test.

A parent mentioned that since she has a student in elementary, middle and high school, it seems like they are always missing school due to close contact with someone who tested positive. Why is it that their absences are not being excused?

A: Parents need to speak to the attendance clerk at the school site to clear any absences.

Q: What is the district considering as being “Fully Vaccinated”?

A: For students and staff, fully vaccinated is considered as having both doses and the booster if eligible. However, if they are not eligible for the booster, then the two doses or the one dose of the Johnson and Johnson. There is a caveat which was recently implemented which states that some workers are not required to have the booster to be considered fully vaccinated.

Q: Why are we not waiting for the current wave of the Omicron variant to come down before bringing the students back to school. The parent is afraid, worried, nervous and uneasy about this situation and how contagious this virus is. Why can't we wait a little longer to reopen the schools?

A: The decision to close the schools comes from the Department of Public Health. There are options for people that do not want their children in public schools. We have the Independent Studies option. A bulk closing of the schools eliminates the option for those parents who do want their children to attend school. We have both options available. We have the vaccine and other methods to open schools safely.

Q: Parent mentioned that her daughter who attends Valencia Preschool was asked to quarantine right after returning to school because she had a close contact with someone who tested positive. Her other daughter who attends Valencia Elementary also had a close contact with someone who tested positive right after all of the students were tested. How do we know if these tests are reliable? Why does a student come out positive a few days after being tested?

A: Someone can be negative right now, but then they can walk out and be exposed to someone who is positive. So, they may not have been sick, and then go home and start showing symptoms. This virus is a moving target. We are doing surveillance testing to stop the virus from spreading.

A parent suggested in the chat that the district implement the ten day quarantine period regardless of vaccination status.

Q: Is the district able to implement the 10-day quarantine period? Students may forget to put their masks on.

A: The district is implementing the 10-day quarantine period. There is the expectation that if someone has a negative test result, is fever free and is not having any symptoms it shows that they do not have the virus in their system. The district is following the guidance from the Public Health.

Q: Is the district able to implement distance learning as an option? For students to be online with a teacher full time?

A: The State has not approved that as an alternative option. The law that approved the Distance Learning expired and is not in effect. A new law that approved Independent Studies was approved.

Q: Are the new guidelines that just came out just for K-12 students or is it for everyone?

A: The new guidelines are just clarifying the K-12 schools guidelines.

A breakout room was created to answer specific questions that a few parents had pertaining to their child returning to school from quarantine.

A parent mentioned that hearing this information more than once will help everyone understand it better. She asked for parents to have patience with the staff at the schools.

There is a lot of confidential information that cannot be shared when making decisions. There are times when people want to get detailed information, but we are not allowed to share information. Please do ask questions so that we may build that trust with parents.

Q: Did the Pathways presentation at the Board Meeting include 529- setting up college funds?

A: The presentation was about Secondary Pathways for College and Career Readiness. ERHS has a great training on cash for college resources and on how to apply for scholarships, how to apply for FAFSA, and other types of loans and grants students may apply for.

Q: Is it DAC's responsibility to decide how the funds in Title I, Title II, and Title III are spent?

A: It is part of a parent group to decide. The district will look into which specific parent groups decide how Title funds are spent.

Q: The district is receiving a lot of funds due to COVID. How is that being spent? Is that money overlapping with things that we were funded using Title I, Title II, and/or Title III?

A: Those funds have a very specific use. For example, Title II is for professional development (PD). Some of the ESSER funds can be used for PD. For example, that money is being used to address learning loss. Title I money is being used for intervention support. Title III is support for our English Learners, so some of those funds are being used for the Dual Immersion training and CAFE. The money that we received for COVID has very specific uses. The plans for all funds received are posted on the district website.

Q: Are those funds being used now? I am aware that the Title funds have to be spent in the school year they are received in. I am aware that some COVID funds have to be spent by the 2023/2024 school year.

A: The district may petition to carry over if it is over 20%. This is what happened last year. The State was aware that we were doing distance learning so they allowed for us to carry over some funds.

Mrs. Gisela Casatanon informed the DELAC parents that we were concluding the DAC meeting here.

V: Adjournment:

Motion for Adjournment: Ms. Monica Farris

Second: Mr. Alejandro Abarca

Time: 6:36PM

Minutes by: Kimmie Sandoval and Jenny Coronado