

ELL TASK FORCE
ELSWD SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING
NOVEMBER 13, 2018
ACTION MINUTES

Subcommittee members present: Maria de Lourdes Serpa, John Mudd, Cindie Neilson, Priya Tahiliani, Ivonne Borrero, Ellen Keller

1. Approval of Minutes

The draft Action Minutes of October 17, 2018 were approved unanimously.

2. Updates

- John reported that he had followed through in contacting Human Capital, and there is an ELL Task Force Human Capital Subcommittee meeting set for Nov. 27 at 1:00 to discuss how to use the Budget Guidance document as well as the Budget Collab and Probable Org meetings to focus on ELSWD students.
He said he would write OHC to include OEL and OSE in the meeting.

He also noted that he had a meeting with Charles Grandson on Monday Nov. 19 to make him aware of the subcommittees concerns about ELSWD students.
- Ivonne said that she could continue to come to the ELSWD subcommittee meetings.
- Cindie said she was interviewing for a replacement for Ivonne in the coordinator position.
- Cindie said she thought it would be important in the future for EL Task Force reports to the School Committee to be put in context. Priya said that she had had a chance to review the report and had made some suggestions. Cindie said she had not seen it. John suggested that any department that was referenced in such reports should have a chance to review them and said he would make this recommendation to the Task Force. In this case it would have included Cindie and Monica Roberts in addition to Priya.
- John asked about the ODA disaggregated report on the performance of ELSWDs. There was confusion. Priya thought it had been sent, but no one else had seen it. It turned out that ODA had sent the report to the EL Task Force but it was not received in time to get it out to everyone. The ELTF will distribute.

3. Budget Guidance Document

There was discussion about the language that should be incorporated into the new Budget Guidance document to get School Leaders to focus on the education and staffing needs of ELSWD students.

It was agreed that both OSE and OEL would send the subcommittee suggested language for the Budget Guidance document before the Nov 27 meeting.

It was discussed that at the Budget Collab/Probable Org meeting the OEL and OSE staff members present could make a judgment about whether there was an appropriate match between the language access needs of the students and the language of the teachers, paras, and support staff. On that basis, OEL and OSE could determine the current reality and the needs for each school, which could then be analyzed to estimate district-wide needs.

There was a continuing discussion about how to assess the language capability of the teachers. OEL continued to express skepticism that School Leaders would be able to make such a judgment. John continued to say that it was hard for him to understand how BPS could entrust School Leaders (and their personnel subcommittees) with the responsibility to hire and to evaluate these teachers but not trust them to assess their language capability.

Priya emphasized that BPS needed the ability to set a language requirement for teachers in the single language SEI classrooms. This is an issue that is currently in negotiation with the teachers union.

Data request: Priya said that OEL has data on the current match between the language of language-specific SEI classrooms and the language of the teacher. The subcommittee requested that she provide this data to the group.

There is a question about whether OSE could gather comparable data for ELSWD students.

There is also a need to be able to make a language requirement for new hires. This is also a teachers' union issue that should be discussed and negotiated.

Cindie said it would be important for OHC to ask School Leaders in the Budget Collab/Probable Org meetings how each of them is addressing the linguistic needs of ELSWD students in their school. And to use this as part of the OHC sign-off on each school budget.

4. Guidance Document

Maria said they were very near having a final draft, and only needed a few (4) more hours of work to finish it.

There is an editor available that all agreed could do an excellent job in editing the document.

Thus, OEL/OSE could begin to plan how to pilot test it with principals and other school leaders.

There would then be the question of what next practical steps schools could take in a system of dispersed students to move toward the goal of providing access to native language for those ELSWD students that need it in order to progress in their education.

What strategically planned programs should BPS promote?

Priya said that OEL was developing proposals to group Spanish-speaking students to take to DOJ. OEL did look at Spanish-speaking ELSWD students, but it is unclear from the notes whether there any specific plans or proposals for this group.

These student grouping issues need to be imbedded in BuildBPS, but it appears that they are not being fully considered in the planning.

Data request: Priya reported that OEL is working with the Harvard Graduate School of Education on how to use the new flexibility in the LOOK Bill. The subcommittee asked to see anything that OEL could share on this issue at present.