

**Superintendent's Two Way Immersion Task Force
Meeting Minutes from February 7, 2012**

Facilitator – C. Chinn
Time keeper – P. Furlan
Process Observer – P. Furlan
Minutes – M. Hernandez
Sign-in sheet attached

Public Comment:

A Rosa Parks parent spoke in support of the District's efforts to evaluate the possibility of consolidating the TWI programs into one school site. She expressed concern about the reduction in enrollment into the program over the last couple of years, stating that the program needs to change in order to maintain its viability and not lose the program.

A LeConte parent expressed support for the TWI consolidation, saying she has been active in outreach efforts to inform Spanish speaking parents via ELAC, DELAC and Friends of TWI events and forums about TWI program and consolidation. She believes that the consolidation will be a more effective way to coordinate program, provide training, build capacity of staff and provide better support for students in the program. She requested that information on the TWI Program consolidation, TWI Task Force meeting information and minutes be translated to be able to be shared with Spanish speaking parents, who have not been very well informed about this process and who will be greatly impacted by the proposal to consolidate.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the January 10, 2012 meeting were approved by all voting members of the TWI Task Force present.

Report back from Principals on administration and response to Survey for EL Spanish speaking parents

Cragmont: School has 40 EL Spanish speaking children, 20 families completed and returned the survey, 13 of those 20 were families with children in TWI program, 7 of those were families with students in mainstream classes. Most of the families responded that they are in favor of consolidation of the program, but expressed concern about the impact on diversity on Cragmont.

LeConte: Surveys have gone out but school has only received a few completed surveys back, needs more time to collect more surveys and report feedback more accurately. Surveys were distributed and collected at ELAC and there have been meetings with the PTA and the staff. Although Spanish speaking EL parents have been vocal about supporting the consolidation, the school community is still divided between those supporting consolidation and those opposed to consolidation. A group of parents with

children in the TWI and English programs opposing the consolidation submitted a letter to Principal Wilson (the letter is attached to the minutes for the TWI Task Force to read).

Thousand Oaks: School has 135 EL Spanish speaking children, 37 families have completed and returned the survey, additional time is needed to collect more surveys and report more accurately. Parent volunteers will conduct phone calls to the homes of families who have not completed the surveys to encourage responses. Still not enough feedback given a large number of families have not completed the survey.

Rosa Parks: School has 119 Latino children collected completed surveys from 39 families, representing 46 children. Huge effort was made to hold two meetings facilitated by teachers that lasted 1.5 hours, still only got only less than 50% participation. The feedback is divided, with about 1/3 of the responses each falling into supporting consolidation, opposing consolidation, or needing more information to give an opinion.

It was noted that for some parents, the administration of the survey provided the information on the consolidation to them for the first time.

Surveys from all sites will be collected in order for results to be compiled and analyzed for further analysis by the TWI Task Force.

Straw Poll on location for school site to consolidate TWI programs

C. Chinn reviewed the Pros and Cons list for LeConte and Rosa Parks as sites for consolidation that the group generated at the January meeting (see minutes from that meeting for details).

P. Furlan asked to add to the list of “Cons” for Rosa Parks at the consolidation site, the concern about the two special needs day classes that might need to move from the school if it was selected as the site for consolidation.

M. Patterson stated that the costs for transportation presented by the Transportation manager at an earlier TWI Task Force meeting were just estimates and that the concerns from the community about the high transportation costs were not based on accurate numbers.

T. Alper also commented on the transportation costs, stating that although they were rough estimates, it would be more expensive to transport students to LeConte than to Rosa Parks.

F. Romero spoke about the sentiment of families who like Rosa Parks as it is, and would see it change with the consolidation. Additionally, many Spanish speaking families whose children currently walk to Rosa Parks and would have transportation issues getting their children to LeConte because they don't drive.

A Gallegos-Castillo stated that in order to make a decision on the best site for consolidation other conditions would need to be addressed first: transportation, enrollment process and other factors, in order to create a successful TWI school.

C. Chinn clarified by that the TWI Task Force is responsible for choosing a school, but not responsible for how consolidation will be implemented, with the EL Master Plan Work group being responsible for programmatic aspects of the implementation.

The TWI Task Force posed questions about the next steps and roles for addressing factors for implementation after the recommendation on a site for consolidation is made to the Board.

C. Campbell suggested that although the TWI Task Force won't be involved, she hoped some other group that includes parents, consults with SGCs and ELACs and included some members of the TWI Task Force.

A Gallegos-Castillo asked whether the District has the capacity and resources to make consolidation happen and stated that she did not feel the TWI Task Force could move forward until factors to make a successful program were addressed.

D. Dugatkin inquired about who would lead and coordinate the many logistical issues involved in consolidating the TWI programs, if the Board votes to do so. He stated that he understood that the TSA position (N. Massoumi's position) that had been open last fall, included coordination of the TWI programs. He stated that the coordination was essential to implement change and said that even if nothing changed after the recommendation to the Board from TWI task force, coordination of the TWI programs is still essential for improvements.

C. Faulkner responded that there had never been an intention for this position to play any role in the coordination of TWI; that she had never seen mention of that in any budget or job description; and that the only role related to TWI ever envisioned for the TSA was to facilitate the TWI Task Force, a job C. Chinn has since taken on.

T. Alper was able to pull up the District's job posting ad read the following to excerpt from it to the Task Force "Position is for the 2011-12 school year to serve as the District ELD Coach to provide support to the K-8 TWI program. Applicants should have experience with working with elementary teachers and providing support for English Learner classrooms. A significant portion of the job will be to coordinate the District's TWI program, as well as facilitate the working group that was created by the School Board."

The TWI Task Force discussed the conditions that will need to be in place to attract families from other zones to the consolidation site and to make the program successful,

including after school programs, teachers, extra resources, supports and interventions for ELs, as families will go to a successful program no matter where it is located.

The Task Force will put together a list of recommendations for the Board and working group that will carry on the work about the conditions that need to be addressed and exist for the creation of a strong TWI program.

Straw Poll

Straw poll voting was based on pros/cons list created by TWI Task Force at the January meeting. It does not take into consideration the school community feedback from groups such as EL parents, PTA, ELAC, SGC or staff.

Straw Poll to assess TWI Task Force opinion about best site for consolidation of the TWI Task Force

Total TWI Task Force voting members present: 15

Votes for LeConte as site for consolidation site: 8

Votes for Rosa Parks as site for consolidation site: 4

Abstained from voting: 3

G. Fuentes wanted agreement on statement to share with Thousand Oaks community that impact on Bilingual program at TO is not part of the equation yet, that the impact is being discussed in EL Master Plan Work Group. TWI Task Force members agreed it was an accurate statement.

B. Leyva-Cutler expressed the need for minutes of TWI Task Force meetings to be translated and distributed to Spanish speaking families and that the results of surveys for Spanish speaking parents of EL students need to be compiled and shared with community at large.

March 6 Meeting Agenda Topics:

- EL Report from Heather Tugwell
- Site report form principals, update on survey results from Spanish speaking EL parents from Thousand Oaks and LeConte
- Develop list of recommendations to Board – P. Furlan will start working on draft and bring to next meeting
- Final vote on site for consolidation of TWI program