



STATE OF WASHINGTON
COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS
COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS HISPANOS

Bellevue Education Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2006

Roll Call:

Commissioners present: Ruben Baca, Víctor Chacón, Yvonne López-Morton, Felix Negron, Rosalba Pitkin, Lourdes Portillo Salazar, and Gabriel Portugal

Commissioners absent: Rebecca Villareal (Excused)

Staff Present: Uriel Iñiguez, Alicia Luna, and Mike Britt

Meeting started at 1:21 PM

Introductions

Victor Chacon, Dr. Anaya, and Roger Barron – Facilitators

There was discussion on WA Learns (which is on line) and the Latino Education Plan and how it will impact the Commission and the future of Latino kids.

Mission of the Commission and a little bit of history was presented by Commissioner Chacon:

- ❖ We use every venue to communicate and reach out to the Hispanics/Latinos
- ❖ We advise the Governor and the Legislators and
- ❖ We establish partnerships with state agencies.

A graph of the Hispanic population was shared; ½ million mark but will be over that mark soon. 2003-2004 drop out rates, Reading and Math WASL results, and college attendance rates were shared. College attendance rates are incredible; over 23% (1 out of every 4) in community colleges and attendance in 4 year colleges is on the rise.

METT

Whitman College “State of the State Report” (comprehensive study on across the spectrum for Hispanics)

The Washington Learns Report – Number of Initiatives (Focus will be on this report)

- ❖ Early Learning
- ❖ Math and Science

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- ❖ Personalized Learning
- ❖ WorkForce
- ❖ Accountability

Dr. Anaya

Summary of the preliminary meeting in terms of the Commission's priority; English language learners (Dr. Anaya, University of California)

- ❖ Does this report address ELL (substantive)
- ❖ Does it directly address the Hispanic population of others of color
- ❖ Why are they funding programs that yield little or less than favorable and
- ❖ Why is staff development and training not being addressed

ELL and Migrant students (2 substantial groups) in the 3rd and 4th grade

- ❖ What are we doing with these two groups
- ❖ Most of the programs are controlled at local level or by the school principal
- ❖ Review statutes – WAC and RCW are not being adhered to; specific recommendations will be forged during the Legislative session.

89 percent of ELL

- ❖ Not enough teachers to deal with these groups or who have the necessary training
- ❖ These students are primarily isolated
- ❖ Not meeting WASL or any assessment in English

Washington Learns Report does not address ELL group or Hispanic population needs. We need to look at more specificity; critical needs need to be addressed on a calendar

Academic Achievement - Universities are not tuned to train teachers that are able to teach this population. Universities need to gear up to address this issue.

- ❖ 87,000 Hispanics (in the ELL Group)
- ❖ 150,000 Hispanic students
- ❖ A million students all together and
- ❖ 4 years to prepare and train teachers to teach these kids.

Policy and Programs

The Hispanic Latino Education Plan funded in 1988 per "Roger Barron" (broad document)

- ❖ Has been revised every couple of years
- ❖ Last year (2005) the Community Outreach unit was done away with
- ❖ The Commission will continue to work on this document.

Definition of the Bilingual models; Dr. Anaya will be working on this.

After the forum we need to do a report and give to the Governor.

Commissioner Chacon asked the community if they had any comments or questions on what was presented.

Autonomy in the Hispanic Latino Education Plan!

Question: Can these two reports be merged?

Commissioner Morton Lopez: I believe this is the intent. We need to make sense of this document and where can we make a difference.

Dr. Anaya: At Governor's level they need to have an understanding of the demographics; population. Public Policy – Hold accountability all the way down and how can we compete internationally if these issues aren't addressed.

Accountability is of the utmost importance per Commissioner Portugal.

Raul De la Rosa: Prioritize the issues before going to the Governor. Two ways to get to the lack of success of our children;

- ❖ He believes that it is a systemic issue and
- ❖ That all policy leaders address these programs on a long term issue; however, specific immediate needs is what needs to be addressed

Recent radio and TV on Sylvan Centers and other tutorial programs – only for the middle class; we recommend tutorial centers. Transporting (travel was too expensive)

Without the Policy support you might as well hang up the hat; WASL support and all other. Sort out the college student (not all are college bound)

- ❖ those that have dropped out
- ❖ ELL
- ❖ Migrant and
- ❖ Others

Meeting and addressing the deficiencies: systemic change; discrimination

Mr. Moroles: sad to hear that this program had been shelved.

- ❖ Need community involvement and put forth efforts.
- ❖ Lack of bilingual staff
- ❖ Ignored mandates of the WAC and RCW.

Dr. Anaya - WAC and RCW

- ❖ WA State – Statute comments supposed to be developing WAC
- ❖ Read regarding the ELL and 162.28 equal education and rights
- ❖ RCW = Read this on as well
- ❖ Why after all these years (7th grade kids need to do something at this level?)
- ❖ Career path needs to be more specific
- ❖ ELL should not do well on an English language assessment
- ❖ The Star Test and other assessments are in Spanish in California
- ❖ We need Legislature to examine and correct mandates that are in the law for ELL, culturally relevant services, etc.

Parent Involvement and buy-in from Parents (early level)

The following recommendations were identified at the meeting:

- ❖ Address long term versus short term deficiency needs
- ❖ Additional diverse bilingual staff

- ❖ Provide funding sources for sustainability
- ❖ Insure compliance with legal mandates i.e. RCW's
- ❖ Reduce local level discretion
- ❖ Provide Career path development for largest minority student population
- ❖ Perform academic assessments in students primary language (focus on math)
- ❖ Provide immediate personalized learning as a priority (that engages family and recognizes values and culture) one on one learning, smaller classrooms, etc. to address current needs of those students who are at risk of not receiving their diploma in 2008
- ❖ Specific cultural competency that goes beyond food, heroes, etc.
- ❖ Promote parent involvement and buy in from parents (early level) and provide training so that parents have the tools to support their kids
- ❖ Create Link beginning with Kindergarten, High School and through higher education
- ❖ Gather data and provide "student success" reports
- ❖ Provide Instructional support for distance/on-line native language learning

Minority Report by Glenn Anderson – Read this in the WA Learns Report; simply failed to do what the law requires.

Commissioner Chacón introduced Dr. Terry Bergeson and thanked her for participating in our meeting. He also set the rules of respect and the 2 minute time limit on questions.

Dr. Terry Bergeson, OSPI Superintendent of Public Instruction

Accountability – State Standards; very specific and several standards

- ❖ NAPE (compares state to state and is done in the 4th and 12th grade and we are on the top tier
- ❖ Terry cannot intervene with districts performance without legislature approval
- ❖ School has to volunteer if they are failing and want assistance
- ❖ There are schools that need help but do not volunteer
- ❖ Testing and accountability – need legislation to better this and needs CHA's help
- ❖ By next year we should have a new accountability program
- ❖ School Board made up of Caucasian; 1 Asian; 1 African American; 1 Hispanic- They are at the table to come up with new accountability program

Commissioner Chacón: Why aren't schools with low performance volunteering?

Dr. Bergeson: They just want to do it themselves; however, they aren't doing it.

Commissioner Baca said that Latino representation is absolutely essential to any significant opportunity for change are in correcting the tragic lack of focus on the challenges facing Latino kids. There is no Latino representation at the Cabinet level.

The Superintendent of Education said she is strongly recruiting and doing major reorganization of the Cabinet; in the long run there will be less people in the

Cabinet. She added she could not say when a Latino would successfully be recruited but that she will be working on this issue. It took eight months to hire Dr. Anaya.

PAS

- ❖ A new program for those who did not meet 10th grade WASL
- ❖ Extend this in the 4th and 7th Grade
- ❖ Next week Governor will make an announcement – summer school or some other venue
- ❖ Segmented WASL in the works for next year

Jill Severn (OSPI) wants to know what needs to be done to assist CHA with reports of data (translation of report, easier to read, etc.)

Question: How do we increase the number of teachers that possess the necessary skills to teach students with special needs such as language issues?"

Dr. Bergeson: Washington Learns strength; much more support for early learning programs that reach kids before they enter kindergarten.

- ❖ Kindergarten over six year time frame will be full day but first at schools with the most needs

Bremerton School District – All daycares are connected to the schools

- ❖ They lend their material and provide training to pre-school programs

Navigation 101 (12 to 15 kids are involved in this program) White Center and Highline have an 85-95% parent involvement.

- ❖ Franklin Pierce, Grainger, and other schools have the Navigation 101

20 students in a program through Dr. Anaya connecting them to

- ❖ Scholarships
- ❖ Universities
- ❖ Parent Involvement
- ❖ Conditional Loans

Legislative Panel - Representative Phyllis Kenney and Representative Dave Upthegrove

Representative Upthegrove acknowledged the Commission for asking him to join efforts in student achievement and gave accolades to Uriel as an excellent resource. Response to the Washington Learns Report:

- ❖ Redefinition of Basic Education
- ❖ More specific recommendations for additional funding
- ❖ Valuable process (thorny political questions were not addressed)

Representative Kenney – Before 1897 an 8th grade education was enough
Article 9 – declares all children need to be educated- RCW 28 (Look it up)

Focus more on:

- ❖ Teaching Material
- ❖ Mentoring programs
- ❖ Levies
- ❖ Voting on Initiatives
- ❖ Pay Incentives
- ❖ Teacher Training

Patchwork fix-it remedy is not enough

- ❖ We can **not** wait any longer
- ❖ We need to hold the feds accountable along with students, parents, teachers, etc.
- ❖ We need to look at our antiquated tax system and
- ❖ We need to change how we fund and pay our teachers.

Mr. De la Rosa: In light of the 40% funding of the state, the need to equalize funding, having a uniform bar; California lawsuit based on inequity in funding; Are you concerned that this might be looming in Washington State?

Sue us so than we can generate the political support per Rep. Upthegrove. It has been on the mind of OSPI.

Commissioner Baca said many of the Washington Learns goals are based on the premise of available funding. What is the strategy for prioritizing and more specifically what will be the focus for addressing specific challenges facing Latinos?

Representative Kenney – It has to be equitable and there has to be a plan of action. She does feel that there is a commitment by the Governor to put money in for Latinos.

Representative Upthegrove - Lack of will from the Legislators and pressures from the Healthcare budget to pass new taxes are some big hurdles. Prioritizing the pie budget is definitely a challenge.

Representative Kenney - Initiative 695 really hurt the state. The antiquated tax system, lobbying issues, and lack of preventative programs are a setback for Washington.

CAPAA Director Ellen Abellera: 38.5 million has been allocated by the Governor towards education; will the Education Ombudsman office be working independent of OSPI or directly with OSPI?

Representative Upthegrove: Forty million has been allotted for remedial math.

Commissioner Baca stressed the importance of ensuring an effort to make the New Education Ombudsman as a standing member of the Education Committee.

CAPAA Chair, Tony Lee: The Washington Learns Report does not mention the achievement gap and it does not state that students of color are way behind. Without explicitly mentioning a problem, there will be no solution to the problem. Need a significant plan to address this problem; maybe a martial plan.

Representative Upthegrove: We need leaders such as Representative Kenney and Santos lobbying with us. Not all Legislators are there. We need to set goals and work towards them.

Representative Kenney: Disappointed that there was no specifics for funding. More Leadership and power for OSPI; who you vote for (local, community, school boards, etc.) has a great impact on change. Latinos need to be encouraged to be involved in this process.

Dr. Anaya: You have it in your statutes to do what you just said (2004 Report from Cavanaugh and Gunucci from the University of WA). ELL students are spinning their time and are isolated. What can we do to help you because it is in the statute?

Representative Upthegrove: Need enough Legislators to back you up. Lobby Days and position papers are needed to effect change; have concentrated attention to this issue; effective citizenry, building coalitions, speaking up, organizing, and educating Legislators.

Representative Kenney: What can I do to help you?
We are afraid to bite the bullet so we need your assistance to be vocal and tell them what needs to be done. Call the hotline and change the mindset of some of our colleagues

Dr. Anaya: Local control keeps him from telling school districts to change.

Mr. Barron: Segment of the community that need the most help do not have the money to give or understand how to vote.

Representative Upthegrove: Class and race is an issue. There are pressures such as ACORN, service worker unions that are making a difference. Effective political power can be had by all and be a voice.

Chair Lopez-Morton asked for their assistance in getting the Legislators accessible to the February 2007 Latino Legislative Day activities.

New Futures – Continuing education and professional development (a grassroots organization); Former professors from other countries and Para-professionals fund these programs.

Representative Kenney: I-200 has really hurt us. There are colleges and universities that are bringing cultural competencies; however, there have been some lawsuits. We have made some gains but not enough.

Build in a poverty and language factor to the funding.

The Governor Policy Office Advisors did not attend

CHA Official Business: Official business commenced at 5:35 PM.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Lopez-Morton confirmed that there was a quorum and asked if there was any discussion on the South Park public meeting minutes; no discussion on minutes.

Commissioner Portillo Salazar made the motion to approve the South Park public meeting minutes and Commissioner Baca seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all in favor; the motion carried.

Discussion for the 2007 Meeting Dates- Commissioner Pitkin wanted a change to have the Vancouver meeting in March due to all the activities occurring, the church, and the local Hispanic club.

- ❖ WASU Pullman in April 13-14 – Accept the dates as recorded with the option to update them if needed.
- ❖ December Meeting – November 30 and December 1st Vancouver
- ❖ October 2007 – Oct. 19 and 20 in Walla Walla
- ❖ August 2007 – Aug. 10 and 11 in Pasco
- ❖ June 2007 – June 15 and 16 in Othello
- ❖ February 2007 – Feb. 23 and 24 in Olympia
- ❖

Commissioner Negrón made a motion to accept the dates as recorded with an option to update them if needed. Commissioner Chacón seconded the motion.

A vote was taken with all in favor. The motion carried

Letter for La Raza was read by the Chair and Commission Chacon made a motion to endorse with modification by CHA. Commissioner Gutierrez seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all in favor; the motion carried.

Personnel Committee

Commissioner Gutiérrez letter was discussed; the letter needs to be succinct and a recommendation needs to be made

Commissioner Portugal made a motion to form a committee to redo the letter. (Yvonne, Uriel, Ninfa, and Gabriel) Commissioner Chacón seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all in favor; the motion carried.

Retreat Agenda was handed out (9AM to 5PM)

Chair will follow up with the Associated Press.

Commissioner Portugal made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Negrón seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all in favor; the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 PM.

