



STATE OF WASHINGTON
COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS
COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS HISPANOS

Olympia Education Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2007

Roll Call:

Commissioners present: Ruben Baca, Víctor Chacón, Ninfa Gutiérrez, Yvonne López-Morton, Félix Negrón, Rosalba Pitkin, Lourdes Portillo Salazar, Gabriel Portugal, and Rebecca Villareal

Staff Present: Uriel Iñiguez and Alicia Luna

2:30 PM – First Session

Introductions

Vice-Chair Portugal read our Mission Statement and explained the Robert Rules of order.

Education Chair, Victor Chacon facilitated the meeting.

Concerns expressed in regards to the WASL

Remedios Escadera – Student at Eastern Washington University

- ❖ WASL is very difficult to pass
- ❖ Does not reflect the student's knowledge
- ❖ Should not be a requirement
- ❖ She came from Mexico and wants to be a teacher

Donna Evans – Teacher in Brewster

- ❖ Not very many kids pass the Math section of the WASL
- ❖ WASL test does not really represent what is learned
- ❖ The terminology is very technological
- ❖ We do not teach Science in middle school so that we can concentrate on Reading and Math

Concerns and comments regarding the drop out rate:

Jamie Alegria

- ❖ It is difficult particularly the WASL test
- ❖ I have problems with writing

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- ❖ Need mentorship programs that can help students
- ❖ Need to identify individual student needs

Donna Evans

- ❖ Need more teachers that are culturally competent
- ❖ 70% to 90% Hispanic students and only 2 teachers teach ELL
- ❖ Kids have to work to help parents

Half of the students that participated in the first session acknowledged that their parents are involved in their education and school meetings.

Director Iñiguez gave a presentation of our website which included:

- ❖ CHA Legislative Priorities
- ❖ 2007 Testimonials and the importance of voicing their concerns
- ❖ Bill Tracking and access to bill information, etc.

Carla Sanchez – Student at Eastern Washington University

- ❖ Who do we call in regards to students who are undocumented but want to go to college?

Director Iñiguez

- ❖ Immigration is a federal issue not state
- ❖ Dream Act would affect those that are in college
- ❖ No decision as of yet; rigid or not a decision on immigration has to be made
- ❖ Unfortunately not much done after the marches
- ❖ We need to follow up with e-mails, calls, etc. to our federal legislators
- ❖ Call Senators Cantwell and Murray and voice your concerns

Dona Evans

- ❖ Bilingual folks are hard to find
- ❖ Need to educate parents on the importance of college

4 PM – Second session

Introductions

WASL Concerns

- ❖ Hispanics are having a tough time passing the WASL
- ❖ WASL should not be utilized to determine if you can go to college or not
- ❖ It indicates that teachers are not teaching what needs to be learned

There are bills that address the math issue and to eliminate the WASL as a determining factor of whether students go to college or not

Jessica – University of Washington

- ❖ ELL Students are being assessed at the level of native speakers

Inez Tapia – Kent High School

- ❖ Why are they making us take the lower classes versus the intermediate classes

Student from Mattawa High School

- ❖ Career Tech Teacher is federally funded
- ❖ Need Electives that prepare you for work and school

Jim Hutchinson – Washington Business Week Program

- ❖ Gave overview of the 1 week program which is available to any student

Title 1 Money

- ❖ All schools have this money for mentoring kids that are having trouble passing the WASL

Student from Highline School

- ❖ Kids are not represented in the reforming of Education
- ❖ Attended a Washington Learns conference with the Governor and Bill Gates but was the only Hispanic student
- ❖ We need to be involved and let our voices be heard

Director Iñiguez encouraged all to go to school board meetings and or start a parent involvement group. This is how we are going to be heard.

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CHA Official Business

Chair Morton Lopez made a motion to approve the Bellevue public meeting minutes; discussion resulted in an Amendment to the motion.

Commissioner Gutierrez made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections; Commissioner Negrón seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all in favor; the motion carried.

Commissioner Negrón made a motion to approve the changes to the Administrative Policies; Commissioner Baca seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all in favor; the motion carried.

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