

Illinois State Board of Education
Division of English Language Learning

Minutes
of the
Illinois Advisory Council on Bilingual Education Meeting
Friday, November 16, 2007
9:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

Held at the

The James Thompson Center
100 W Randolph, 16th Floor, 16-504
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Members Attending: Carmen Acevedo, Debbie Armendariz, David Barker, Maritza Guillamo, Natividad Hernandez, Stephanie Jordan, Rebecca Kolda, Julie Luck Jensen, Ricardo Meza, Diep Nguyen, Richard Orem, Irma Perez, Josie Yanguas, Diane Zendejas and Kim Zinman.

Members Absent: Maria August and Trevor Cottle.

ISBE Staff Attending: Christopher Koch, State Superintendent, Robin M. Lisboa, Division Administrator, English Language Learning; Seng Naolhu, Bill Garcia, Beth Robinson, Sherry Johnson, Melina Wright and Joyce Zurkowski (phone).

Call to Order

Chair David Barker welcomed members and guests. The meeting was called to order at 9:38 a.m.

Accommodations for ELLs

Robin M. Lisboa
Division Administrator
English Language Learning

Robin briefed the council about a recent partnership on Limited English Proficient students with the US Department of Education. Over three meetings, Illinois participated in three discussions on initial concerns, accommodations for ELLs and the development of a handbook scheduled to be finalized in June 2008. A DELPHI process was being used to narrow the focus of the workgroup and guide researchers in pulling together accommodations for ELLs. Robin went on to identify two types of accommodations:

1. Direct linguistic support (the language of the test)
2. Indirect support (conditions for ELLs to take the test)

Following this briefing Joyce Zurkowski, Division Administrator for Assessment acknowledged the audience and Assistant Superintendent for Educational Programs Rene Valenciano affirmed the role of the federal government in helping states develop assessments for ELLs.

**US Department of Education
Peer Review Process and
IMAGE Assessment Updates**

Melina Wright, ISBE
NCLB Liasion

NCLB Liasion Melina Wright provided the IACBE with an overview of the peer review process and IMAGE Assessment from June 2007 to the present. Following this presentation, nearly all members including Ricardo Meza voiced their concerns about IMAGE and impacts of a new test on ELLs. Members were all concerned about future accommodations for ELLs in 2008 and beyond.

Following additional explanations by Melina Wright, Superintendent Chris Koch joined the meeting of the Illinois Advisory Council on Bilingual Education. The State Superintendent stayed for the remainder of the meeting to answer numerous questions from the IACBE and the general public.

The Illinois Superintendent of Education indicated he was supportive of accommodations. He also indicated that he welcomed input from local school districts and invitations to meet with the IACBE.

Superintendent Koch concluded by saying that he wanted Illinois to be

- a leader in assessing English language learners
- a state that pursued growth models
- a state that views bilingualism as an incredible asset

**Illinois English Language Learner
Assessment Advisory Committee
(IELLAAC)**

Diep Nguyen, Carmen Acevedo
Debbie Armendariz, Stephanie
Jordan and David Barker

Diep Nguyen outlined the work and recommendations of IELLAAC. She indicated that more than 25 Illinois educators had previously met with Joyce Zurkowski, Division Administrator for Assessment to discuss short and long term goals.

Dr. Nguyen went on to provide additional principles of assessment that had been previously published by the National Association of Bilingual Educators.

Parent member Natividad Hernandez asserted the need to make distinctions between English language learners and students with special education needs.

Accommodations

Joyce Zurkowski
Division Administrator for
Assessment

Following the IELLAAC report, Joyce Zurkowski outlined possible accommodations with the council. Joyce was said to be hopeful that accommodations would be public by January 1, 2008.

After additional discussion, Josie Yanguas moved that the IACBE accept the accommodations of the IELLAAC report and exempt scores for inclusion in AYP when a student was in the US for less than two academic school years.

Debbie Armendariz seconded the motion and members Carmen Acevedo, Debbie Armendariz, David Barker, Maritza Guillamo, Natividad Hernandez, Stephanie Jordan, Rebecca Kolda, Julie Luck Jensen, Diep Nguyen, Richard Orem, Irma Perez, Josie Yanguas and Diane Zendejas voted in the affirmative to support this motion.

The motion to accept the IELLAAC list of accommodations passed by a vote of 13-0 with 1 abstention. Ricardo Meza abstained from the vote.

Public Comments

Audience

Following action by the IACBE, members of the audience addressed the Illinois Council on Bilingual Education. Several members of the public voiced their concerns with ISAT and accommodations for ELLs. Below are two concerns that were fairly representative of public comments.

Phyllis Weaver of CUSD 200 in Wheaton was supportive of ELLs but expressed frustration in meeting the needs of communities that do not always value diverse student populations. Phyllis followed by reading a list of Du Page recommendations.

Sandra Moran, an educator in Lake County passionately discussed her experience in learning English in 7-8 years. She was concerned that ELLs would be left behind.

And still others offered suggestions that included the use of glossaries, dictionaries and side by side translations.

Announcements

Council

The Latino Legislative Caucus will meet at the Rosemont Convention Center on December 6, 2007. For more information see <http://www.ilpcf.org>

The next meeting of the Illinois English Language Learner Assessment Advisory Committee will be November 29, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. For more information contact any member of IELLAAC.

The Illinois Gifted Association will meet on February 1-2, 2008. For more information see <http://www.iagcgifted.org/> .

The IAMME will hold a membership drive on November 29, 2007 at the Fountain Blue Restaurant in Des Plaines, Illinois. The restaurant is located on Mannheim/Touhy. Interested individuals may register at register@iamme.org .

Adjourn

Council

Josie Yanguas moved that the meeting be adjourned. Diep Nguyen seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.