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**Location:** Clearwater East Community Library

**Room:** Community Room

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**Attendees:** 2 K-12 English Learner families, 32 community partners

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## MEETING MINUTES

### **ESOL Families:**

Quetzia Contrera, Martha Ruiz.

School(s) that students attend: Pinellas Central ES

### **Community Partners Present:**

Francisca Alanis -Early Learning Coalition, Laura Clark -PCS, Dallas Jackson-Pinellas Technical College (PTC), Jane Govoni - USFSM, Melissa Jaramillo -Step up for Students, Shaquira Robinson -Zero Pinellas, Carlos Mendez -Boley Center, Amira Salam -Coptic Charities, Alissa Krenke - Chrysalis Health, Millicent Battle -JWB, Claudia Gonzalez -Clearwater East Community Library, Rose Angela Rudd -R'Club, Jennila Zacharirts -Barnes & Noble, Jennifer Harrington -PCS Adult Education ESOL, Ari Breeding -211 Tampa Bay Cares, Valerie Brimm -PCSB, Laura Perez - Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services (GCJFCS), Paula Keyser -Early Steps, Brooke Pair -PCS Guidance, Fred Green -High Point Neighborhood Family Center (HPNFC), Cencio Minson -HPNFC, Luz V Apunte -PEMHS, Julianne Perez -City of Largo, Victor Otero -Largo Public Library, Ginnie Milleman -Clothes to Kids, Jayme Joslyn -PCS, Juan Luvian -PSTA, Tracy McMannus - PCS-ESE, Wanda Stuart -PAR, Mary Ann Churchill -PEMHS, Clara Moll -Girl Scouts, Diana Perez -Hispanic Outreach, Pat Bauer -Literacy Council Upper Pinellas (LCUP), Jesci Ortiz -Voc. Rehab, Chantal Jimenez -Voc Rehab, Natasa Karac -PCS ESOL, Radmila Spiric -PCS ESOL, Ramona Zambrano -PCS ESOL, Barbara Aguirre -PCS ESOL, Ericka Reckenwald -PCS ESOL

### **I. Welcome and Introductions:**

- Ramona Zambrano -PCS English Learners Services Coordinator opened the meeting and welcomed all the attendees. She introduced the agenda of the meeting, and presenters.
- Each community partner introduced themselves and provided a brief description of their organization.
- New community partners: Dr. Jane Govoni -USFSM, Melissa Jaramillo -Step up for Students, Carlos Mendez -Boley Center, Amira Salama -Coptic Charities, Alissa Krenke - Chrysalis Health, Millicent Battle -JWB, Ginnie Milleman - Clothes to Kids.
- A parent shared that this was her first time participating at this meeting; she said that it is good to know that the district and the community are working together to help the families with resources to support their children at school. She thanked for the opportunity to be part of the meeting.

### **II. ESOL Family Outreach:**

- **Status Update on 2019-2020 School Activities:** Ericka Reckenwald -ESOL Family Outreach Coordinator shared the events coordinated and held for EL parents and students in Pinellas County Schools, from August 2019 to February 2020. She explained the purpose of these events and how important each event is to support EL families and student to be successful at schools, and after graduating from high school:
  - ESOL events are free for all K-12 EL families and for any other family interested.
  - 32 ESOL events were held from August 2019 to Feb 2020.
  - Events include: informative/educational workshops for EL families K-12, in class-presentations for high school EL students, College/ Career Field trips and ESOL Career Day for students in grades 11-12, and an ESOL Community Resource Fair for K-12 EL families.

- The topics of the EL presentations are focused on: Meeting School Academic Expectations, High School Graduation Requirements, Dual Enrollment, Financial Aid and Scholarships, PCS District Application Programs, PreK-Kindergarten Programs, PCS Summer Bridge, Transition to Middle/High School.
- Upcoming ESOL events for EL families and students were shared:
  - 3/5 PCS DAP Late Application Period Kindergarten Registration, Clearwater East Community Library
  - 3/24 Meeting Academy Expectations in ES, Ridgecrest Elementary School
  - 3/31 Meeting School Academic Expectations/High School Graduation Requirement, Ross Norton Rec Center: 1426 S M.L.K. Jr Ave, Clearwater, FL 33756
- PCS K-12 ESOL bilingual assistants attend ongoing training during the school year to support EL students and families.
- Ericka talked about PCS Parent Helpline in Spanish and Pinellas County Schools Facebook page in Spanish flyer [www.facebook.com/PCSBespanol](http://www.facebook.com/PCSBespanol) PCS information in Spanish and ESOL events and resources for EL families are shared on Facebook.
- Video of the ESOL Community Resource Fair held on October 2019 was shared.
- Ericka thanked all the community partners for their partnership and for their support to PCS families and students.

### III. PCS District ELs Plan:

- Radmila Spiric, PCS ESOL Testing Coordinator talked about Pinellas County Schools ESOL processes, services and resources available for ESOL parents and students; and how the ESOL parents and community can get involved at the school level.
- ESOL Processes:
  - Identification of potential ESOL students – every parent fills out Home Language Survey Form.
  - English proficiency assessment is administered to determine the placement into ESOL program
  - students who qualify receive ESOL services and accommodations from their teachers.
  - ESOL students are classified as fluent English speakers when they meet the state English proficiency criteria or through the school's ELL Committee.
  - ESOL parent letters are sent home in their native languages to notify them about the placement into ESOL, exit from ESOL, ELL Committee meeting, etc.
- ESOL Services:
  - Bilingual teacher assistants help parents and students during registration, parent teacher conferences, parent newsletters, provide instructional support, etc.
  - Every teacher of ESOL students provides ESOL services.
  - Phone interpreting services - paid through ESOL Office, in 350 languages, are available for the school staff to communicate with ESOL parents and students; TransAct electronic library.
  - Spanish Parent Helpline- for any parent/student questions
  - Hablemos-Spanish talk show that features many community and school resources available for ESOL parents and students.
  - ESOL Family Outreach services for families and students
  - PCS Facebook Page in Spanish [www.facebook.com/PCSBespanol](http://www.facebook.com/PCSBespanol) - provides up to date information about the district parent/student events and resources.
- Radmila invited the parents and community partners in attendance to provide any input to help ESOL services.

### IV. Inaugural Conference on Emerging Hispanic-Serving School Districts

- Jane Govoni, Ph.D. from the University of South Florida, talked about the Inaugural Conference on Emerging Hispanic-Serving School Districts that will take place in June 25-26, in Florida International University, Miami.
- The conference will focus on school districts that are experiencing a rise in the population of Hispanic/Latinx students.
- Dr. Govoni invited everybody to attend the conference and shared a flyer with details about the it.

**V. ESOL Community Resources, College, and Career Fair 2020-2021**

- Ramona Zambrano, PCS English Learner Services Coordinator thanked all agencies and families for their participation at the previous ESOL Community Resource Fair held on October 15, 2019, at SPC Clearwater campus. She expressed that it was very successful.
- She also talked about the success of the ESOL Career Day 2020 that was held on Feb 12, 2020, at High Point Neighborhood Family Center. She expressed that due the success of both events, and interest of the EL families and students, the ESOL office is planning to coordinate an **ESOL Community Resources, College, and Career Fair 2020-2021**. She presented a tentative plan for the fair.

**VI. ESOL Career Day 2020**

- Ramona Zambrano, PCS English Learner Services Coordinator shared video of the ESOL Career Day 2020.
- Cencio Minson -High Point Neighborhood Family Center (HPNFC), talked about what students did at vendor stations, organizations participating, and how PCS ESOL, HPNFC and the community partners worked together to provide this opportunity for Clearwater HS and Pinellas Park HS EL students.

**VII. Open Agenda**

- Tracy McMannus –Pinellas County Schools talked about the Parents Empowering Parents Program (PEPP), and shared flyer in English and in Spanish with details about the program.
- Laura Perez - Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services (GCJFCS) talked about the services for refugee clients, and shared flyer of their Mentoring program that support refugee clients ages 15-14. The program assists refugees in developing social and life skills, financial and health literacy, learning American culture while maintaining their own cultural heritage, and providing opportunities for social engagement with peers.
- Ginnie Milleman -Clothes to Kids talked about the services that Clothes to Kids provides to families in needs, and how to access to the services.
- Wanda Stuart - Operation PAR talked about PAR and the services it provides for teen, adults, and families.
- Rose Rudd -R'Club talked about R'Club services and programs for children, and about the importance of supporting parents with literacy programs to help their children with reading at home.
- Francisca Alanis -Early Learning Coalition (ELC) shared information about the services and programs ELC provides.
- Flyer in English and in Spanish with information about the Foreign Language Collection at the Dunedin Public Library was shared.
- Girls Scouts of West Central Florida shared flyer of the Job-Hunting Skills Workshop for girls ages 14-23. The workshop will be held on Saturday, May 9, at SPC Clearwater, from 9am-1pm.
- PCS Parent Helpline in Spanish flyer
- Pinellas County Schools Facebook page in Spanish flyer [www.facebook.com/PCSBespanol](https://www.facebook.com/PCSBespanol)
- Pinellas Technical College (PTC) brochure. The brochure gives detailed information about courses provided at PTC campuses.
- Clearwater East Community Library shared flyer with information about the LCUP Adult English Conversation Classes.
- The Intercultural Advocacy Institute/Hispanic Outreach Center shared flyer with information about the programs provided to Hispanic families in Pinellas.
- The Literacy Council of Upper Pinellas (LCUP) shared brochure that provides information about LCUP services locations, and on how to become a student or a tutor.
- Millicent Battle -JWB shared Pinwheels for Prevention/Prevent Child Abuse Florida **Positive Parenting Guide** in Spanish. The guide provides information about Child development from birth through the teen years, Tips for creating the stimulating and nurturing environments children need, Tips for managing the challenges of family life, and Contact information for valuable community resources.

**VIII. Closing**

Ramona Zambrano thanked Clearwater East Community Library for hosting the meeting, and thanked all the attendees for their participation and for the resources and information that they shared.