



Pinellas County Schools ESOL Family Outreach

ESOL Community Advisory Meeting

Location: Clearwater East Community Library

Room: Community Room

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

Attendees: 06 ESOL Families, 34 community partners

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

ESOL Families:

Juana Bravo, Griselda Montoya, Jesus Huerta, Maria Martinez, Rosa Jimenez, Rosaura Hernandez, Lucero Fernández, Verónica Lugo, Araceli Charrez, Johanna Portillo

Community Partners Present:

Claudia Gonzalez, Clearwater Public Library System –East, Paula Keyser -Early Steps, Karlie Gallagher -Zero Pinellas, Shaquira Robinson -Zero Pinellas, Maria Pepe -Empath Health, Linda Whitley -League of Women Voters, Karen Coale -League of Women Voters, Ana Alonso -FCES Lutheran Services-Head Start, D’Andra Tarver -Pinellas County HIPPY, Daise Castillo -Clearwater Main Library, Victoria Posada -Gulfcoast Legal Services, Victor Otero -Largo Public Library, Diana Perez -Hispanic Outreach, Amy Manning -Family Resources, Nancy Gonzalez -Head Start, Yaridis L. Garcia -Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB), Karen Dydzuhn -Barnes & Noble, Iliyana Vassileva -PCS CTAE, Brenda Clark -City of Largo, Elizabeth Felix Discussion -St. Petersburg Library, Ed Tumber - Clearwater Public Library-East, Linda Grimshaw -Literacy Council Upper Pinellas (LCUP), Sheila Kane -PCS Strategic Partnership, Janet Blair -DCF-Refugee Services, Joe Benavides -St. Petersburg College (SPC), Alexandra Pena-Rosado -Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections, Jennifer Waiver -Pinellas Technical College (PTC), Brooke Pair - PCS Guidance, Doug Haskitt - Pinellas Refugee Education Program (PREP), Arelys Escalera -Pinellas County, Cencio Minson - High Point Neighborhood Family Services (HPNFC), Fred Green –HPNFC, Clara Moll -Girl Scouts, Juan Luvian -Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA).

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Ericka Reckenwald -Pinellas County Schools ESOL Family Outreach Coordinator opened the meeting and welcomed all the ESOL families and community partners.
- ESOL families: 10 ESOL families with students in elementary and middle school grade levels attended the meeting for the first time. The families introduced themselves, thanked for the opportunity to attend the meeting and learn about the community resources available in Pinellas.
- New community partners: Karlie Gallagher and Shaquira Robinson from Zero Pinellas, D’Andra Tarver -Pinellas County HIPPY,
- Fred Green -High Point Neighborhood Family Center, Amy Manning –Family Resources, Nancy Gonzalez and Adieren Lopez –LSF Head Start.

II. ESOL Family Outreach:

- Status Update on 2018-2019 School Activities for EL families and students were shared: 25 informational workshops, 1 community resources fair, and 4 career exploration events. These events are taking place all over the county.
- New PCS Information Resource: Facebook Page in Spanish, ESOL website, Spanish Helpline, PCS ESOL Family Outreach Newsletter.
- Pinellas County Schools app developed to help families access their student information on their cellphones and mobile devices. The app provides parents and students easy access to current student grades, attendance, recent student assignments, upcoming student assignments, and other relevant information. The app can be downloaded from the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store.
- Clever@Home is available for students to access outside of the classroom. It provides online digital textbooks for student core subjects. It is available through www.clever.com/in/pcsb and a PCS account.

- PCS Facebook page in Spanish www.facebook.com/pcsbespanol/ connects Hispanic families with news & information about the school district and ESOL events.
- PCS Spanish Helpline is available for parents to call the district to obtain pertinent information. The phone number is 727-588-6415.
- PCS ESOL Family Outreach Newsletter created to keep EL families up to date with PCS information, new resources, and ESOL events.
- PCS ESOL website connects EL families with ESOL events, monthly family newsletter, community resource, resources for English Learners, and other relevant information for EL parents.
- Feedback was requested regarding the recent January 15 ESOL Community Resource Fair. This information was collected and will be shared and discussed at the next ESOL Community Advisory meeting.

III. Community Updates:

- Janet Blair announced that Refugee Services will be provided through one source beginning in October.
- Jennifer Waiver, Pinellas Technical College (PTC): shared course information and emphasized their dual enrollment program for high school seniors. She also talked about PTC National Technical Letter of Intent Signing Day Student Welcome Day for 12th grade students interested in attending Pinellas Technical College after graduation. All students in attendance will receive a \$200 tuition scholarship and each of their programs will be awarding a \$500 scholarship at the event. The event is on both the St. Petersburg and Clearwater PTC campuses, on February 21, from 11:00-1:00.
- Doug Haskitt, Pinellas Refugee Education Program (PREP) talked about that PTC is hosting the World Refugee Day on June 14 from 1:00-3:30. He invited all the attendees to the event.
- Pinellas County HIPPY: provides early literacy program –home visitation for children 3 or 4 year old to help prepare them for kindergarten. The program has staff members available to assist families in Spanish.
- ESOL Family Outreach shared information about Clearwater High Family Night on Tuesday, February 12. The event was shared previously with community partners through email. Interested attending the event contact Ericka Reckenwald for more details.
- Zero Pinellas services: free HIV tests to anyone 13 year and older. Depending on person's results, they have PREP, a pill the person takes everyday to remain negative. If a test result is positive, there are case management services. All tests are confidential.
- LCUP provides free ESL tutoring to adults who need help learning English, citizenship and GED tutoring are available. Volunteer tutors are trained. Classes are available for Norther Pinellas County.
- Lutheran Services Florida (LSF) provides school readiness for children 1-4 year old, prepares children to be ready for Kindergarten, offers programs for pregnant mother, and offer free childcare to families who qualify based on income.
- PCS Financial Aid School Counseling Department: provides financial Aid Presentations and FAFSA Completion Events for families with students in high school.
- Largo Public Library: provides English Language Learning Program, conversation club in English, career online high school program. They are partnered with Suncoast Citizenship and Pinellas County Schools Adult Education for English classes; it also provides adult and children library programs.
- High Point Neighborhood Family Center (HPNFC): provides youth development program, family support services, food pantry and clothes closet, food boxes and other services to families residing in High Point Neighborhood area.
- Early Steps: provides intervention services in the natural environment for children birth to three with development delays.
- Gulfcoast Legal Services: provides legal advice on a range of legal matters from housing, family law, consumer issues, taxes and immigration.
- Head Start/Early Head Start: services provided promotes school readiness of children ages birth to five by enhancing their critical thinking, social and emotional development. There is not cost for eligible families to attend.
- Intercultural Advocacy Institute –Hispanic Outreach Center: provides family support, victim advocacy, youth leadership/youth support, intermediation, interpreters, and resources for Hispanic families with children under the age of 18 years.

- Girl Scout of West Central Florida: provides leadership program for girl 5-17 years old. They have troops that meet at the Hispanic Outreach Center in Clearwater and in other location.

IV. ESOL Community Resource Fair 2019-2020 Event Planning:

- Ericka Reckenwald -PCS ESOL Family Outreach thanked all the community partners for their partnership and participation at the recently ESOL Community Resource Fair held at SPC Clearwater Campus, on Tuesday, Jan 15. She gave special thanks to SPC Clearwater –Joe Benavides for partnership with the ESOL Family Outreach and hosting the fair.
- Joe Benavides shared the great success obtained at the fair.
- Iliyana Vassileva, PCS CTAE said it was her first time participating at the ESOL fair. She expressed it was a great event and that she was happy to networking with the families and provide them with an info session about the PCS Adult Programs.
- Ericka Reckenwald asked the community partners for feedback to plan next ESOL Community Resource Fair. She suggested a date and SPC Clearwater campus location to plan for the 2019-2020 ESOL Community Resource Fair.
- The date for next ESOL Community Resource Fair was selected at the meeting - Tuesday, October 15. Joe Benavides confirmed that St. Pete College would make the same rooms and conditions available as they did this year. The time will also remain the same, 6:00-7:30, with breakout sessions beginning at 6:30 pm.
- Transportation concerns were voiced, with some suggesting school buses be provided to transport parents to the campus. Alternate locations for the Fair were briefly considered with the decision being that a central county location is best for all.

V. Open Agenda Time

- Next ESOL Community Advisory Meeting: Thursday, September 4, 2019
- Clearwater Public Library System shared brochure from Career Online High School. It offers adults the opportunity to complete their high school education online. Scholarships are available. More information contact myclearwaterlibrary.com or cal727-562-4970 x5218.
- PREP: shared informational flyer about PREP resources and services, eligibility criteria, and learning English. More information call 727-217-7635.
- PTC shared new brochure with information about PTC programs; brochure is also available in Spanish.
- Literacy Council Upper Pinellas (LCUP) shared flyer about their new free ESL classes -location and time.
- PCS Strategic Partnership explained about the Peachjar eflyer program and what community agencies need to do to register with Peachjar to share their electronic flyers with schools.
- Clearwater Main Library: shared flyer about ESOL English Conversational Classes provided by LCUP on Wednesday, 6-7:30 p.m.
- JWB: shared their flyer about the 2nd Annual Youth Conference **Youth Are the Leaders of Tomorrow Today**. The event will take place on Saturday, March 2nd, 9am-3pm., at Pinellas Park Public Work Building. JWB also shared the flyer for a free event “The Opioid Crisis and the Faith Community taking place on Thursday, Feb 21, 8:00am-12:30 p.m., at Anona United Methodist Church Worship Center 13233 Indian Rock Rd. Largo, FL. More information call: 727-453-5624.
- Barnes & Noble shared informational flyer about What Can Barnes & Noble Do for your School?: competitive pricing, quick reply to quote request, research and create customized books list, lexile readers, educator discounts, approved vendor for PCS, more.
- LSF: shared flyer about the Pregnant Moms Program. The program provides the best opportunity for healthy pregnancies and positive children outcomes, supportive postpartum care for the parents and child, supporting and enhancing parent child attachments, parents to develop as nurturing and responsive caregivers. The program has eligibility requirements. More information call 727-439-8716.
- LSF Head Start also shared the application form for families to apply for Children and Head Start Services in Pinellas. The form is available in English and in Spanish. For more information contact: 727-547-5979.

- ESOL Families expressed that the meeting was a great experience. They learned a lot. They wished that more families could attend the meeting. They hope that more families be able to attend future meetings and thus be able to learn more about PCS resources and the resources available in the community to help their children to succeed at school.

VI. Closing

Ericka Reckenwald -PCS ESOL Family Outreach thanked Clearwater East Community Library for hosting the meeting. She also thanked all the attendees for their great participation, and for the resources and information shared.