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**Location:** Clearwater East Community Library

**Room:** Community Room

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

**Attendees:** 11 K-12 English Learner parents, 37 community partners

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## MEETING MINUTES

### **English Learner parents:**

Mireya Mendez, Virginia Vegas, Guadalupe Zuniga, Veronica Lugo, Griselda Montoya, Virginia Obando, Cerlla Mendoza, Juliana Perez, Teofila Espanol.

Schools where the parents have a child attending: Safety Harbor MS, Oak Grove MS, Eisenhower ES, Clearwater Fundamental, Skycrest ES, East Lake HS, Safety Harbor MS, and Palm Harbor University HS

### **Community Partners Present:**

Claudia Gonzalez –Clearwater East Library, Paula Keyser -Early Steps, Shaquira Robinson -Zero Pinellas, Linda Whitley - League of Women Voters, Karen Owen - League of Women Voters, Daise Castillo -Clearwater Main Library, Diana Perez - Hispanic Outreach, Nancy Gonzalez -Head Start, Julianne Pérez -City of Largo, Pat Bauer -Literacy Council Upper Pinellas (LCUP), Sheila Kane -PCS Strategic Partnership, Joe Benavides -St. Petersburg College (SPC), Alexandra Pena-Rosado - Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections, Dallas Jackson -Pinellas Technical College (PTC), Brooke Pair - PCS Guidance, Doug Haskitt - Pinellas Refugee Education Program (PREP), Arelys Escalera - Pinellas County Marketing and Communications, Caroline Brown - High Point Neighborhood Family Center (HPNFC), Fred Green –HPNFC, Olivia Wilson –Dunedin Public Library, Christine Cantrell Pinellas County Schools (PCS) HEAT Program, Susanne Hennessey –PCS HEAT, Alen Janjus - Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services (GCJFCS), Jennifer Nunez –HIPPY, Monica Quioco –Pinellas County Schools Social Work, Alissa Bowers –4-H University of Florida IFAS, Sandy Hernandez - 4-H University of Florida IFAS, Ramona Madhosingh Hector – UF/IFAS Extension, Jennifer Whittington –Preserve Vision FL, Sara Dayton –GCJFCS, Ari Breeding - 211 Tampa Bay Cares, Tracy McMannus –PCS-ESE, Abeni El-Amin - UMCM Suncoast, Virginia Obando –Hispanic Outreach Center (HOC), Radmila Spiric –PCS ESOL, Ramona Zambrano –PCS ESOL, Ericka Reckenwald –PCS ESOL

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

- Ericka Reckenwald -Pinellas County Schools ESOL Family Outreach Coordinator opened the meeting and welcomed all families and community partners.
- English Learner parents: the parents introduced themselves, they shared the names of the schools their children attend, and thanked for the opportunity to attend the meeting and learn about the community resources available in Pinellas.
- New community partners: - Julianne Pérez -City of Largo, Dallas Jackson -Pinellas Technical College (PTC), Olivia Wilson –Dunedin Public Library, Jennifer Nunez –HIPPY, Monica Quioco –Pinellas County Schools Social Work, Alissa Bowers –4-H University of Florida IFAS, Sandy Hernandez - 4-H University of Florida IFAS, Ramona Madhosingh Hector – UF/IFAS Extension, Jennifer Whittington –Preserve Vision FL, Sara Dayton –GCJFCS, Ari Breeding -211 Tampa Bay Cares, Tracy McMannus –PCS-ESE, Abeni El-Amin - UMCM Suncoast, and Virginia Obando –Hispanic Outreach Center (HOC).

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

- **Outcomes 2018-2019 School Year:** Ericka Reckenwald -ESOL Family Outreach shared the ESOL Family Outreach's outcomes from the 2018-2019 school year. She explained that the support provided to PCS K-12 English Learner families (parents and students) increased significantly in comparison with the previous year.
- 48 events were coordinated for English Learner families in 2018-2019 school year:
  - 37 informative/educational workshops for EL families
  - 2 ESOL Community Advisory Meetings
  - 5 in class-presentations for 9-12 English Learner students, and 03 College/ Career Field trips for students in grades 11-12
  - 01 ESOL Community Resource Fair for K-12 English Learner families
- ESOL events take place all over the county: K-12 schools, Clearwater East Community Library, High Point Neighborhood Family Center (HPNFC), Hispanic Outreach Center (HOC), SPC, PTC
- Ericka thanked all the community partners for their partnership and for all their support to PCS families and students.
- **Goals 2019-2020 School Year:** Ericka shared the ESOL Family Outreach 2019-2020 Action Plan. The plan provided detailed information about the events planned for EL parents and students for the current school year: workshop topics, informative/educational in-class presentations, ESOL Community Resource Fair, ESOL Community Advisory meeting.

## **III. ESOL Community Resource Fair 2019-2020/ESOL Community Advisory Meeting 2020:**

- Ericka Reckenwald introduced Ramona Zambrano, PCS English Learner Services Coordinator. Ericka explained that Ramona will be coordinating PCS ESOL Community Resource Fairs and the Community Advisory Meetings from now and on.
- Ramona Zambrano thanked all agencies and families for their participation at the previous fair. She expressed that the fair was very successful and showed some pictures of it.
- Ramona talked about the upcoming ESOL Community Resource Fair, scheduled on Tuesday, October 15. The fair will be held at the same location and time as the previous ESOL fair -SPC Clearwater Campus at 6:00 p.m. She invited everyone to participate.
- Ramona also promoted the Pinellas County Schools Facebook page in Spanish: [www.facebook.com/PCSBespanol](http://www.facebook.com/PCSBespanol). She showed the page, and did a demonstration on how like, share, and follow the page. She invited everybody to share the page with their administrators, clients/families, and community partners. In addition, Ramona showed a flyer for a family event organized by the Hispanic Outreach Center.

## **IV. PCS District ELs Plan:**

- Radmila Spiric, PCS ESOL Testing Coordinator shared the federal and state requirements and district processes related to:
  - newly registered students' identification and ESOL eligibility assessment
  - state English proficiency criteria
  - monitoring of students who exit the program
  - functions of the schools' ELL Committee meetings, etc.
- Radmila explained the process of parent notifications of: ESOL services, assessments, and the schools' ELL Committee meetings, as well as the effective ways of parent involvement.
- In addition, Radmila shared the ways schools in Pinellas County meaningfully communicate with families utilizing the parent native languages:
  - parent notification letters are available and sent home in native languages
  - 24/7 phone interpreter service is available for parent-teacher conferences or other needed communication in 350 different languages

- Help Line for Spanish-speaking families, and availability of bilingual assistant staff in each school, etc.
- Radmila invited the parents and community partners in attendance for any input about improving existing services, additional resources or alternative ways to support ESOL families. After the meeting, she helped a few parents with questions about the state English assessment and ESOL services.

#### **V. ESOL Career Day 2020:**

- Caroline Brown, Program Coordinator -High Point Neighborhood Family Center (HPNFC) talked about the ESOL Career Day. She shared the following information:
  - a review of how the ESOL Career Day event was created to support English Learner students (ELs) in grades 11-12 to explore hands-on programs, college and career options.
  - the partnership between PCS ESOL Family Outreach and HPNFC to coordinate the event, and the collaboration of local agencies/organizations participating in the event
  - details of the previous ESOL Career Day: schools, total of ELs students (85), agencies/organizations (10) participating, and more.
  - the planning for the next ESOL Career Day -scheduled on February 12 from 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.: the focus of the fair, agencies participating, and volunteers who speak Spanish or Vietnamese
- In addition, Caroline showed some pictures of Toast Master Youth Leadership Program, a program provided to support ELs in middle last school year. It was coordinated in collaboration with Morgan Fitzgerald MS, PCS ESOL Office, HPNFC, and Toast Master.

#### **VI. Update of Community Resources in Pinellas:**

- Clearwater Public Library System, services: English classes, citizenship classes, arts classes, computer classes and other programs for families and children
- Dunedin Library, services: Storytime programs, homework help, computer tutors, Literacy Council, conversation clubs
- High Point Neighborhood Family Center, services: family support, community outreach, after school programs, summer camps, youth leadership for teens
- Literacy Council of Upper Pinellas, services: citizenship classes, conversations classes for English language learners, one-on-one tutoring, online instruction
- Head Start, services: Head Start, Early Head Start and Pregnant Moms Programs
- League of Women Voters of North Pinellas, services: Voter registration, education and advocacy
- UMCM Suncoast, services: Adult Education –ESOL, Citizenship, Family Literacy
- UF/IFAS Extensions –Pinellas County 4-H, services: a life skills program that helps youth learn leadership, citizenship and team work through hands-on activities.
- Pinellas County Supervision of Elections, services: voting registration and education
- Early Steps, services: early intervention, services in family home for children birth to three with significant developmental delays
- PCS Heat Program, services: assist children, youth and families who may qualify as homeless with educational and social work services
- City of Largo, services: city services (recreations centers, camps, volunteer programs, other services)
- HYPY Pinellas County, services: free literacy program for parents of children who are 2, 3, 4 years of age. The services is provided at home, instructors help parents prepare their children to be ready for Kindergarten.
- Preserve Vision, services: free vision screening for ages 0-18, assistance with exams/glasses for those who qualify.

## **VII. Open Agenda/ Announcement:**

- Next ESOL Community Advisory Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January, 22. The location will be announced.
- ESOL Family Outreach shared:
  - Newsletter in English and in Spanish
  - Conversations with your Teachers, Spanish/English guide for EL families that allows parents to immediately communicate with teachers in writing.
  - PCS Parent Helpline in Spanish flyer
  - [www.facebook.com/PCSBespanol](http://www.facebook.com/PCSBespanol)  
Pinellas County Schools Facebook page in Spanish flyer
- Karen Owen - League of Women Voters talked about Pinellas Coalition for Immigration meeting. She shared a flyer with information about meeting, and invited the families and anybody interested to participate.
- Arelys Escalera – Pinellas County Marketing and Communications spoke briefly about the 2020 United States Census. She provided verbal information in Spanish, so the families could learn more about the Census and prepare to participate on it.
- Sheila Kane -PCS Strategic Partnership talked about Peachjar, and the community eFlyer procedures.
- Pinellas Technical College (PTC) brochure. The brochure gives detailed information about courses provided at PTC campuses.
- Clearwater Public Library System shared brochure that provides general information about the programs and services offered at each Clearwater Public library location.
- 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 for Hispanic families in Pinellas. In addition, they shared a flyer with information about the event: Make a Difference Day, a free community health fair for families, organized by the Hispanic Outreach Center that will be taking place on Oct 26<sup>th</sup>. They also shared a flyer for an informative session about families' rights, new immigration laws, and judicial power.
- 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.
- Head Start / Early Head Start shared applications for children and pregnant mom program and brochure that provides information about the Children and Head Start Services.
- Welcoming Week Basket Drive flyer, an event to collect donations for local refugee families in need. It will be taking place from Sept 1<sup>th</sup> to Sept 30<sup>th</sup>, at Largo Public Library, Barbara Ponce Public Library, UMCM Suncoast locations: Largo, St. Petersburg, and Bradenton cities.
- UF/IFAS Extension 4-H Youth Development Pinellas County shared brochure that provides information about the 4-H.

## **VIII. Closing:**

Ericka Reckenwald handed over an aware plaque to Joe Benavides -St. Petersburg College, Clearwater Campus for his outstanding ESOL Family Outreach support and dedication over the last year. She thanked Clearwater East Community Library for hosting the meeting for the second time, and thanked all the attendees for their great participation, and for the resources and information shared.