



MINUTES ELAC MEETING
20 March 2023 at 6:30 pm
D100

I. Welcome

The meeting started at 6:41 pm. In attendance were student members Ayush and Sweta Chandra; students Irene Hernandez and Veronica Vela; parents Priti Kumar Selvas (president, presiding), Michaela Gomez Luis, Yesenia Ayana, Nifa Hernandez, Laura Hernandez and Claudia Selvas; staff Johanna de la Rosa and Adrienne Karyadi (secretary), Tristan Komlos. The meeting was conducted in English.

II. Norms

Proposed norm: only 1 person can talk at a time; if you have a question, raise your hand and wait for the previous speaker to finish.

Proposed norm: put phones on vibrate.

Proposed norm: participate with some ideas.

Proposed norm: ask questions.

Adrienne Karyadi moved to approve these norms; seconded by Claudia Selvas; motion passed unanimously.

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes will be sent by email to members for approval.

IV. ELAC Topic: ELPAC Testing and Re-designation Rates

- 111 English learners still at Samohi
- We've redesignated 16 English learners this year. This is close to 13 percent of the EL students we had when the school year started.
- Testing current EL students began in March. Student ELAC advised parent group to give a "bribe" to seniors taking the test. Ms. De La Rosa and Edgar (community schools liaison) have been working on this.
- The window to give the ELPAC closes at the end of May. But students can take the Star Renaissance test in English class in early May, which will enable students with the ELPAC level 4 to redesignate (if students score 38% or higher). Unfortunately, students with the ELPAC level 4 will have to retake the test even though they might be reclassified.

Committee question: can we move the STAR Reading test date? Options—grades 12, 10, 9 take it in English class in March, 11th graders in April; or everyone take it after spring break but in April.

The committee discussed that the English department teachers are frustrated with the STAR Reading test which is mostly vocabulary and not viewed as an authentic measure of student ability. Parents questioned why the STAR reading test is being used instead of another measure and asked who picked the test. (The test was picked at the district level by Dr. Mora.)

Committee question: Dr. Mora wanted a measure to verify EL student readiness and identify student needs for tutoring or other help. It seems to be working; RFEP rates are going up. But are RFEP rates going up more at elementary and middle school than at high school; is it possible that STAR Reading works better for those grades and does not work for the high school level? There are more resources for teachers (training, tutoring for kids) at those levels, but not as much at Samohi as at other schools (according to the DELAC discussions).

Committee discussion: Can we make tutoring mandatory (based on identified weaknesses in STAR Reading or ELPAC)? Kids self-select to avoid meetings for EL students held during flex time. Parents suggested that students should not have a choice to reschedule themselves. Parents also talked about turning around the perceptions of bilingualism as something negative earlier (in elementary school).

V. DELAC Report

The DELAC has asked the district to notify parents via the report cards on the progress of their student towards reclassification, and whether their student is an EL. The district hasn't done that. Parents have explained to Dr. Mora that they don't really understand the letters that are sent out before ELPAC testing. The response has been that "it's not so easy" to change what is on the report card.

Committee Question: can a "report card" be created for Samohi's EL students with what the EL student's ELPAC score is, and what it needs to be; what the EL student's STAR Reading score is, and what it needs to be; the upcoming date of a STAR Reading test. Can this be sent to the families before STAR Reading tests? This report card could also ask parent to OK "bootcamp" during flex time for students. First bootcamp should be before the first STAR Reading test (in September). Targeted intervention at JAMS with Ms. Buccioni was effective for a student member of the committee, and he suggested that Samohi have something like that—more like a club. A call out during English class (call slips) to do work with Ms. Buccioni was the model the student liked the most.

Committee Question: Can advisors explain to parents that their student is an English learner when they are doing their 4-year planning meetings, or their intake meetings to Samohi? Advisors can also tell parents what supports exist for their student to reclassify or to improve so they are eligible to reclassify. This could happen when the advisor gives students PSAT study guide books (in October before PSAT).

Committee Question: can we return to Zoom and in person? Or maybe alternate morning meetings and evening meetings? Parent participation would increase if we had some flexibility or if we recorded it and posted it for parents to listen to later. Parents were frustrated that even if they participated in ELAC or in DELAC, things did not change and no one at the district level takes their suggestions seriously.

VI. Discussion/ recommendations

- a. Student Input from last meeting; swap ACT for SAT – **not discussed at meeting**
- b. Funding of test-prep books for 11th graders – **funding source not discussed at meeting**
- c. ELAC Scholarship: ELAC Student Advisory Group

The group discussed whether the students who were in the Advisory group should be given the scholarship; or all the EL students who are seniors in a raffle; or all the RFEP students who were reclassified when at Samohi. Or, we can divide it into three scholarships of \$250 each—one is for the advisory group, one is for an RFEPed student, one is for an EL student.

The group voted to give \$200 scholarships to each senior member of the Student Advisory group. The other \$350 would be a raffle, with the current senior EL students and the RFEP students who reclassified at Samohi being entered in the raffle.

Motion made by Adrienne Karyadi; seconded by Claudia Selvas; vote in favor was unanimous.

- VII. Announcements:** Priti will have to pick the scholarship raffle winner before the next meeting because Senior Award Night will be in May this year.

- VIII. Closure**—Priti closed the meeting at 8:23 pm.

Next meetings: • May 15- International Potluck Celebration? Bring food, family.