

El Monte Union High School District
Program Improvement Accountability Committee (PIAC)
Minutes of November 14, 2011 Meeting

Members present: Bob Mata, Carol Truscott, Joel Kyne, Edith Echeverria, Eddie Zuniga, Angelita Gonzales-Hernandez, Marcie Hernandez, Larry Cecil, Diana McCrohan, Jim Taite, Esthela Torres de Siegrist, Nick Salerno, Julie Jennings, Rita Donato, Winetta Belt-Vargas, Cindy Pottle, Chris Lewis, Keith V. Richardson, Wyatt Bernthal, Jennifer Braddick, Gloria Alanis, Maria Alfaro, Keith B. Wheeler

The meeting began at 12:30 pm with lunch provided.

Meeting Outcomes:

- **Gain a deeper understanding of the district's LEA goals and action steps**
- **Explore the fundamentals of implementation science for school districts**
- **Use data to build a common understanding about the performance of students based on their CST scores in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics**

Welcome and After Action Review: (Kyne/Truscott)

- The October 17th meeting minutes were approved and the newly established norms were adopted.
- The program improvement information link is now up and running on the district website.

Review of LEA Goals and Action Steps: (Kyne)

- The LEA plan has been updated to reflect the status of goals we have started working towards. The updated LEA plan is on the website. Mr. Kyne presented an update:
 - Goal 1: Proficiency in Reading/Language Arts and mathematics – new curriculum for ELA has been purchased and SIOP training is being provided.
 - Goal 2: Academic Achievement for English learners – new curriculum has been purchased for ELD
 - Goal 3: Highly Qualified Teachers – VPSS training under way, alignment of services has been communicated with all contracted providers, monthly articulation meetings with feeder districts have been scheduled
 - Goal 4: Increasing Graduation Rates/Decreasing Drop-Out Rates – Summer Bridge Program offered at all sites, concurrent labs are up and running (need to check on Mountain View HS), and TES dates have been scheduled

Examining Student Data Through the Data Inquiry Process: (Truscott)

- Ms. Truscott reviewed article: “Answering the Questions that Count.” She presented on the Data Inquiry Process, which has 5 steps:
 - Begin with a question
 - Examine the data
 - Raise questions about the data
 - Interpret the data
 - Propose interventions
- Ms. Truscott and members present went over an example: How are students doing in ELA by looking at their ELA CSTs? The group went through each step of the Data Inquiry Process. Data was presented and the group shared their thoughts.
- An “Action Between Sessions” was assigned. Sites will need to apply the Data Inquiry Process to their October 2011 ELA Common Formative Benchmark Assessment. Principals will share their findings at the December 12th meeting.

“Implementation Science: An Introduction of Fundamentals for School Districts:” (Mata)

- Mr. Mata presented on effective implementation of initiatives. The group was asked to think of initiatives/program that were implemented 4 years ago and are still ongoing? Some examples mentioned were AVID, mentoring, CFBAAs and Read 180.
- With diminishing resources, this group will have to analyze initiatives being implemented in order to decide what will stay and what will go.
- As an example, the group discussed our AVID program. AVID has been around district-wide for at least 7 years and its purpose is to support students in their core classes. AVID was originally intended to address “A-G” completion rates and 4-year college admission eligibility. However, the program has had additional effects on student success:
 - An increase in college-going culture
 - Promotion of rigor (more honors/AP offering) and changes in demographics of students enrolled in those classes
 - Professional development – AVID teaching strategies. Teachers who attend the AVID Summer Institute come back with enthusiasm and share what they’ve learned with other teachers.
 - Pipeline from feeder schools to high schools
 - The application process creates buy-in
 - College field trips trigger thoughts about going to college
- AVID is an example of a program that has been successfully implemented. However, it is very costly. Although AVID only directly targets a few students, it is infectious and its strategies and methodology spread throughout the school.
- All analyses of initiatives must be evidence-based. We need to compile data to see if our initiatives are being effective.
- Mr. Mata also reviewed common blunders that happen all the time when initiatives are implemented.
- What initiative has been implemented just this year? – ELA curriculum.
- There are six stages to the implementation process:
 - Exploration
 - Installation
 - Initial implementation
 - Full implementation
 - Innovation
 - Sustainability
- What stage are we in with ELA curriculum?
 - Exploration – met with English teachers and different vendors considered
 - Installation – curriculum purchased and presented to the staff, staff undergoing training
 - We are entering the initial implementation phase
- Any initiative takes at least 4 years to implement.
- The district has a few new initiatives – ALD, ELA curriculum, SIOP – we need to monitor what phase we’re in for each initiative.
- We need to be able to justify each initiative.

Closing Remarks

- Mr. Kyne and Mr. Salerno thanked everyone for being here.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.