

Chinese Immersion Task Force

meeting minutes

28 March 2023 | 4:00 - 5:30



Members present: Melissa Bayouth, Courtney Carlson, Heather Astill, Jeff Hurst, Michael Ganheart, Melody Shaw, Matt Wachel, Andrea Duffy, Marisol Cantu, Carrie Myers, Claire Pan, Moi Mooi Lew, Slone Sandmoen, Elaine Liou, Jenny Cheung, Lori Ann Ramsey, Janneil Crader, Kristin Ray, Scott McFarland, Tonya Merrigan, Kelly Ott, Jennifer Luzenske, Katie Collier, Kaci Brutto, Kaety Bowers, Jessica Tavelli

Members absent: Rachel Benson, Eric Punswick, Steve Heinauer, Kristi McNerlin, Gina Knapp

Welcome & Introductions

Dr. Tonya Merrigan

Task force members were welcomed and thanked for their commitment to the group. Members introduced themselves and shared the role they represent on the task force.

The goal of the task force is to recommend options to sustain Elementary Chinese Immersion. The role of the advisory task force is to present options to the Board of Education for consideration.

Meetings guidelines were reviewed with the task force and patrons in attendance.

Task Force Process & Product

Kelly Ott

The task force reviewed the thorough and multi-step process that will be used over the next few months to identify options for the BOE to consider that address the long-term sustainability of Mandarin instruction in Blue Valley. The process will be:

- Collaborative
- Forward-Thinking
- Student-Centered

- Focused

The estimated timeline for the task force was reviewed with the goal to present recommended options to the Board of Education at the November 9 meeting.

The task force reviewed communication expectations with task force members. The task force team will receive most communication via email including:

- Agendas by the Friday before our meeting
- Notes/materials by the Friday after our meeting
- Updates and other pertinent information

These documents will also be posted to the Chinese Immersion Advisory Task Force web page. Agendas will be posted by Friday prior to meeting dates and notes/meeting resources will be posted by the Friday following meetings.

Discussion v. Dialogue

Kelly Ott

Task force members viewed a [video](#) about dialogue and the five conditions for dialogue including humility, hope, faith, critical thinking and love. Members conducted a table-top activity about the conditions and how they apply to task force work.

Task Force Norms

Jennifer Luzenske

The task force discussed how group norms can help clarify expectations, promote open dialogue, and serve as a tool during group work. Task force members provided feedback about norms in the following categories:

- Listening
- Participation
- Decision making
- Confidentiality
- Expectations

The norms feedback was collected and will be presented at the April meeting.

First Team Decision

Jennifer Luzenske

Task force members had dialogue on how to reach a sustainable recommendation to take to the Board of Education– evaluate options presented by administration or co-create options. General consensus of the task force was to table this decision as members would like to first learn more about the background of the Chinese Immersion program and opportunities, challenges within the program.

Future Planning

Kelly Ott

Task force members shared the types of information they would like to see presented at future meetings including:

- Attrition rates for students and staff
- Costs of the program
- Student achievement data
- Current and potential family support of the program
- BVEA negotiated agreement
- KSDE teaching requirements
- Recruiting and retention efforts
- Plans for middle school and high school program
- Middle school electives constraints
- Curriculum, instruction & student support
- Program evaluation
- Background on eligibility for Chinese Immersion program and lottery
- Programs goals

Closing

Jennifer Luzenske

Reviewed when task force members can expect meeting notes and supporting documents. Reminded members that all task force information will also be available on the task force web page.

Task force members recapped the meeting that included a welcome, discussion of process, activity around dialogue, setting of group norms and sharing additional information needed to decide how options will be created.