

Language Specific Open House - Spanish

Transcripts and translation from notes taken during SEGC Zoom meeting on 11/19.

(Spanish Room. 28 participants)

- 1- Leticia: - It is a sudden during a pandemic. It is something that is going to have a big impact. How are we planning to help these students deal with emotional distress?
- 2- Isabel Toledo (Atkinson): - I have been in PPS for 15 years and I have previous experience with restructuring schools' boundaries. The opening of Kellogg school will bring changes. It is concerning the fact that DLI will be in only one school (Lent). Latino students are not only in this area. There will be not access for neighborhood students. We are limiting the access to students from the neighborhood. It is contrary to experts' recommendations about what is healthy for children. Walking to school is healthy for students. This plan is segregating students from the neighborhood. We should review this next year. Only one school for DLI is not enough.
- 3- Pedro Anglada: - The emotional impact on the students will be huge! Not all neighborhoods have the privilege to opt for immersion programs. It is a lottery. It is a barrier. I will like to advocate for a system where everybody who wants to opt for the immersion program can get it.
- 4- Emilia (Atkinson. Teacher and parent DLI): - These changes are big and abrupt. It is abrupt for students and families. This will result in Hispanic families losing the immersion program. It will nice to do this with more time.
- 5- Ellie Baumgarten: - I am concerned about children with disability and speak other languages. I can appreciate the positives of both arguments. My question is: Which professionals have been consulted about the impact this change will have on the children? Psychologists agree that children will face difficulties with adaptation upon return after the distance learning. Children with disabilities suffer the most. I will suggest which specialists to consult.
- 6- Emilia Schwing: - It is a good thing that K-8 schools become K-5. This benefits the students. Families need to have more immersion schools in their communities.
- 7- Isabel Toledo: - What can we do to provide socio-economic stability without creating so much disruption. Children should be able to go to their neighborhood schools.
- 8- Rufina Vazquez (mother): - I am concerned about children with disabilities. My child goes to Atkinson. This change may have a negative impact. I disagree with these changes.
- 9- Jose Aguilar (Bridger parent): - They are dividing the community in groups according to the language they speak. I feel there is so much division. What if the Hispanic community do some kind of boycott to protest.
- 10- Giacomo: - We are all in disagreement. This are times of economic and social uncertainty. We better wait until we have more stability to return to this issue.
- 11- Belen Xitlali: I propose to rebuilt (renovate) Bridger. This is not the time to make changes. Our children are taking virtual classes, and later they are going to go to a different school? It is a very radical change. It seems this decision is already taken. Why not to change Lent to Bridger instead? We are labeling a community according to the neighborhood where they live.
- 12- Monica Caravia: Why are learning about this now, when we are in the last steps of the proposal?
- 13- Emilia: Isn't this a fact already? How possible is for these scenarios to change?
- 14- Isabel: I propose to have more than one immersion school in the southeast neighborhoods.
- 15- Roberta (Atkinson mother): - I think is too abrupt. One of my daughters has never been in a classroom. It is hard for all parents of Atkinson to take our kids to Lent.

Language Specific Open House - Spanish

16- Liz (mother of 2): - I disagree. If I could vote, I would do it against. Children are going to suffer emotionally, having new classmates, new teacher, etc.

(3 comments on the chat. All against.)

17- Leticia (teacher): - To change the classes of students who are suffering a trauma now will be detrimental to the mental health of the students.

18- Oscar: - What PPS is going to do to support the students after these changes take place?

19- Dulce Sosa (mother of 2 students in immersion): I think this is too fast. I propose to support the 3 schools with immersion programs. Teachers work hard. Communities will be displaced. What benefits these changes bring?

20- Marco Lopez (chat): - No changes now.

21- Wesme Pila (Lent. Teacher and parent): How valid is what we are doing here? It seems to me the decision is already taken and this is only bureaucracy. The situation for parent with children in elementary school will be critical. Students in middle school take home their brothers and sisters in elementary in K-8 school.

22- Isabel: - is sad to see the Spanish program at Atkinson go to Lent. Why not to extend it and support it?

23- Giacomo: - I just saw the PPS website now. I think you are trying to implement a model that already exist in other states. Divisions can't be solved with more divisions.

24- Oscar: There is not trust in PPS! I have not heard how they are going to support the new programs. Who is going to be here in 15 years to see if these changes work? Guadalupe? How are we going to make sure our voice is heard by those who are taking these decisions?