



The mission of the St. Louis Language Immersion School, an innovative, diverse, socially-conscious, public charter school, is to develop empathetic, high achieving, bilingual, globally-minded students by providing rigorous academic foundation that fosters critical thinking and problem solving.

**SLLIS Council
AGENDA
August 17, 2017
6pm**

Attendance:

Dr. Lilith Werner – Superintendent

Dr. Arlene Salgado – COO

Vince Schoemehl – SLLIS Board chair

Meghan Hill – k-3 Principal

Rob Biesendorfer – 4-8 Principal

Sebastien Babolot – Assist. Principal (Marine)

Maribel Martinez – Assist. Principal (Papin)

Chinese Program – Kathryn Bonney, Kristy Kelley, Martha Hans, Amy Trapp

French Program –Liz Turpin, Debi Viamontes,

Spanish Program – Lisa D’Souza, Lisa Dorner, Shannon Oberkrom, Tugrul Ozdemir

I. Master Schedule Q&A – Admin/Parents

a. Basic Overview

Meghan Hill/Sebastien/Rob – This year’s schedule tried to address some BIG IDEAS and teacher wellbeing, especially for the classroom teacher. She noted that all current administrators have experience in the classroom and recognize there has not been enough time given then in the past for planning, lunch, etc. Highlights include:

1. 30 minute each day for instructional staff (classroom teachers) to eat lunch (NEW)
2. Common planning time – 50 min./day with grade level teachers. This means that all Kindergarten teachers have the same 50 minutes each day across all 3 language programs (same for 1, 2, 3,8th grade). Google Hangout is being used to provide a way to connect the campuses for further collaboration.
3. Extended and relaxed lunch/recess for students. First 2 weeks teachers are spending it with their classrooms to help them understand rules, expectations, etc. Starting week 3, teachers will drop the class off at the lunchroom, where there are lunchroom supervisors who will maintain order through the end of recess (30 minutes total for K-6th grade).



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4. A lot of requests were asked of the schedule and Sebastien (who worked hard to put the schedule together) was able to grant almost all of the wishes, while incorporating enough flexibility for changes as the school year progresses.
5. Flexibility in daily schedule for teachers – e.g., incorporating rest time for Kindergarten if needed, etc.

b. Title I Reading and Math Program (iReady and Ready Math)

Dr. Werner – opened the discussion stating that SLLIS’ budget at the beginning of this fiscal year was under 5% cash and that the goal is to reach and maintain 10%+. In the spring there was an outcry, specifically with Chinese Program Parents, that a focus should be placed on maintaining the full language model, and with a strapped budget and a desire to keep the target language instruction as intact as possible, the ELA specialists were unable to be kept in the same way. The current licensing for iReady and Ready Math, plus the teacher training and workbooks for all teachers and all students was approximately \$40,000 (year 1) with future years being less (renewal).

Rob – shared information about the programs and had examples to show of the reports classroom teachers are able to pull and help inform supplemental work for each student, the workbooks and teachers aids.

The benefits are that this is the first time the language programs have had 1 consistent curriculum across the school. It is adaptive, in both reading and math, with level appropriate “work” that the teacher can access at any time as a lesson plan, online, and each time the child logs into the system, they will receive work that is level appropriate and also helps with student growth. Parents also have access to view the work and be part of the instructional team. These lesson plan materials can then be provided to students as part of their classroom work or even homework – how it is implemented will be up to the classroom teacher to ultimately decide.

2 days a week – 4-6th grade students receive face to face English Language Arts (ELA) from the specialist (French and Spanish)

5 days a week – 7-8 (middle school) students receive ELA



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In 2016, Shaw Teo (the former Asst. Principal) surveyed all teachers and asked about their current curriculum resources and needs. It was identified that across the 3 language programs, 26 different sources were being used. This information was used to help inform the search for an alternative to create some consistency and teacher requested support.

Math – each teacher has a resource book and each student has a book to “consume” as well as a workbook that will be used in the classroom. For students not at the current level... all teachers have access to ALL level workbooks (e.g., a 4th grade student is at a 2nd grade learning level) and can customize their work.

Martha Hans – Chinese Program Parent shared concerns of not having dedicated ELA specialists and brought a copy of the charter and archived pages from the website. She shared her families understanding and expectations and how they felt SLLIS was not doing what they promised. Dr. Werner shared the many stresses administration must consider when making changes. She stated that personnel is tied to the language immersion model we choose and with the current full immersion model and budget constraints that they were limited.

When asked if there’s a timeframe for changes, Dr. Werner indicated that unless the school receives a large donation or there are changes (e.g., IB, Full immersion) that there will not be a change in the foreseeable future.

Meghan stated that the level of ELA and use of iReady is a bare minimum approach and that no one felt it was adequate. They admitted that since the spring they have been giving thought to how they can increase the amount of instructional time by people proficient in English and as of yet they have not found a sustainable approach... yet. **Recommendation was to pull the data from the iReady program for discussion during the October School Improvement Data Day** and Megan, Sebastien and Rob confirmed that they have acknowledged this is a problem and are not comfortable at this time to set a deadline on when changes may take place.



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Administration was open to suggestions from parents/community and agreed that there needs to be a central place to collect suggestions so that they can be reviewed efficiently.

c. Lunch/Recess

Sebastien – students are being encouraged to intermix between languages and the grades are taking lunch all together to help foster friendships. He mentioned the kids were a little uncertain at first, but by day 3 there was a noticeable difference in children enjoying their time together and they are no longer lumped together, but are more spread and relaxed. Also confirmed sack lunch kids and lunch line kids are not able/encouraged to eat together – which is new this year.

Sebastien made a special mention of the art specialist, Perla, who volunteered her time all summer to paint the walls at Marine. She has had some help with others and hope to include older kids in future work.

d. Special/Heritage

Meghan and Sebastien – shared that French program had “enrichment” classes last year and they were well received. They were very similar to heritage classes. There IS a plan to include them again and that there will be more information coming out in the future weeks/month. Because the classes are provided by teachers, they are in the process of identifying the types of classes to be offered, day/time to offer them and the process to try and accommodate parent wishes (e.g., some parents wish children to not participate or have specific requests for types of activities – dance, singing, etc.). There is flexibility in the schedule and they are wanting to find a time across both languages so that teacher planning and lunch times are not impacted

II. Food Allergy Concerns – Kristy Kelley

Kristy shared her story as a mom with now 2 allergic children enrolled at SLLIS. Ideas brought forth include: School-wide action plans, posting of allergic children and allergies/possible reactions in lunch room so that monitors are aware, Education of peers and teachers (presentations in classrooms and Nurse Amy providing inservice for all teachers), centralize location for epi-pens, posting of signs at classes where children with food allergies are present, providing information for teachers in all 3 languages (Amy Trapp mentioned TCS parent had translated a document and will get



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a copy and share with Lilith). Need to also educate substitute teachers so they understand when an allergic child is present and a strong policy to NOT hand out candy at any time. Communicating to ALL parents in a classroom if there is a child with known food allergies and Kristy recommended a form go home to parents of children with allergies to remove liability from school and allow the parent to provide an alternative to whatever treat is being offered (e.g., birthday parties).

Dr. Werner and Dr. Arlene Salgado were open to these recommendations and agreed to begin working on steps to help with safety. Next steps were outlined (Lisa Dorner, Kristy Kelley to work with Arlene and Lilith) and Amy to provide examples of mandarin messages used in the past by parents.

III. Uniform Policy Review – Lisa Dorner

There is a plan to begin an internal review of the uniform policy in the winter of this year. It was suggested that parents and students be included in this discussion in some way (possible adhoc committee) and that ANY changes will be communicated PRIOR to the end of this school year (May). If no changes are approved by May, 2018, then NO changes will be recommended for the 2018-2019 school year.

IV. Our Community Listens (www.ourcommunitylistens.org) – Amy Trapp

Due to the late hour, the website was simply shared. This is a free, 3 day class through Barry Wehmiller (manufacturing company in Clayton, MO). Amy attended in January and the experience is very worthwhile. There's an application process and it is something to discuss in the future for Council/Friends of... parents, administration, etc. to attend if able.

V. Friends of Language Immersion 501(c)3 Update – Parents

Amy Trapp – Jeff was unable to attend by had confirmed prior to the meeting that paperwork is ready to submit and the hold-up is the \$500-\$1,000 filing fee (confirming exact amount). Because we are not yet a 501(c)3, we are unable to hold fundraisers on the school premises, however, ideas mentioned include: Gofundme; finding a company to sponsor and personally asking some parents who have expressed an interest and are able to support, to contribute toward this goal (5 individuals giving \$100, etc.) Kristy Kelley is checking with her husband, Tyler on the cost and paperwork since he has experience in filings and helped with the paperwork.



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Bylaws are needed – Shannon asked questions that need further research and discussion for clarity.

Officers – the spring Council members who are current parents (Lisa D’Souza, Shannon Oberkrom, Liz Turpin, Amy Trapp) will serve as the officers for filing purposes and once

paperwork is approved and bylaws created, the newer parent representatives will be transitioned. Until that time, current SAC parents (Kathryn Bonney, Kristy Kelley, Tina Greer and Tugrul Ozdemir will work with the Council and Friends of... officers as committee chairs, etc. (details TBD).

VI. Feedback on first week back at school – Parents/Admin

Rob shared that he has already seen evidence of teachers enjoying the opportunity to collaborate. He shared an example of a teacher training where historically there would have been 3 tables, separated by language, but this summer he saw everyone coming together and EMPTY tables because of the interest in working together.

He stated there have been a few bus issues but those are before and after school, and not many. But during the school day, he has only seen positive things in the halls and rooms.

Parents also shared some feedback their children had shared – recognizing friends they’ve met over the summer who are in French program and their excitement to see them across the hall the first day.

VII. Other

Lilith asked about how more parents could be encouraged to attend future parent meetings and how to improve the diversity of the parents who attend. Former and current SAC parents shared feedback they had received re: time, day, childcare, food, etc. Meeting set for **Wednesday, September 6th, 6pm (Papin) childcare and food provided (donations accepted to cover cost of pizza, fruit and drinks for children)**. Childcare will take place on the playground and parents will meet in cafeteria (if weather doesn’t cooperate then we can change to children in cafeteria and parents in multi-purpose room).



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Dr. Werner volunteered to take care of childcare, and any donations will help cover the cost of the food. Doors can be open earlier for parents who can't logistically go

home and back. Flyers (Amy Trapp to create a draft) will be sent home in backpacks, an email sent to all families, posts to SM, etc. Also – a parent feedback form will go out prior to the meeting, for parent feedback. This form will be available online, via email, backpack, etc. The goal is to provide a wide array of communication methods to publicize this meeting and future meetings.

Adjourn 8:00p Next meeting: Council officer meeting is TBD (Parent meeting set for 9/6/17)