



# Mandarin Immersion Magnet School

休士顿中文沉浸学校

望子成龙望女成凤



## SDMC Minutes December 5, 2016 EXCELLENCE & EQUITY

- I. Call to order
- II. Roll Call – Establish Quorum  
Y. Chen, M. Liu, Garcia, Simpson, C. Lin, A. Chen (parent), Chang, L. Lim, D. Roberts
- III. Adoption of Agenda  
Simpson Second
- IV. Approval of Minutes – November 7, 2016  
Will be reviewed in the next SDMC
- V. Agenda Items

### SDMC Meeting Norm

- Be on Time
- Be Efficient (1 hr)
- Stay on Topic
- Mutual Respect
- Be Transparent

- 1. Chengyu Competition  
<http://www.houstonisd.org/Page/154042>  
It was reposted on November 28<sup>th</sup>. There are 61 students signed up for the younger division and 41 for the older. Rules reviewed.  
There will be a science competition next semester, which will be structured somewhat like a spelling bee. Ms. Lin wanted to know if the students have to answer in exactly the same words. Mr. Chang clarified that for some answers there is an exact answer but for others as long as they explain the concept right, they will get it correctly.
- 2. “Goodbye, English” Celebration
  - a. Assembly on January 6, 2017
    - i. One area of concern has been whether the kids use enough Chinese in the Chinese classrooms. We still hear kids using English a lot. We are an immersion school and we know the kids will only reach their goals if they wean from speaking English. Mr. Chang proposed 1<sup>st</sup> grade as the first grade level to officially say “Goodbye, English.”
    - ii. Ms. Simpson thought teachers might have to go slower if they don’t use English.
    - iii. Mr. Chang clarified that teachers already are using 100% Chinese for instruction. This is about student talk.
    - iv. Ms. Lim asked if this isn’t already happening.
    - v. Mr. Chang: to some degree, but it could use reinforcement.
  - b. Accountability
    - i. Ms. Lin brought up Lynn Fulton’s suggestion of having a classroom incentive: two jars of rice. One is emptied into the other as students speak Chinese. When one jar is filled up, there will be some classroom celebration.
    - ii. Ms. Chen asked for suggestions when students have something they would really like to say something but they don’t have the vocabulary or ability to say it in Chinese.
    - iii. Mr. Chang said that the students need to master pre-taught sentence stems so they can express the relevant ideas. Have increased checks for understanding and repeated student practice.



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- iv. Ms. Chen – Will it discourage students from expressing things if they don't have the vocabulary.
- v. Ms. Lim – The immersion pedagogy that forces it is very important.
- vi. Mr. Chang – We need to encourage them to use more. Do we need to use a gradual system?
- vii. Mr. Roberts - In Delaware, they use a color-coded system to make it more gradual. There's a green light, yellow light, red light. I can find out more about what the colors mean.
- viii. Mr. Chang – So maybe 1<sup>st</sup> grade is the transition year and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade is when it is 100% Chinese.
- ix. Ms. Chen – Maybe the title can be reworded to “Zaijian, English” to make it more positive.
- x. Ms. Lin – The kids can sign a “Zaijian Yin Wen” poster for the classroom.
- xi. Mr. Liu said he could design a poster.
- xii. Ms. Chen suggested a once-per month bar chart check-in about amount of Chinese usage. It could even include lunch and recess. We should also find opportunities for families to use it outside of the classroom.
- xiii. SDMC unanimously approved the plan to hold this ceremony and increase accountability for English only in the Chinese classrooms. Further details will be worked out in Thursday staff meetings.

### 3. Safety Council Meeting

- a. Fire Drill: Primary Route on November 28, 2016
- b. Improvements
  - i. Everything went well except one map was incorrect and one 1<sup>st</sup> grade classroom went out the wrong exit.
- c. Needs

### VI. Teacher Representative (sharing thoughts and comments from teachers)

- a. Ms. Chen – Teachers expressed concerns that there is shortage of lesson planning time. During their planning time, it is often taken up with meetings.
- b. Mr. Chang said that this year it is shorter because we can no longer have early dismissal.
- c. Ms. Chen – Sometimes the parent talking time can last 30 minutes-60 minutes.
- d. Mr. Chang recommended getting the parents' main points of concern in advance, setting a meeting agenda, and clarifying timing needs. If the parents continue, offer to schedule another meeting.
- e. Ms. Lim – Can we have individual parent conferences again? The 10 minutes helped parents see their students work and get to know the teachers. Some feedback from parents was that they still wanted to talk about their child.
- f. Mr. Chang – Unfortunately, we do not have the money or the time. With the group conference we were able to address most of the concerns.
- g. Ms. Simpson – The group conference worked well, but I had to stay two hours to talk to some parents. I think it just needs to be two hours instead of one.
- h. Ms. Chen – Do we feature grade level work?
- i. Mr. Chang – The boards are getting up.
- j. Ms. Chen – Maybe during CNY, we could set up tables with student work displayed. Or is there a common area? Maybe during a PTO meeting.



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- k. Mr. Roberts – There is some gap in communication. Maybe we need to adjust how we do LT posts.
  - l. Ms. Chen – Maybe on the TV screen behind Ms. Rivas.
  - m. Mr. Chang – That seems workable. One per month, teachers send a picture of work sample to display on the TV.
  - n. SDMC agreed, but Simpson didn't want it to involve another big commitment from teachers.
  - o. Ms. Chen – We have to block the doors to get back in from recess
  - p. Mr. Chang – Weekly pictures on LT can substitute
- VII. Parent Representative (sharing thoughts and comments from parents)
- a. Ms. Lim
    - i. One of the pink buses is now leaving early for assembly. One leaves at 7:15, one leaves at 7:30.
    - ii. Is there a date for Science Fair?
      - 1. Mr. Chang – Yes, it will be on a Saturday.
      - 2. Lim – Will there be another STEM Night? Some people would like to be both. Is it okay to add another date?
      - 3. Mr. Chang – Yes, that's fine. Up
    - iii. Middle School
      - 1. Possibility of lunches being separate from younger kids
        - a. Mr. Chang – It depends on the number of students ordering lunches. If more students order lunches, we can open two lines.
        - b. Mr. Chang – We also need to get tables out for free seating.
        - c. Mr. Chang – It also depends on number of students coming. We don't have enough middle grades students yet this year to have a separate lunch.
        - d. Mr. Chang – We also will open have open free seating once we have the courtyard ready. Students will earn this privilege.
        - e. Lim – Will there be two different serving lines for different foods?
        - f. Chang – We are not supposed to put food on the tray until kids order it. That can make the line last longer. They also said we have to have more kids ordering lunch before we can open another lunch line. By having three grade levels in one lunch line, we might have the numbers.
        - g. Lim – vending machines?
        - h. Chang – HISD decides on those choices.
        - i. Lim – Do they have natural vending machines.
        - j. Lim – Bells. Can they have free passing periods?
        - k. Chang – They will get more freedoms as they demonstrate more responsibility. Student Council is there to represent them, so they can take the concerns to Student Council.
        - l. Roberts – There's also an urgency with time when you add a whole extra content area. Teachers are very concerned with instructional time. In Portland they made a plan for an intentional extension of



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student independence, but they want to be deliberate about it because its harder to rein things in than to extend freedom.

- m. Lim – Benches. A way to bridge the gap between PTO and Spark. When people ask if they should give to PTO or Spark, I think we should say, just give to PTO and then PTO will give to Spark. We have a new fundraising chair for CNY.
- n. Mr. Chang – Is there some way for lower-income families to be involved?
- o. Ms. Chen – All kids will have a chance to make tiles for the seat wall.
- p. Mr. Chang – So maybe that could be a like \$5 donation.
- q. Ms. Chen – Yes, we could make it an optional \$5 donation.
- r. Ms. Lim – Since we're getting another grade level, we want to make sure we have enough in PTO funds. We're thinking of doing a Fun Run. We would like to do Boosterthon again this year.
- s. Ms. Lim – Magnet tours are going great. There's a lot of interest in Middle School.

VIII. Open Forum

IX. Proposal for next meeting: January 9, 2017

VII. Adjourn