

## **SDMC Minutes for Jane Long Academy and Las Americas 9/29/21**

This was the first meeting of the 2021 – 2022 school year for the Jane Long Academy and Las Americas SDMC. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Moreno at 4:20.

Dr. Moreno began with taking attendance, introductions of members, and assuring that all necessary roles are assigned. We are still in need of a parent representative from Las Americas. Ms. Wrye will continue in her role as secretary for the upcoming school year.

Dr. Moreno discussed the agenda with two main items: working on continuity across the two campuses in supporting not only new but also long-term, as in 5 or more years, English Learners and the school improvement plans for both campuses.

Dr. Moreno held up a colored poster for meeting attendees to see the IRLA, or Independent Reading levels of students in the BEVO program and to highlight that students are moving up levels after the first six weeks of school comes to an end.

Dr. Moreno re-introduced Ms. Decker as the English Learner Instructional Specialist at Jane Long. Ms. Decker shared information about the American Reading Company curriculum and how there is a color to represent each grade level. Students take tests to find out their level and then work on books at that level to acquire the skills to increase levels as the year goes on. With this model, students can see continuity between Las Americas, where the curriculum has been in use, and Jane Long as they continue to work with the leveled books in their reading classes. Students can also see their growth as they move up from one color level to the next and as an incentive program students are encouraged to wear their color bands every day. Students were recently given popsicles at lunch for wearing their color bands. Ms. Decker also discussed that this reading level data shows growth versus many of the district or state assessments that show students only as beginner or in urgent need of intervention. Ms. Moreno also explained that the BEVO program has five teachers who are working with the long term English Learners at Jane Long to provide small group and work station instruction to those English Learners who are below a second grade reading level after 3 or more years in the United States.

Dr. Moreno mentioned that there is a new Magnet Coordinator for the Jane Long High School students Ms. Ukabam. She also discussed intensifying the focus on the middle school students and program to help those students improve.

Dr. Moreno reviewed the School Improvement Plan for Las Americas. Las Americas works with newcomer students and current affairs in the world mean there are a lot of students coming in from Afghanistan and students continue to come from the northern triangle of Central America, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, among other countries as well. Dr. Moreno discussed that Las Americas is TELPAS focused and driven by English Learning proficiency levels. Dr. Moreno reviewed the English Language Arts and Math goals for Las Americas.

Dr. Moreno also reviewed the Jane Long Academy School Improvement Plan reading and math campus goals.

Dr. Moreno discussed that with ESSER money Jane Long is able to provide tutoring on a 3 to 1 ratio for students in need of extra support because of the COVID – 19 learning gap. Students are getting one to two extra hours of tutoring a day. Jane Long is also offering Saturday tutorials beginning October 4<sup>th</sup> for students who need extra support.

Dr. Moreno then asked if there were any questions about the School Improvement Plans. No questions were asked. Dr. Moreno will send a survey to members of the SDMC to vote for approval of the School Improvement Plans.

Dr. Moreno then asked Mr. Rice, orchestra teacher, to talk about his program and expectations for a coming performance in October or December of 2021.

Mr. Rice explained that the students are learning how to play violin, cello, and bass. He is hoping students will be ready for their first performance by December. Students have started to learn how to use the bow last week and are picking it up quickly. The Las Americas elementary students are learning to play “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star” and teaching Spanish to Mr. Rice as he teaches them English.

Mirella from Connect said that it is great to hear that Jane Long and Las Americas are investing in the arts during a time when most programs are being cut.

Dr. Moreno thanked Mr. Rice for sharing and Mirella for commenting.

Dr. Moreno asked Ms. Luna if she was available to speak.

Ms. Luna shared that she is working on establishing a PTO for both Jane Long and Las Americas with Mr. White. She has made flyers for Friday 10/1 in Spanish and English. The PTO meetings will be in person with one at 10 am and another at 6pm to provide times for parents and families who work or have other commitments. The meetings will be in person in the auditorium which will allow for social distancing.

Dr. Moreno thanked Ms. Luna for sharing and said she is excited about having an active PTO at Jane Long and Las Americas. Dr. Moreno hopes that the PTO offers an opportunity to capture the strengths of parents. Mr. White is also recruiting parents at drop off and pick up times. It just takes one parent to start building the village.

Dr. Moreno asked if there were any questions or anything else to share. Christian shared that there are questions regarding incentives but will send an email. Mr. Burroughs reminded everyone that the FAFSA and TAFSA forms for student aid for seniors open on Fri Oct. 1.

Dr. Moreno said she will discuss incentives at the next meeting and make an announcement and call out for the PTO meeting. The meeting finished at 5:15. The next meeting of the SDMC will be Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:15.

J. Long Academy and Las Americas Middle School

SDMC Meeting

DATE: 9/29/21

MEMBERS

<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Signature</b>
Marie Moreno	Principal	Present
Ceren Cengiz	Classroom Teacher	Present
Lynell Decker	Instructional Specialist	Present
Maria D. Garcia	School Based Staff	Present
Dr. Jesse McNeil	Business Member	Absent
Laurence Payne	Community Member	Absent
Timothy Burroughs	Community Member	Present
Sara Wrye	Instructional Specialist	Present
Victor Saenz	Classroom Teacher	Present
Christian Hernandez	Classroom Teacher	Present
Kimberly Joiner	School Based Staff	Present
Kerry Rice	Classroom Teacher	Present
Maricel Tobar	School Based Staff	Present
Dori Brasher	Non – Instructional Staff	Present
Mirella Salas	Community Member	Present
Ryan Villareal	Community Member	Absent
	Parent - Las Americas	Absent
Sandra Luna	Parent - Long	Present
Imrann Haisan	Business Partner	Absent