

Daniel Ortiz, Jr. Middle School

SDMC Meeting No. 4



MAY 8, 2023 / 4:15 PM / PLC ROOM

MINUTES

- Ms. Ortega opened the meeting at approximately 4:15 PM. Ms. Ortega thanked the members for their commitment to the SDMC and began the PowerPoint presentation.
- Ms. Ortega reviewed the current campus data. Current year-to-date attendance is 91.77%; there have been 578 PEIMS discipline incidents, and we currently have 868 students enrolled on campus. She notes that our average year-to-date attendance rate has increased although we did not meet our SIP goal of 94%.
- Ms. Ortega reviewed the upcoming events
 - May 10th 8th Grade Main Event Field Trip
 - May 19th Incentive Day for Grades 6, 7, & 8
 - May 25th 8th Grade EOY Dance 5-7 PM
 - May 26th 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony @ Chavez HS 9:45 AM
 - May 30th 6th Grade Award Ceremony @ 9:45 AM & 7th Grade Award Ceremony @ 1:45 PM
- Ms. Ortega then reviewed the following budget updates
 - Title I & ESSER may see cuts - ESSER will end by June 2024 for all Houston ISD campuses
 - Restructuring/closing of positions to offset costs and meet district requirements
 - i.e. all campuses must have a nurse, counselor, and librarian/media specialist
 - i.e. teacher specialists can no longer appraise, do discipline, or conduct ARDs
 - ADA attendance - Hold Harmless will NOT be removed during the 23-24 SY
 - Magnet budget - how can we be a 100% magnet-coded campus for the 23-24 SY? There will be an application drive for 6th and 7th grade with an incentive for the grade level with the highest application submission on Incentive Day.
- Ms. Ortega reviewed the current status of staff vacancies for the 23-24 school year. She stated that we have done well so far with teacher hiring and are almost 100% staffed. She also reviewed the current vacancies in the leadership team.
- Ms. Ortega reviewed updates to scheduling for the 23-24 school year. She reviewed the IB MYP course tracker to help with student scheduling to ensure students are enrolled in all eight required IB classes but to also help with explaining the purpose behind the courses to students. Ms. Holub pointed out that this would almost mirror a high school PGP and transcript and would be a great way to start preparing students for these systems during middle school.
- Next, Ms. Ortega reviewed the following proposed updates to the student dress codes, black or blue jeans without holes or rips, Monday-Friday, and zipped jackets & hoodies (no hood on). She explains that staff wears jeans, the loss of ESSER funds used to purchase uniforms and we will need to be mindful of current stock, and students experience mid-year growth spurts & lack of affordable

uniforms. She then explained her second proposed update, allowing students to wear zipped jackets and hoodies without the hood on. Her logic included:

- The building does get cold
- Ortiz hoodie has been allowed
- Staff wears hoodies, sweatshirts, etc.
- Contraband has been found inside pant pockets, waistbands, underwear, and cosmetic bags.
- Ms. Ortega then opened the floor to the committee for their input. The committee agreed with jeans but to ensure there were no holes or rips. Ms. Quintanilla suggested a uniform donation drive like they have done in the past to make up for the lack of ESSER funds that could be used to purchase uniforms. For the jackets, Ms. Le proposed using the Ortiz hoodies again but the issue of cost was brought up. Ms. Gonzales said that the main thing was students are coming to school daily and the committee agreed and agreed with updating the dress code for next school year. Ms. Quintanilla asked for call outs to be made for families and Ms. Ortega agreed and said they would also advertise on social media so families could prepare with adequate notice.
- Ms. Ortega then reviewed the proposed updates to the campuswide supply list:
 - Include \$25 VILS Chromebook fee and highlighters - the committee agreed
 - Math uses binders. Does any other content area? - the committee agreed only math uses them. Mr. Nogueras said they used composition notebooks and Ms. Gonzales agreed and mentioned including folders as well.
 - PE uniforms? Dance class uniforms? Ms. Quintanilla pointed out that we ran out of PE uniforms in September and the coaches said for students to wear grey t-shirts and blue shorts. Ms. Ortega asked the committee if they would be okay with moving to grey, black, or blue t-shirts with black, blue, or grey knee-length shorts and sweatpants? The committee agreed but with the condition that students must be told explicitly that these items can only be worn during PE class.
 - Are the following items necessary? Post-it notes, dry-erase markers, index cards - the committee agreed that these items are unnecessary and can be removed from the list.
 - Consideration: turn in hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, and Kleenex to the Eagle Time Blue class - the committee agreed.
- Other issues/concerns brought forth by the committee:
 - Ms. Le asked about the current cell phone practices when students go to the restroom and explained how she currently asks her students to leave their phones in class to prevent any issues. She proposed making this a campuswide system. Ms. Gonzales mentioned she has a box for safekeeping that she uses in her class. Mr. Nogueras brought forth the concern about potentially losing a student's cell phone, although he agreed this would help with cell phone collection during testing. Ms. Ortega mentioned that some of the restroom monitors currently do ask for the students to leave their phones at the station while they go to the restroom. She explained that it may be easier to train the three monitors than to address the entire staff or put that responsibility on them while they are also teaching. The committee agreed and said consistency would be needed at each station.
- No other issues were brought forth by the committee. The meeting adjourned at 5:02 PM.