

**Public Session January 9, 2018 Board Meeting**  
**St. Louis Language Immersion Schools**  
**Special Board Meeting – 4011 Papin, St. Louis, MO**  
**Time: 5:00 p.m.**

Call to Order

- The meeting is called to order at 5:00 p.m. Roll is called. Board members Tim Cline, Lori Marusic, John Heskett, Vince Schoemehl, Ed O’Neal, Christina Foster and Judy Fisher are present.

Adopt Agenda

- Ed O’Neal moves to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Sarah Tsige and passed unanimously on voice vote.

Presentation by Dr. Richard Gomez on K-2 Dual Language Enrichment System

- John Heskett introduces Dr. Gomez and provides background regarding how this presentation came to be (i.e. evaluation of the model was one of the matters identified in connection with strategic planning).
- Dr. Gomez presents on the Gomez & Gomez (“G&G”) model. The two largest dual language districts in the U.S. use the G&G model.
- Dr. Gomez notes that it is exceedingly difficult to acquire a second language when a student enters a school behind in their native language – the stronger L1 is, the stronger L2 will be because of linguistic and cognitive transfer.
- In Dr. Gomez’s opinion, full language immersion programs only work for children who can already read when they start the program. According to the research, even 90/10 model programs are in actuality or by design 50/50 +/- from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade on.
- In the G&G model, language arts is entirely in L1 until 2<sup>nd</sup> grade to help ensure that all students are at level in L1 because, as noted above, being behind in L1 will be detrimental to L2.
- Dr. Gomez notes that most of the programs are Spanish dual language because it originated in Texas. However, the program has been applied to Vietnamese and an Eskimo language.
- The model is currently implemented in 598 elementary schools, 21 middle schools and 5 high schools in TX. It is also implemented in over 100 schools across AK, CA, CO, IL, KS, NM, NY, OK, OR and WA.

Board Questions for Dr. Gomez

- Sarah Tsige asks whether moving to 50/50 negatively affects acquisition of L2 – Dr. Gomez says that he has not seen that L2 acquisition is negatively affected in his data.
- Tim Cline asks about how the program has performed in Non-Spanish schools. The data set is limited.

- Ed O'Neal asks why the model provides for each subject being taught in either L1 or L2 (i.e. math is in 100% L1 while music is 100% L2, rather than each being 50/50). Dr. Gomez explains how this helps education acquisition and teacher efficiencies.
- John Heskett asks about teacher training support. Dr. Gomez indicates that the initial teacher training is 3 days. Dr. Gomez explains that the G&G model is not a curriculum – it is a method for *how to teach the curriculum*.
- John Heskett asks about ongoing support. G&G visits classrooms to observe how the model is being implemented and provides suggestions/feedback/teaching. G&G also has resources for ongoing training in specific areas to the extent the school identifies the need.
- John Heskett asks Dr. Gomez to develop on the difference between curriculum and model. The curriculum is what you learn – the model is how the “what” is taught.
- Dr. Gomez notes that the model allows for more individualized and targeting teaching for kids. In the schools implementing the model, there has been about 25% less special education referrals.
- Dr. Gomez notes that behavioral issues are less problematic in schools implementing the model, as the model encourages interaction, talking, teamwork, etc.
- Lori Marusic asks how G&G has supported programs that have struggled in implementing the model. Dr. Gomez notes that the schools that have been unsuccessful have not had fidelity to the model; where fidelity to the model is achieved, the schools have had successful results.
- Lori Marusic asks whether the kids become bilingual under the model – Dr. Gomez says yes.
- Lori Marusic and Dr. Gomez discuss how competency in L2 is measured.
- End of Board questioning.

#### Adjournment

- John Heskett moves to adjourn at 6:37 p.m. The motion is seconded by Lori Marusic and passes unanimously on a roll call vote. The meeting is adjourned at 6:38 p.m.