

ELAC Meeting

Jan. 29, 2025

In attendance:

Pixie Saldana

Megan Helms

Kristy Mack-Fett

Lili Costa - Spanish

Oksana Rak - Ukrainian

Daigo Daikoku – Japanese

Kentaro Kawaguchi – Japanese

Yukari Kawaguchi – Japanese

Goal of the meeting: *What improvements do you think our school should make to better serve your child and the needs of multilingual students at OCS?*

Review: What is ELAC?

- ELAC is an advisory committee composed of parents, guardians, and community members who are elected by parents or guardians of Multilingual Learners (ML)
- ELAC provides input and advice regarding English language development programs and ML services
- ELAC helps to inform families about attendance, volunteering, and other school activities
- ELAC holds a respect for and encourages the celebration of diverse backgrounds and cultures of the OCS community

Parents hopes for their children at school:

- 1:1 English teaching
- Math challenge
- More materials in the classrooms and Library in all the languages of our families

Parent Questions:

- When should a parent get help for their child to learn English outside of school? Is there a threshold based on test scores when this should happen?

Parent Brainstorm for ML student needs and how to make our school better:

- Books in Ukrainian and English – visual dictionaries in home language
- Books about the history of Ukraine for children
- Ukrainian cultural references: cartoons, songs, etc. – painting eggs for Easter, embroidery and sewing
- Increase sense of belonging and build bridges between home and school
- Students create visual dictionaries of academic words (personal dictionaries)
- Baking bread from different cultures and making rice from different cultures

- Gifting a book on your child's birthday
- Songs and games in many languages: committee can invite parents/families in to share with a class, read a book, tell a story or share a practice
- Teach English with fun, minimize stress – example: movie night with teacher providing some valuable phrases or words to learn and listen for in the movie that are common in English;
- Goal is that ELs speak with confidence
- Question or concern about testing as his 4th grade student is showing less progress now than she has in the previous 3 years
- Tips for parents to support English at home in the family: playdates outside of school, key phrases,
- Information for parents about the testing: when, detailed data,
- Feels school does good job with culture sharing
- Dad tries to explain school emails to the children, but sometimes the temperature is different so what he explains to his children is not always accurate, so translation helps : translation for meetings
- If a student is really brand new to English, the possibility of having google translation or other support in the classroom for the first few months

Next Steps:

- Send notes to all EL families
- Conduct digital vote on a jotform on Friday
- Schedule next meeting : Group today says that Wednesday mornings at 8:15am is a good time to meet. 3 meetings expected this year with the same group continuing next year and new elections in January 2026.