

Nicolas Junior High School
English Learners Advisory Committee (ELAC)
MEETING MINUTES
November 30, 2022

1. **Call to Order** - Meeting was called to order by Principal Jose Varela at 8:32am
2. **Welcome**
 - a. Principal - Jose Varela
 - b. Social Service Assistant - Elsa Garcia
 - c. Everyone present introduced themselves
3. **Review and approve minutes from October 26th meeting**
 - a. Motion to approve the minutes by Elsa Garcia
 - b. Second motion to approve the minutes by Yadira Martinez
 - c. Minutes approved by everyone
4. **Nicolas updates**
 - a. Principal Varela shared with parents that Nicolas has passed the audit. There was no illegal use of funds, and funds are being used with the focus that will benefit students.
 - b. New desks and lockers have arrived and will be installed soon. Some classrooms had old desks that needed to be replaced.
5. **Math Program Presentation - Ms. Garcia**
 - a. Assistant Principal Maria Garcia presented how last year the SBAC math scores were lower than what she has expected. This year, her goal is to focus on getting those math scores to increase. Ms. Garcia has helped with revamping the math program here at Nicolas and is collaborating with the math department. Together, they have tried to figure out how to make teaching math better for teachers and learning math better for students. Ms. Garcia has proposed that the math teachers stay one paid hour extra to work together on improving the math department. She got input from teachers, in which they stated that teaching math academic language would be a key starting point for them. The math teachers are pushing out a new concept for students, "What to say instead of IDK?" This gives students options of what they can say instead of answering I don't know. Parent Yadira Martinez expressed that it's important to empower students to feel comfortable enough to use an alternative language instead of saying "I don't know." Ms. Garcia asked parents to talk to their students at home and ask them questions so that they can practice what to say instead of "I don't know." A parent asked if this focus will only be in math. Ms. Garcia responded and stated that the concept will start out in math only and then expand into other subjects.
6. **Roadshow updates and Parent Information Nights - January 11 & 12, 2023**
 - a. Principal Varela asked parents if they could please spread the word about our Parent Information Nights where incoming 7th grade parents can get information on programs offered here at Nicolas. He also mentioned our interactive roadshows where 6th grade students from the feeder schools come to Nicolas to see the different electives we offer and are also able to participate in some daily activities.
7. **Update on Reclassification of students**

- a. Principal Varela shared with parents how students who don't reclassify can be affected in high school. Instead of taking an elective class that may interest them, they must take remedial classes in which they will get the support they need to pass the ELPAC. However, the ELPAC tends to get harder the older they get. New criteria for reclassification are going to be established. In order to be reclassified as an English Language Learner, a student must pass the ELPAC with an overall 4 and must get one of these three requirements: pass SBAC with a 2 or higher, iReady score of 583 for 7th graders and score of 594 for 8th graders, or pass the district writing assessment with a score of 3 or higher.

8. Future ELAC meetings

- a. The next ELAC meeting will be on January 25, 2023 at 8:30am in Room 9.

9. Public Input

10. Adjournment

- a. Meeting was adjourned by Principal Jose Varela at 9:28am.