

**Nicolas Junior High School**  
**English Learners Advisory Committee (ELAC)**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 22, 2023**

1. **Call to Order** - Meeting was called to order by Principal Jose Varela at 8:36am
2. **Welcome**
  - a. Principal - Jose Varela
  - b. Assistant Principal - Maria Garcia
  - c. Social Service Assistant - Elsa Garcia
  - d. Everyone present introduced themselves
3. **Review and approve minutes from January 25th meeting**
  - a. Motion to approve the minutes by Diana Heredia
  - b. Second motion to approve the minutes by Gabriela Vazquez
  - c. Minutes approved by everyone
4. **Nicolas updates**
  - a. Brightbytes survey
    - i. The Brightbytes survey was pushed out to parents, staff, and students so that the school may receive feedback and give input about school safety. This helps give Nicolas ideas on what can be improved to make Nicolas a better place for everyone.
  - b. New Assistant Principal
    - i. After interviews with Cabinet members, they have selected the new Assistant Principal at Nicolas. Manuel Quezada is set to start on March 15th. Mr. Varela stated that the date may change depending on whether the district in which Mr. Quezada works to let him go easily.
  - c. Reclassification Celebration
    - i. Mr. Varela shared that the reclassification celebration will be held on Thursday February 23rd. He wants to make sure that students and parents understand that this is a big accomplishment. Printed invitations and BlackBoard messages were sent out to parents. Students who have been reclassified are set to receive a certificate and a medal that they can wear to promotion.
  - d. ELPAC Testing
    - i. Ms. Garcia shared that ELPAC testing started Wednesday February 22nd. The students started testing with the writing portion of the ELPAC. Three parts of the test will be given and administered by Nicolas staff while the speaking portion will be administered by district staff. Ms. Garcia recognizes how important it is for parents to receive information about the ELPAC and the impact it has on students who have had a hard time reclassifying since the beginning of their school career. Parent Angelina Hernandez shared that her daughter just reclassified this year and she had no idea the impact of stating that her daughter also spoke Spanish at home when registering her for school. Ms. Garcia mentioned that last week we held a Parent Information Meeting regarding ELPAC. Miss Elsa created printed invitations and sent out BlackBoard messages to all parents of

students who are English Language Learners. Out of over 150 students who are EL's, only 5 of those students' parents showed up to the meeting. Ms. Garcia asked parents how we make parents come to events and important information meetings. Parent Yadira Martinez stated that the same parents are always showing up to important school events and it is very hard to make parents understand just how important it is to come to meetings. Ms. Garcia stated that next year, ELPAC testing information will be presented to parents earlier than this year and also more often. She understands that it is important to remind parents about the importance of the ELPAC and how it can affect students when in high school.

- e. New Counselor Update
    - i. Mr. Thomas Torres started at Nicolas and has started to meet with students and parents. He met with parents who attended Coffee with the Principal and introduced himself. Mr. Varela mentioned that Mr. Torres is running a Newcomers Tutoring group after school twice a week. This group is to help students that are new to the country get help they need in a smaller setting that they are unable to get during class time.
  - f. Sports Update
    - i. Mr. Varela mentioned that the boy's soccer team didn't make it to the championship and soccer season has come to an end. The next sports that students can try out for are hockey and basketball.
  - g. District Writing Assessment
    - i. Mr. Varela stated that the District Writing Assessment has begun for 8th grade students and will soon start for 7th grade students. He shared that this prepares students for statewide exams. Ms. Garcia shared that in April she plans to have a Parent Information meeting regarding statewide assessments and how to prepare students for the statewide assessments at home too. Ms. Garcia shared that these statewide assessments are important to determine how Nicolas has changed through students academic performance. Mr. Varela mentioned that before students were only tested in their core classes, but this year all teachers will be trained on how to administer the assessments.
  - h. Mega SSOAR
    - i. Ms. Garcia mentioned that the school will host "Mega SSOAR" on March 11th and April 15th. She explained that it will be two Saturday Schools that are different than the regular saturday schools. Ms. Garcia stated that we have a variety of activities planned such as sports, crafts, games to make it more appealing so that as many students can participate in making up an absence.
- 5. Future ELAC meetings**
- a. The next ELAC meeting will be on March 29, 2023 at 8:30am in Room 9.
- 6. Public Input**
- 7. Adjournment**
- a. Meeting was adjourned by Principal Jose Varela at 9:27am.