

Latino/a/x Interim Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2020|2:00pm-5:00pm
Oregon Department of Education- Virtual

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9702128702?pwd=WjYzWk1uYzRVbWZvN2Vndk12aERydz09>

PARTICIPANTS

Meeting Scribe: Erin Rothweiler

Members:

- Abraham Magan
- Max Maddern
- Andrea Valderrama
- Araceli Cruz
- Araceli Farias
- David Saez
- Diana Serrano
- Dora Elia Plascencia-Macias
- Elena Espinoza
- Glendi Luna
- Guadalupe Quinn
- J. Jesus Sandoval
- Jennifer Solis Solano
- Juan Rodriquez
- Julie Esparza Brown
- Lorena Avila Perez
- Melinda Avila
- Mirna Loreli Cibrián
- Nancy Arriaga Ramírez
- Osvaldo Garcia-Contreras
- Petrona Dominguez Francisco
- Rudyane Rivera-Lindstrom
- Rutila Galván
- Victoria Bencomo

ODE Staff:

- Colt Gill (Director of ODE)
- Carmen Xiomara Urbina
- Deb Lange
- Michael Reyes Andrillon
- Taffy Carlisle
- Tamara Dykeman
- Deleana Otherbull
- Erin Rothweiler

Guests:

- Lindsay Capps (Governor's Office)
- Alyssa Chatterjee (Governor's Office)
- Marta Guembes (Guatemalan Consulate)
- Glaudia Cabrera Vazquez (Mexican Consulate)
- Ana Gonzalez (Mexican Consulate)
- Erin Lopez (David Douglas SD)
- Mayra Pelayo (Ontario SD)

- Bulleted items in the notes below capture statements/questions/sentiments
- Text within brackets are clarifications provided post meeting

Item	Discussion
<p>Welcome- 2:00pm <i>ODE Leadership</i></p>	<p>Carmen Xiomara Urbina started off the meeting by discussing the importance of the work of this group and acknowledging how much like a family this group is and will continue to be.</p> <p>Deb Lange then introduced herself and highlighted the importance of this group with the quote, “If not us, then who; if not now, then when.”</p>
<p>Getting To Know Your Fellow Advisory Group Members - 2:10pm</p>	<p>Michael Reyes facilitated the Advisory Group in introducing themselves. Everyone was asked to respond to the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name • Preferred Pronouns • Where do you live, work, study, hang-out • Name one favorite holiday tradition <p>The group was then divided into a set of Cafecito breakout sessions to further get to know each other. There were three different breakout room sessions and group members were asked to address the following questions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Session 1 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Why did you want to be a part of this Advisory Group? b. What do you personally hope to accomplish with your participation? 2. Session 2 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What are the challenges in your local community? b. What are you most proud of in your local community? 3. Session 3 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Name one educational issue you are most passionate about and why? b. If you had one wish to transform our educational system on behalf of our Latino/a/x students - what would that be? <p>Time was opened following the Cafecito breakout sessions for group members to reflect on and bring forward things they learned about each other during the sessions.</p>
<p>Break - 3:45pm</p>	
<p>Overview of the Latino/a/x & Indigenous Student Success Plan – 4:00pm <i>Michael Reyes</i></p>	<p>Lindsey Capps and Alyssa Chatterjee, from the Governor’s Office, shared a brief overview of the Governor’s Proposed Budget. They discussed the proposed amount of funding for the Student Success Plan Programs including the Latino/a/x & Indigenous Student Success Plan.</p> <p>David Saez asked for clarity on how funds have doubled for the Latino/a/x Student Success Plan. Lindsey Capps responded that over a 2 year basis the fund would have increased from \$1M to \$2M, however, the Governor proposed to raise the Latino/a/x SSP to \$4.1M.</p> <p>Marta Guembes from the Guatemalan Consulate asked for an explanation on the difference in funding allocations between the different communities. Lindsey Capps responded that the Student Success Act was passed in 2019 and a bill was passed to create programs in statute that was followed by a budget bill for each program listed in the SSA. He can’t speak to why the legislation funded the Latino/a/x Student Success program the way it did, except that it might have been due to the fact that the program, its guidelines, and this Advisory Group is new. The program was therefore given a smaller amount to get the work started. The Governor decided to add additional money at the beginning of this program to help even more. Lindsey Capps recognized that the Advisory Group is expressing concerns that the investment and funds are not reflective of the needs of the Latino/a/x & Indigenous communities in our schools and expressed excitement on working with the Group to move this work forward.</p>

Melinda Avila brought attention to the fact that this community has been here for many years and have given their time and resources to our state as essential and frontline workers and that it needs to be clear that the Latino/a/x & Indigenous population is double the number of the other minority groups in Oregon combined. The call is to make the Latino/a/x & Indigenous community a priority now.

Guadalupe Quinn added her support to what Melinda Avila raised regarding concerns for the Latino/a/x & Indigenous communities during COVID-19 and whatever else might come in the future. The call is to provide the correct amount of funds proportional to the number of members in the community and their needs, not wishing to take any funds away from other groups.

Petrona Dominguez added an observation that this speaks to the larger issue of how systems in place pressure communities of different backgrounds to fight one another for funding in these types of issues. Though this group could really shape the outcome of our communities while also being cognizant of centering black and & Native American/ Indigenous communities because we do have Afro-descent and indigenous members in our communities. Just a reminder to us all as we move forward and what it means to say Latino/a/x.

Director Colt Gill of ODE added the acknowledgement that there are additional issues that the Latino/a/x & Indigenous community faces in achieving equitable education and ODE is working to keep that at the forefront of their work.

Director Gill raised the ODE's Jessica V. as a great resource to be included in the January meeting to help further explain the budget process.

Guadalupe Quinn raised the concern for more information regarding the process of accountability that the funds are being used appropriately.

David Saez asked if the hiring of Latinx/bilingual teachers and administrators is part of the metric for districts in use of SSA funds. The piece he wanted to know about is how districts are held accountable for hiring teachers and administrators of color. Is it just at the district level or is there some state-level metric tied to funding that can influence this? Director Gill responded that there are SSA funds that go to the Educator Advancement Council specifically to diversify the educator workforce. Daniel Ramirez is the Executive Director. We can reach out to him to join us for a meeting and share how the program works. It will see significant increases if the Governor's Racial Justice Council Recommendations are approved by the Legislature. The Educator Advancement Council (EAC) just released two opportunities for diverse educators to receive financial assistance with expenses. These funds are intended to support and increase the number of diverse educators in Oregon. Here is a link you can share:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORED/bulletins/2b1a267>

Michael Reyes shared an overview on the Student Success Act, the specific Latino/a/x & Indigenous Student Success Plan, the Timeline for Program, and the Role of the Advisory Group.

Diana Serrano asked if information provided and discussed during Advisory Group meetings will be provided in languages accesibles to our communities so that they can provide feedback. Michael assured that the documents and interpreters will be available and accessible to community members. Carmen Urbina responded that this is at the center of our outreach and we will be reaching out to community partners to help us with capturing accessibility for our Meso-American communities. She expressed that due to the diversity of the Board of Education members the need to be specific in how the plan for this program will assist all the communities embodied by the title of Latio/a/x, Meso-American, and Indigenous.

David Saez expressed the concerns surrounding the mental health of students at the school level and if this is discussed at an executive/legislative level. Director Gill acknowledged that this is indeed a problem especially the need for culturally diverse resources. He shared that ODE created a new team whose focus is mental health. This team created a mental health toolkit as well as different sets of

	resources. Carmen Xiomara Urbina would like to bring the SIS team to a future meeting to discuss the resources provided/needed.
Updates – 4:45pm <i>Michael Reyes</i>	<p>Michael presented the proposed future meeting dates. Advisory members in the chat voted on the meeting times (see below).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 21, 2021, 2pm-5pm ● February 16, 2021, 2pm-5pm ● March 16, 2021, 2pm-5pm ● April 8, 2021, 2pm-5pm ● June 15, 2021, 2pm-5pm ● August 2021 (Retreat) <p>Michael shared an update on the Oregon Students United Virtual Summit (January 14, 2021) and a quick update regarding what will be included on the website. (see link below)</p>
ADJOURN- 5:00pm	<p>We closed the meeting by sharing one word that’s on our hearts and minds.</p>
Next Steps	<p>Next meeting: January 21, 2021, 2-5pm</p> <p>Invite ODE Legislative Affairs Director to a future meeting to discuss budget process</p> <p>Invite Daniel Ramirez (Executive Director of Educator Advancement Council) to a future meeting to discuss how the Council works and how this can influence the hiring of diverse teachers.</p> <p>Invite ODE’s Safe and Inclusive Schools Team to a future meeting to discuss mental health resources available to teachers, students, staff, etc.</p> <p>Resource Links provided in Meeting’s Chat:</p> <p>https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORED/bulletins/2b1a267</p> <p>https://www.oregon.gov/highered/research/Documents/Reports/2020-Educator-Equity-Report.pdf</p> <p>https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/equity/SchoolSafety/Pages/Safe and Inclusive Schools.aspx?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery</p> <p>https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Pages/2020-21-Communications-Toolkit.aspx</p> <p>https://cosa-k12-or-us.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYudumhqDIsh9WvGbiHGx9FayiPFMfxmFQE</p>