



## Language Learning General Meeting Minutes

**Date: February 7th, 2023 Time: 6:30 p.m.**  
**Meeting held via teleconference**

### **A.L.L. General Meeting Minutes: 2/7/2023**

**Attendees:** Leigh Hansen, Dylan Drake, Bill Hinds, John Hemphill, Ella Caron, Andrea Weaver, Christopher Ortega, Sam, Vinnie, Claudia Sandino, Kajsa Bierly, Silvia Flores, Andrea Weaver, Diana Clearwater, Ella Carnahan, Adan Zamudio, Cesi Vega, Ella Caron, Francia Docheff, Ira Pulverman, Jada Arenas, Jennifer Soria, Maria DiAntonio, Holly Sheridan, Michelle Mendoza, Olga Hofreiter, Patricia Okura, Scott Carnahan, Sebastian Garcia, Shea Pitlik, Silvia Flores, Alexa Root, Amber Fonts, Aracelli Gutierrez, Cynthia Micka, Raul de la Garza, Patty Covarrubias, Elliot Boepple, Traci Crosby, Cindy Allen, Arezo Issary, Preston Angstrom, Zeke Varga, Sina Sobhi, Reagan Hyland, Parkway Lawnmower Shop, Mayra Perez, Liliana De Leon Gomez, Elizabeth Franco, Angelica Galvan, Sil, Olivia Renella, Elizabeth Rose, Marita Herrera, (4) additional attendees with no name on profile (59)

President Leigh Hansen called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

#### **President's Report: Leigh Hansen**

- Announcements
- Introduction to event

#### **Presenting Seniors (9)**

- Jada Arenas Introduced herself
- Sam introduced himself
- Jennifer Soria introduced herself
- Christopher Ortega introduced himself
- Ella Caron introduced herself
- Kajsa introduced herself
- Vinnie Garcia introduced himself
- Ella Carnahan introduced herself
- Andrea Weaver introduced herself

#### **Q & A**

- **What is CSF?** Jada Arenas - club that allows students to join based on their grades from the previous semester, must have high grades, and is a beneficial club to be a part of if applying to colleges and universities
- **What is International Baccalaureate?** Ella Carnahan: A program that prepares students for college; students take tests and write papers in specific subjects; Additional papers and an extended essay is also required in order to earn the diploma; 24 points are required to earn diploma, which allows students to apply to any International school
- **What advice do you have for parents and kids about navigating the immersion program?**
  - Ella Carnahan: reading in Spanish was challenging if you don't have anyone who speaks Spanish at home; recommends finding someone to help who speak Spanish natively

- Ella Caron: recommends having young students read in Spanish as much as possible
- Jada Arenas: recommends having young students speak Spanish whenever possible and practice in a public setting
- Ella Carnahan: also recommends practicing speaking Spanish as much as possible
- Jennifer Soria: she spoke Spanish natively, and found the Spanish easy, but found English more challenging, and also recommends practicing as much as possible
- Andrea Weaver: shared that she struggled with keeping up with assignments and turning in missing assignments; recommends that parents check in with students to make sure they are keeping up with assignments and encourage them to reach out to their teachers and attend the tutorial class for help
- **What advice do you have for sticking with the program?**
  - Kajsa Bierly: become a part of the community, both parents and students
  - Vincent: parents pushed him to stay in the program because it would benefit his life later, and he realized they were right; he appreciates his dad pushing him to stay in the program
  - Jennifer Soria: her siblings gave her a glimpse of what was to come in the program, and she is going to miss all of the friends and students in the program, and values the bilingual and biliterate education
  - Christopher Ortega: shared that his older brother also graduated from the program, and that it was a big jump to switch from elementary school to middle, then middle to high school, but knowing that he was with students he has been with since kindergarten helped
  - Ella Carnahan: shared that the immersion program helped with college application process, and saw that it was a benefit
  - Jada Arenas: shared that learning how to write in a different language transformed how she blossomed in an academic and formal setting; exposure to writing in other languages opened up her mind to new cultures and viewpoints
- **What grade do you feel that the immersion program started to click:**
  - Ella Carnahan: she shared that she felt like the DELE exam she took her freshman year helped her confidence in Spanish
- **Has learning in Spanish hampered learning in English?**
  - Kajsa Bierly: shared that learning a new language helped her in both languages
  - Ella Carnahan: shared that learning in two languages at the same time helped her to learn the second language faster
  - Vincent: also shared that it was beneficial to learn two languages at the same time
  - Jada Arenas: shared that she feels with time, both languages begin to click in your brain; she felt her brain was working harder to make more connections
  - Jennifer Soria: she shared that she wishes she had learned a third language at the same time
  - Ella Caron: shared that her first language was French and she learned English and Spanish in school and her SAT scores were very high in grammar
- **What are the additional diplomas and certificates you can get by graduating from the immersion program?**
  - Ella Carnahan: explained the various recognitions and certificates available
  - Jada Arenas: shared that a representative explains the certificates and seals available in Freshman year
  - Ella Caron: explained that you don't have to be in both immersion and the IB program
  - Ella Carnahan: encouraged students to be a part of the IB program in addition to the immersion program
- **How did you decide to stay in the immersion program vs. go to another school that has the GATE program?**
  - Andrea Weaver: many immersion students qualify for the GATE program but she felt the benefit of the immersion program outweighed the opportunity to go to the GATE program

- Jada Arenas: she was given the choice to stay in the immersion program and go to another school to go through the GATE program, but wanted to stay with her classmates; she encourages parents to make the best decision for their child
- **Did you feel that the immersion program hindered you from learning other academic subjects?**
  - Ella Carnahan: she shared that she feels learning two languages helped her brain to learn other subjects faster
- **Is there a high school guidance counselor specific to the immersion program?**
  - Ella Carnahan: shared that the teachers do a great job preparing you for what is to come?
- **Could the students pass a higher level of the DELE later in high school?**
  - Bill Hinds: This would not be necessary
- **What advice could you go back and give your 9th grade self?**
  - Vincente: shared that he has had trouble studying and staying on top of work; he would tell himself to study and complete assignments
  - Kajsa: she would tell herself to get more involved and stay involved, find something you are passionate about; additionally, she would recommend speaking and practicing Spanish as much as possible
  - Ella Carnahan: she would tell herself to not be afraid to branch out socially outside of the immersion friend group
  - Jada Arena: she would tell herself to take the initiative to talk to counselors and teachers, and ask questions, and not rely on parents to take care of things
  - Jennifer Soria: she also spoke to her counselor more this year than before, and would tell herself to get involved in more activities and try new things
- **What's next for you after high school?**
  - Ella Carnahan: plans to double major or double minor in Spanish as credits can be applied; also wants to travel abroad and utilize Spanish
  - Ella Caron: plans to double major in nursing and Spanish to help the spanish speaking community
  - Christopher Ortega: also plans to double major in Spanish in college to apply the credits
  - Sam: will also double major or minor in Spanish
  - Kajsa: plans to major in Zoology, and feels that having an understanding of Spanish will help her in her career if she works abroad
  - Jada Arenas: will study Journalism and Marketing, and hopes her knowledge of Spanish will inform her future work with the global perspective
  - Andrea Weaver: loves movies, and can watch movies without subtitles; she also wants to make movies
  - Jennifer Soria: may go into radiology and minor in Spanish
  - Vincente: not sure what he will do after high school, but knows that speaking Spanish will help him no matter what

#### **Secretary's Report – Dylan:**

- Motion made to approve the minutes from the December 13th General meeting; motion seconded, motion passed. Minutes approved.

#### **Sra. Clearwater (Gates Elementary)**

- Kindness week is this week, and rubber duckies are for sale to send friendship grams

#### **President's Report: Leigh Hansen**

- Looking for three volunteers to be a part of the nominating committee
- Vote for next year's board will be at the next general meeting
- Spring Fundraiser coming up

#### **Treasurer's Report: Ira**

- Reference financial report from Ira – 1.31.2023
- Reviewed expenses from January
- Only one transaction in January, which was for custodial services for the DDLM event - total cost of the DDLM event was \$1,200 with was under budget of \$2,000
- Ira makes a motion to approve the January financial summary; Dylan seconds the motion, all approved, motion passes.

**Update to Cords & Pins discussion:**

- Next general meeting will feature the immersion TK program

**Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm**