

BHIS Principal + PTA Chat

Meeting Minutes

11/14/2025

8:00am-9:00am

- **Principal Washington and Vice Principal Norman shared updates and information and education around the Dual Language program.**
 - District curriculum and budgets are based on traditional schools, not for dual language schools.
 - Challenges:
 - Insufficient budget: BHIS' budget from the district does not account for the extra teaching staff needed to support dual language instruction in both Mandarin and Spanish for all grades.
 - SPS district's curriculum materials are unavailable in Chinese and some Spanish, so teachers must translate on their own time.
 - No -provided metrics or criteria for students in dual language programs. "what does success look like"
 - Advocacy by BHIS school leadership:
 - Principal Washington planning to meet with the new SPS superintendent and understand their plans for dual language
 - Principal Washington and Stevie will connect with the Principal at Dearborn Park for collaboration.
 - Advocacy by parents:
 - Asking for a stronger voice from parents around asking for support from the district. Think partnering with Dearborn to discuss shared needs, and a shared message could be impactful.

PTA & Community Updates

- **Read-a-Thon Update**
 - Update about Read-A-Thon: needing volunteers, donate if possible, and bring in books for the Island of Books, so far donations are lower than in previous years
- **Parents Night Out**
 - Upcoming Parents Day Out (on 12/13, so Parents Day Out) fundraiser by the Black Family Council at the school.
- **Call for volunteers:**
 - Open PTA committee positions - Advocacy Chair, Fundraising Chair, SESSFA/Move-a-Thon Chair
 - Volunteers needed for insurance purposes during after school program
- General Questions around time commitments for volunteering with PTA and various events, parents shared their experiences.