

Minutes
Education Area Team

May 21, 2007

1. Attendees: Andres Gonzalez, Oscar Gumucio, Al Lopez, Victor Ruiz, Judith De Crane, Veronica Figueroa, Nelly Gonzalez, Eli Santiago

2. The parent's group "Padres Unidos was discussed at length.
 - Veronica has agreed to continue as president, and Nelly has agreed to stay as VP until a new parent can step forward to assume the VP role.
 - Parents will be a focus of the Education team for Convencion 2007
 - Parents need to be recruited! Each team member was asked to recruit at least one new parent for our next meeting. Dolly Velez will be called to see if she could refer some parents from her Esperanza parents groups. Nati Pagan will be asked to see if the parent liaisons, BAC members and the bilingual parent coordinator could recruit parents for the Padre Unidos. Max Rodas will be contacted to see if some of the faith based organizations will recruit parents,
 - If we continue to have trouble sustaining parent involvement, perhaps we could pay a stipend to have a person help us with recruitment and motivating parents to stay active.

3. It was decided that a second focus for Convencion will be addressing the Drop out rate for Latinos in CMSD.
 - Nati Pagan will be asked to help us obtain accurate data from the CMSD.
 - Victor is researching national and state drop out rates for Latinos
 - The State wide African-American drop out rate commission (budget \$20 million) was discussed. Sonia Trouche shared her experience with her attending a public forum conducted in Toledo concerning the commission. It was agreed that we would support the effort because it is certainly warranted. We also agreed to explore if their might be a similar effort for Latinos. Henry Guzman will be contacted to get his perspective on the issue. Edna Fuentes-Casiano will also be contacted for state contacts.

4. The team needs to submit a budget by June 1st. We have not finalized the plan, so the chair will submit a tentative budget request for \$1500 (same as last 2004). We need to finalize our Convencion plans ASAP. Line items for the budget may include:
 - Refreshments for Education Area Team meetings
 - Workshop Speaker expenditures
 - Parent recruitment and activities
 - Data collection
 - Pre-Convencion activity

5. Brainstorming for Convencion activities :
 - Workshops on 1) Parent training “ How to actually make things happen at the local school district”, 2) Addressing focus group results –top needs Safety & Security, food service & academic progress, 3) Drop out rate (with a regional focus & state lobbying) 4) Faith base interaction 5) Pre-conference workshop with local colleges and universities, plus CMDS administrators.

6. Next steps:
 - Natividad Pagan will be contacted to requesting data, & parental recruitment assistance.
 - Dolly Velez will be contacted for help in parental recruitment.
 - Tony Baez , Latino Leader in Milwaukee, and part of the Betances consulting group, will be contacted to ascertain if he is available to conduct a parental workshop at Convencion
 - We need to look at best practices for parental training and dealing with the drop out rate.
 - Convencion coordinator will be announced at the next meeting. Chairs will start interfacing with that person ASAP.
 - RSVP will be contacted to follow up on the offer to provide volunteers for Convencion. Thanks to Judith De Crane!!
 - All future meeting will include area team member and the **Padre Unidos** (requested by the parents in attendance)
 - We need to target pre-existing groups and disseminate our information (churches, booster clubs, PTA, etc).

7. **There was much concern about the lack of attendance at the teams meetings. We all need to commit to attending regularly so that we may produce some outstanding work that will ultimately help our students. One member stated that “our group needs to be more accountable, in order to a model for our parents.”**

Next meeting Monday June 11, 2007, 6:30 PM at Esperanza (new office at 25th and Clark)

