

Minutes
Education Area Team

June 11, 2007

1. Attendees: Oscar Gumucio, Al Lopez, Victor Ruiz, Judith De Crane, Veronica Figueroa, Nelly Gonzalez, Eli Santiago, Lida E. Ramos, Jorge Quinos, Magda J. Aguilera, Gloria Ruiz, Lydia Fernandez, Alba Umana, Ana Delgato, Iris Marengo, Dolly Guerra-Velez, Blanca Offir Ramirez, Mareion Torres, Elizabeth Perez, Elizabeth Costlo, Virginia Romero, Barbara Cosme, Jorge E. Gatica, Lisa Lopez, David Ruiz, Natividad Pagan
2. The parent's group "Padres Unidos was the main topic discussed at this meeting. Since there were so many potential new members, time was taken to discuss the Padres Unidos mission and purpose.

Padres Unidos

Padres Unidos was established on 8/21/06.

The President is Veronica Figueroa

The Vice President is Nelly Gonzalez

The group will be governed by parents and supported by the Education Area Team and the Hispanic Roundtable.

Mission: To advocate for Latino/Hispanic Cleveland Municipal School (CMSD) District students

The issue of strengthening and expanding the membership of Padres Unidos was discussed at length. All new parents were asked to join the Padres Unidos. A list of parents willing to participate was generated and given to Veronica & Nelly. It was decided that the parents would have their own meeting as soon as possible. The officers will be attending all Educational Area Team meetings. Of course, all parents are welcomed to the Education Area Team Meeting. The Hispanic Roundtable and the Education Area Team will continue to support and facilitate the development of Padres Unidos. Current issues brought up by parents were: the drop out rate of Latino Students, the failure of Latino students (with excellent GPA's) on the OGT graduation proficiency test, and the lack of special education services. The parents

stated that the translations used for the OGT test are not sufficient for our Latino students. Dolly Velez brought up the tutoring services provided for students at Esperanza.

3. Al gave a history of Convencion and Nati Pagan graciously translated the information. . Al then gave a review of the Education Area Teams activities since the last Convencion.
4. The State wide African-American Male drop out rate commission (budget \$20 million) was discussed. Al shared that a meeting with State officials, Anne Hill and Bob Ivory, will take place on June 19th, to discuss what the State has in mind for Latino Students. Victor Ruiz and Andres Gonzalez will be attending the meeting. Nati Pagan suggested taking a parent to future meetings.
5. The team needs to submit a budget as soon as possible. We have not finalized the plan, so the chairs will submit a tentative budget request for \$1500 (same as last 2004) by June 30th. 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
6. Convencion Activities :
 - Workshops topics have been narrowed down to : 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) Pre-conference workshop with local colleges and universities.(Perhaps invite CMSD administrators.?)
7. Next steps:
 - Natividad Pagan will be contacted to requesting data, & parental recruitment assistance.
 - We need to look at best practices for parental training and dealing with the drop out rate.
 - Abner Rodriguez will be invited to the next Educational area team meeting.
 - More Area Latinos working at colleges and universities will be invited to the next meeting.
 - Victor and Andres will report on the Anne Hill meeting.

- RSVP will be contacted to follow up on the offer to provide volunteers for Convencion. Thanks to Judith De Crane!!

Next meeting Monday July 2, 2007, 6:30 PM at Esperanza (new office at 25th and Clark)