

Minutes
Education Area Team

July 2, 2007

1. Attendees: Al Lopez, Victor Ruiz, Judith De Crane, Veronica Figueroa, Nelly Gonzalez, , Mavelin Torres, Natividad Pagan, Abner Rodriguez, Maria Cristina Bruch, Ron Berger, Flor Gomez.
2. Flor Gomez, Member of the Cleveland Municipal School District, attended the meeting and she pledged to work actively with the Education Area team. **Flor announced that she was reappointed on July 2, 2007 to a full, four year term.** She emphasized that the Latino Community must be present at CMSD board meetings to voice their concerns, and their willingness to work with the CMSD. Flor also said that she (and the CMSD administration) was going to be giving attention to the special education and vocational education areas within the CMSD future plans. Flor will be sending the area team a paper on Community Engagement that she received while attending a convention in San Francisco, California. The chairs thanked Flor for attending the meeting and enthusiastically welcomed her offer of assistance to the Education Area team.
3. Abner Rodriguez was introduced as the new part-time coordinator of Convencion 2007. Abner gave a brief summary of his event planning experience and offered to help the Education Area team in any way he can be of service.
4. The “Padres Unidos officers were present at the meeting. The group has decided to hold their meetings jointly with the education area team; and have additional meetings as necessary. The issue of services to Latino Students attending Cleveland Municipal School District was discussed. Special emphasis was given to lack of special education services, suspensions, and the drop out rate, lack of Latino administrators & psychologists, and poor performance on OGT proficiency tests.
5. Three Sub committees were formed: Parents, Latino Drop Out Rate and Universities & Colleges. **All** Area team members will be asked to serve on a subcommittee.

Chairs for the subcommittees will be finalized at the next meeting.

Victor Ruiz and Eli Santiago have already volunteered to help lead the Drop Out Rate subcommittee. Oscar Gumucio, Veronica Figueroa and Nati Pagan have volunteered to help lead the Parents subcommittee, and Al Lopez has volunteered to help lead the University and College subcommittee.

6. Convencion 2007 Activities:

It was decided to have three workshop /dialogs at Convencion 2007.

- Workshop #1 Parent Training “How to Effectively and Efficiently Advocate for Latino Students.” It was suggested that Tony Baez do a national focus on what works in general, and that Nati Pagan do a local focus. Subject areas may include: improving special education services, vocational education for special education students, how do parents and interested persons work together, how to effectively present at school board meetings, OGT prep and how do we increase parent awareness of school programs, policies, resources, and activities.
- Workshop #2 Addressing the Latino Drop Out Rate. Subject areas may include: national and local drop out rates (Nati Pagan will give the team the CMSD dropout data as soon as the report has been completed for this past year) , Perhaps a speaker from the Manhattan Project, review of state wide initiatives (and potential initiatives) that address the drop out epidemic in Ohio. How can the Education Area Team and the Pardes Unidos interface with CMSD to address the drop out rate?
- Dialog # 3 Pre-conference meeting to dialog with Universities and Colleges.” “Dialog on How to Better Interface with the Latino Community”. Subject areas may include: What are colleges and universities presently doing or what are they planning to do with/for the Latino Community. Is there, or can there be research conducted that would help the Latino Community and the colleges and universities? Is there financial aide and internships available for Latino Students?

7. Resolutions for Convencion 2007

The Convencion 2007 Executive Committee is requesting that all resolutions be submitted early (September), so that the Resolution team may format and publish all the resolutions in time for dispersal at the **beginning** of the day at Convencion 2007.

It was suggested that there be three resolutions developed by the Education Area Team. Suggested resolutions:

- A resolution to strengthen the Padres Unidos in order to advocate, on a consistent basis, for Latino Students.
- A resolution on addressing the Latino drop out rate in the CMSD; and securing state funding for a State -wide-Latino Drop Out Commission
- A resolution on creating a mechanism for the Latino Community to interface more effectively and efficiently with universities and colleges.

8. Next steps:

- List of colleges and university to be invited to the pre-convention meeting will be developed. Representatives of these universities will be invited to the Education Area team Meetings.
- The team needs to look at best practices for parental training and dealing with the drop out rate.
- Victor and Andres will report on the Anne Hill meeting.
- Sub committee chairs will be selected on July 30th.
- Develop at least three resolutions
- Finalize workshops.

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

Meeting Schedule for the Education Area Team as a whole will be:

July 30th.
August 20th.
September 10th
October 1st.

Subcommittees meetings will be called by Subcommittee chairs as needed.