

Barton Hills Elementary
Spanish Open Forum
June 10, 2010

Background:

A meeting was scheduled to allow for a discussion with BHE parents regarding creating a committee to explore adding Spanish as a BHE curriculum for the 2011-2012 school year.

There were 22 attendees total which included 3 BHE teachers (Ms. Vickers, Ms. Pursley, and Jenny Day) and 5 PTA Board Members.

Presentation:

Kelly Tagle (PTA President) provided an overview of the PTA budget and showed how money is currently raised and what it is spent on.

Kati Achtermann discussed program implementation requirements: the financial commitment, staffing requirements, level of parental support needed, and described a need to clarify program expectations. She also gave background information regarding the prior BHE Spanish Program that ran for 4 years.

Audience Questions and Comments:

- Question as to how the Computer Lab position is funded and how a Spanish Program would differ.
- A comment was made regarding an AISD Exploratory Spanish Program for 6th graders. The hope was that we may be able to garner some of those funds to use for our program as it will be inclusive of 6th grade.
- There was a question as to the quality of the programs existing at other elementary schools and a question as to whether the schools themselves were Title 1, Exemplary, etc.

- Question as to how other schools were measuring the efficacy of the program.
- Question as to how many students currently take Spanish in Deidre Aragon's after-school program and how many parents are interested in Spanish at BHE.
- Suggestion to have a Spring Carnival to raise funds.
- Question as to how the \$ were raised for the past program.
- A concern was raised regarding pressure on teachers and core curriculum scheduling.
- Suggestion to benchmark Private schools as well as public.
- Suggestion that we determine what kind of program we want (conversational Spanish vs. written Spanish vs. basic vocabulary words and introduction to the language and culture).
- Suggested the start of a Spanish Club.
- Suggested that Teachers bring Spanish into their daily curriculum (immersion).
- Question asked to the attendees as to what they would be willing to pay per month for a program.
- Issues were raised regarding an after-school program due to conflicts with existing programs (lego league, choir, etc.).
- Suggestion to survey the BHE teachers to garner their perspective and thoughts on a potential program.
- Comment was made that the BHE teachers have strong feelings regarding a potential program (hesitant due to past experience).
- Both Ms. Vickers and Ms. Pursley provided input regarding the prior program and both mentioned that they are supportive of a Spanish curriculum but are concerned about the potential impact to core curriculum and that the program would need to be in alignment with TEK standards.