

**DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORKSHOP MEETING
MARCH 5, 2014**

Present: Eileen Alberts, Gladys Cooper, Michael Ferguson, Annrose Fluskey-Lattin,
Richard Hawley, Richard Jannelli, David Metrena, Ralph Pietrafesa,
Robert Taborsak, Phyllis Tranzillo, Sal Pascarella, William Glass.

Absent: Kathleen Molinaro

Augusto Gomes, District Administrator for K-12 ESL/Bilingual & World Languages, presented an update on the ESL/Bilingual Department.

- As of October 1st, 2013 we have 2,200 ESL/Bilingual Students: 1683 Spanish; 363 Portuguese; 23 Khmer; 15 Mandarin; 14 Vietnamese; 14 Urdu.
- Between August 2013 and January 2014, the ESL Reception Center processed 469 registrations; 386 students grades K-8; 83 high school students; 142 transfers/change of address; the remaining 327 students were tested, evaluated, the families interviewed and recommendations for placements made. In addition the Reception Center serviced 574 requests for interpreters.
- A 2012 Title III Monitoring Report by the SDE showed outstanding practices in the DPS which support English Language Learners.
- Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs): #1 - State target – 80% of English Language Learners must make progress in acquiring English language proficiency. Danbury at 85.9%. #2 – State target 30% of English Language Learners must attain language proficiency. Danbury at 54.8%
- Common Core Standards Implications for ELLs: Instruction for ELLs has to move beyond grammar and vocabulary to include instruction on how to read and comprehend complex texts and to construct and convey arguments in writing across the content areas.
- ELLs must accomplish more than 1 year's achievement for 5-6 years in a row to eventually close the gap between them and native English speakers.
- Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP): An approach to teaching that extends the time students have for receiving English language support while they learn content subjects. Teachers scaffold instruction to aid student comprehension of content topics and objectives.

Mr. Gomes introduced the SIOP Coaches. Carla Huck and Beth Amaral, SIOP coaches at DHS; Rachel Wojciechowski, SIOP Coach at Rogers Park Middle School; and Liz Tavares, SIOP coach at Broadview Middle School. Also in attendance were Heather Pellicone, Department Head, ESL/Bilingual at DHS; Sharon Fuscoe, Coordinator of ESL Reception Center; and Lisa Carino, ESL for non-public schools and AIS. The SIOP Coaches presented an overview of SIOP in action.

- Work with teachers to co-plan and write lesson plans that meet standards and provide differentiated instruction and assessment.
- Develop clear content and language objectives for any content area.

- Explicit instruction of academic vocabulary.
- Informal observing, provide feedback and facilitate reflection.
- Implement focused activities for pairs and groups.
- Ideas to scaffold content and make text comprehensible using graphic organizers and visuals.
- Modify and differentiate for diverse learners by incorporating technology.
- Manage response rates to maintain a high level of engagement.
- Stations to practice skills, strategies and processes.
- In-class modeling and co-teaching classes.
- Managing grouping structures using a Jigsaw strategy.
- Fostering professional learning communities.
- After school and “lunch & learn” professional development.

The Board Members thanked Mr. Gomes and the SIOP Coaches for an excellent and very informative presentation.

Richard Hawley, Secretary