

Pioneer Valley High School
ELAC – English Language Advisory Committee
March 12, 2025
6:00 p.m.

Minutes

I. Welcome

- a. Mr. Dunlap, Assistant Principal, welcomed parents. He invited the parents to become part of this group. He explained the meeting focuses on English Learners and explained the process of the information.

II. Call to order

- a. Mr. Dunlap called the meeting to order at 6:10 and introduced the President, Mr. Adan Navarrete and Claudia Caceres. He asked for a motion to open the meeting and asked for a second. Norma Alonso, a Parent, made a 1st motion and it was seconded by another parent. The review and approval of the ELAC minutes from the previous meeting was given by Mr. Navarrete. Mr. Dunlap asked for a Motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Navarrete made the 1st motion, and the 2nd was made by Norma Alonso. The minutes were approved.

III. Old Business

- a. **DELAC district meeting:** Mr. Navarrete explained that he is the ELAC president in this school and is the DELAC president at the district. He explained that in the DELAC meetings they talk about the rights of the students. One of the things that he advocates for is for students to be reclassified since elementary. The message given is for parents to get involved to help students pass this test. He asked for the A-G program. Parents need to schedule an appointment with the counselor to make a study plan to guide them to the university. He mentioned that the next DELAC meeting will be held at the CTE center.

IV. Presentation: Por Vida

- a. Mr. Dunlap introduced Juan Pacheco Marcial and Leo Ortega from Por Vida. They stated they are present in all the schools in the district. They offer their services free of charge. He mentioned the programs they have. Case management which provides additional support for the student to be successful. Another group is Joven Noble and is for male students. The next group is Girasol which is for female students and the last one is Cara y Corazon and this group is for parents. They also do parent engagement. They reviewed the services that each group provides. Leo introduced a graduate from the Program, Norma Alonso. She recommended the program and invited parents to participate in it. Leo expressed he speaks English, Spanish and Mixteco. Mr. Dunlap stated that if any student is interested, they can just approach any adult here on campus and they will be directed to the program.

V. **Student and Family Rights:**

- a. Mr. Dunlap made a recap about student and family rights. He stressed that the student has a right to free public education. Parents do not have to provide any proof of immigration status when they enroll the student. All student records are protected under federal and state laws. Parents should update the emergency card and add a guardian in case of emergencies of deportations. Parents have the right to file complaints against discrimination. The school no longer can distribute the red cards, but there is an organization here at school that can provide them, and he mentioned other agencies in the community that can provide them. Mr. Dunlap encouraged parents to attend Panther Forum. He asked Claudia Caceres to talk about “805 undocufund”. She mentioned a few of the services and provided the phone number 805-870-8855 to get in contact with them.

VI. **ELPAC Test:**

- a. Mr. Dunlap explained the importance of reclassification. He stated that even if they do not reclassify, the student needs to show growth. the ELPAC testing for the English Learners is currently happening now. Parents are probably receiving messages. The students are taking it in their English Language Support classes. He explained what the test contains. He asked the parents to encourage students to do their best to demonstrate the growth and explained the benefits of reclassifying. He explained the levels of the test.

VII. **Student advocacy:**

- a. Mr. Dunlap said it is important for students to advocate for themselves. They should talk to an adult and connect with someone they trust. Usually, when bullying happens, students do not wish to talk about it. They are afraid of what other people might say. He wants parents to be aware so they can help their students if this happens. With the increase of technology, it has become increasingly difficult to manage. He gave pointers to help parents speak with their students, helping them to advocate for themselves. He talked about the “Bully Button”. He advised parents to help their students talk to a school counselor or another trusted adult. Parents should monitor their children’s social media usage.

VIII. **General announcements/public comments:**

- a. A parent asked how many students have not been reclassified. Mr. Dunlap said 410 students were not yet reclassified.
- b. Another parent asked when the next test is. Mr. Dunlap stated that the test is happening right now.
- c. Mr. Navarrete said that it’s important that parents are aware of the dates of the exam and the importance of parents attending this meeting. He stated that, for him, reclassification is a personal battle. He encouraged parents to report anything unusual in the community or school. He shared his phone number, 805-714-7189, for parents to communicate with him.

IX. **Adjournment**

Mr. Dunlap ended the meeting at 7:45 p.m.