

Latin Parent Association Meeting

November 16, 2016

Anacostia Library

More than 40 adults attended.

Marie Alexander moderates the meeting. Audience members introduce themselves. Alexander invites questions or topics for discussion.

Parent suggests social and emotional development as a topic for the PA to address. Notes that for new families, especially those joining in 5th grade, this is an important issue.

Discussion of parent engagement with the PA. Would alternate meeting times work? No clear consensus about whether morning meetings or later or earlier evening start times would help more people. It is noted that this satellite meeting is positive, and a dial-in number for remote participation.

Peter Anderson arrives from another Latin event, and gives a presentation on Latin's commitment to diversity, beginning from the content of Brown v. Board of Education, 60 years ago.

"Diversity makes us smarter," education research shows, Anderson says, in terms of cognitive skills, critical thinking, as well as social skills. It is noted that Latin allocates spots based on a lottery, and to increase diversity of all kinds in the school, we need more applicants from wards 7 and 8, especially.

Discussion of how important transportation is for Latin students across the city. Making the availability of a bus known might draw more applicants.

Question about how Latin is addressing achievement gaps. Anderson says, for example, that in English they are looking at data in new ways, identifying kids and reinforcing standards, both PARCC and internal standards. They have hired new people to address this topic. Anderson also notes that in identifying students with additional needs, they are not putting them in "lanes."

Parent asks about homework club and how it works, as well as what Latin is doing to strengthen science (labs for younger students is an example of how to make science more immersive for students).

Question about the choice of sports. It is noted that the sports offered each term may not appeal to the full range of students at the school.

Question about whether the school might help to introduce families in the neighborhood, for carpooling, homework support, etc.

Helene Fisher shares that a group of parents is developing a study group on racial disparities in educational outcomes. All are welcome to join this group.

The next PA meeting will be in ward 5 on December 14, location to be announced.