

Minutes from 30 September 2025 for the Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Subcommittee

First Meeting of School Year 2025/2026

Attendance		Absent
Paula Cordero Salas	Wendy Bermudez (Staff Liaison)	Julienne Thomas
Rachel Berkey	Emily Haimowitz (Co-Chair)	Heydi Tejeda Maldonado
Meredith Judy	Gwen Grewe (Co-Chair, virtual)	Yun Kang
Ali Sharkey Goldwater	Special Guest: Terri Murphy	
Anjali Martinez	Maria Leticia Delgado	

No voting occurred at this meeting.

Agenda for September 30 meeting

Objectives - 1) intros and meeting norms; 2) prioritization for year.

Introductions

New and returning member introductions

Staff Liaison: Wendy Bermudez

Committee Leadership Roles

- Emily Haimowitz – Co-Chair
- Gwen Grewe – Co-Chair
- Secretary (Open Position)
Duties include creating meeting minutes, tracking member attendance, and recording vote tallies

Meeting Norms – Focus of the meeting is to be limited by the agenda and additional items can be added to the parking lot for discussion at future meetings to be respectful of everyone's time.

Parking lot is for items not on the agenda, which require larger discussion.

- One parking lot item is the discussion of how to keep parents informed about the DLI program for registration, longevity, and full participation within the program.

Conducted overview of DLI Subcommittee - goals and expectations

Conducted overview of the process for recommendations to the School Board

Conducted overview of last year's recommendations

- Staff retention/recruitment
- Planning factors - being pursued by Terri/Department
 - DLI lottery timeline - opens Nov 10, 2025. Deadline is Feb 20, 2026 to accept/deadline offers (no changes)
 - Two-way DLI here at APS - service both English and Spanish speakers and follows guiding principles of DLI (bilingualism and biliteracy, high academic achievement, sociocultural competence)

- Application process asks: Is Spanish the primary language your child speaks in the home? Does your child think in Spanish? Does your child communicate in Spanish? Is Spanish the language that your child uses most frequently to communicate?
- What's new: when families fill out the application and say that the child is a Spanish speaker, Wendy (or other proctors) will administer an oral assessment. Their proficiency is assessed and then they go into the two buckets. Assessment will be in person. Change is intended to maintain the integrity of the program

Recommendation: consider conducting both Spanish assessment and English Language Learners (ELLs) assessment.

Recommendation: consider having VPI teachers conduct the assessments

Recommendation: consider bilingual bucket or ways to identify them

Recommendation: document how many kids being assessed is truly bilingual and how many are truly "Spanish"

The School Board formed a School Board Advisory Committee Working Group, which is charged with evaluating the current 14-15 Advisory Council on Teaching and Learning (ACTL) subcommittees. The options on the table are:

- 1) Eliminating all standing subcommittees and forming ad hoc subcommittees as needed.
- 2) Maintaining about 4-5 standing subcommittees (which will likely not include DLI) plus ad hoc meetings as needed.

The ACTL working group has recommended:

- 1) Each working group develop a paragraph accomplishments for a brag sheet to be submitted to each PTA.
- 2) Each working group encourage participation in the survey sent out by Superintendent Duran on 25 September to advocate for keeping the subcommittees.

The DLI subcommittee is developing the input for the Brag Sheet and encouraging participation in the survey.

The DLI subcommittee is drafting a letter to emphasize what the DLI subcommittee does and how it benefits the Claremont, Key, Gunston, and Wakefield.

The DLI subcommittee is considering the possibility that an informal group might need to form to continue to support the DLI community. The difficulty would be identifying a formal listening sessions and opportunities with the school board of APS and obtaining support from appropriate stakeholders.

Presented the proposal for prioritizing addressing student attrition and how to continue/strengthen DLI program through high school.

- Staff Liaison (Wendy Bermudez) presented the data on student attrition.
- Co-Chairs will send the working group survey out to all members.
- DLI Subcommittee discuss how to expand the DLI program at for high school and to how offer more classes in Spanish and have teacher support.
- DLI Subcommittee shall discuss how to bring new English Language Learners into the DLI program and/or into classes.
- DLI Subcommittee shall discuss how to get fuller class sizes in 4th and 5th grade classes and how to obtain more teachers.