

PGCPS Language Immersion Task Force 2017-2018

Charge of the Task Force

The Language Immersion Task Force will review a variety of educational options to provide continuity of services for our current (grade 3) elementary students in our language immersion programs. The Task Force will make recommendations on which option they believe will meet the needs of our students. The following factors should be considered and discussed as part of the recommendation to the CEO:

- Type of grade structure (i.e. 6-8 and 9-12, 6-12 etc.);
- Possible location for the secondary language immersion program;
- Staffing (teachers and administrators);
- Specific research based educational program(s) to support language immersion program; and
- Language Proficiency assessment tools for program certification and completion.

Committee Members

Prince George's County Public Schools Teaching and Learning Staff

Dr. Judith White, *Director of Academic Programs*

David Dove, *Supervisor, Pupil Accounting and School Boundaries*

Carmen Henninger, *Immersion Instructional Specialist*

Jane Ness, *Immersion Instructional Specialist*

Prince George's County Public Schools Principal

Nina Lattimore, *Capitol Heights Elementary School*

External Language Immersion Experts

Susan Deplatchett, *Coordinator, Secondary PDS Programs and Partnerships, University of Maryland*

Kona-Facia Nepay, *Executive Director, Baltimore International Academy*

Parent Volunteers

Silvia Amouzou

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Meeting Dates and Topics Discussed

October 25, 2017- Current PGCPS Immersion Programs Model
November 28, 2017- Secondary Immersion Models around the United States
January 11, 2018- Pupil Accounting and School Boundaries
February 28, 2018- Transportation
March 28, 2018- Human Resources
April 25, 2018- First Draft of the Task Force Recommendation
May 23, 2018- Final Draft of the Task Force Recommendation

Recommendations

Recommendation 1: School Model Type Considerations

1. Middle School Immersion Model
 - a. Spanish:
 - b. French:
 - c. Chinese: Partial Immersion

2. High School Immersion Model
 - a. Spanish:
 - b. French:
 - c. Chinese: TBD

Recommendation 2: Possible Location Considerations

1. Middle School Immersion Model
 - a. Spanish:
 - b. French:
 - c. Chinese: Greenbelt Middle School

2. High School: TBD

Recommendation 3: Curriculum Considerations

1. Chinese Immersion: Current 3rd grade and below Paint Branch Elementary students should stay at Paint Branch Elementary school during their 6th grade year and continue with ½ day immersion. Currently Paint Branch Elementary school houses two 6th grade classes that helps keep the population of Greenbelt Middle lower. Greenbelt Middle should provide two classes in Chinese to the 7th and 8th graders. One class should be a standard Chinese language class. Currently Greenbelt Middle offers Chinese I, II, and III. We propose that Chinese IV and V be also offered to keep students on a progressive learning track (final class levels would have to be determined by language level testing). These classes would also count towards PGC language credits for high school graduation. The

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second class that should be taught in Chinese should be a content area class, such as Social Studies. These types of classes fit well with immersion as they largely focus on culture.

Recommendation 4: Transportation Considerations

1. Transportation: There would be no additional transportation needs outside of what is currently done.

Recommendation 5: Staffing Considerations

1. Two Chinese Immersion staff would need to be hired for the 6th grade ½ day immersion at Paint Branch Elementary. Greenbelt Middle would need to have a teacher responsible for higher level Chinese language courses. This could be using current resources that teach Chinese I, II, and III or an additional resource. One additional certified teacher would need to be hired to teach 7th and 8th grade content areas.

Recommendation 6: Language Proficiency Assessment Considerations

1. Incoming Greenbelt Middle school students would have to take a Chinese Proficiency Test to be properly placed in the correct Chinese language class. Currently Paint Branch Elementary offers the Youth Chinese Test (YCT).

Final Recommendation Summary