



The Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic/Latinx Affairs Commission

Meeting Minutes | June 9, 2022 | 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center

Members Present	Members Absent
Amairani Perez Chamu	Amy Ariza
Carlos Bejarano	Daniel Gomez
Chriss Chavez	Jordan Mazariegos
Fatima Linares	Amanda Peregrina
Andy Little	Elsie Urueta Pollock
Jessica Lozano	Angelica Reina
Mimi Martinez	Jacob Rodriguez
Mark Ohensgore	Jania Rivera-Wester
Ivan Patino-Cortez	

- I. Call to Order**
 - a. Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm by Chairman Bejarano
 - b. Land, Juneteenth, and Covid-19 acknowledgment from commissioner Perez Chamu
- II. Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - a. Quorum not present
- III. Guest Speakers: Jorge Robles and Cesar Dominguez, Tulsa Public Schools**
 - a. Jorge is the Chief Finance Officer for TPS and is speaking to the commission on behalf of TPS to provide an update on the Latinx community engagement 2022-2023 enrollment campaign.
 - b. Jorge explains that the enrollment process is one of the most important areas for families and school systems because of its relevance to understanding how the system works. TPS is working to eliminate language barriers and any other barriers that make it difficult to participate in enrollment.
 - c. At a former commission meeting, Ceaser, who serves as the Director of Strategy for TPS, shared that TPS was set to launch their updated enrollment process – and the presentation today will share the results of the initiative, and collect thoughts from the commission.
 - i. The window for TPS enrollment spans from January – June. In the past, enrollment varied from school to school. TPS identified that as challenging – particularly for Latinx families, and they decided to centralize the system with a single application. The application allows families to rank their preferences for schools, and 90% of families are placed with their first-choice preference.
 - ii. Jorge continues by explaining that to adequately support the TPS Latinx community, they’ve made efforts to pinpoint gaps in communications – and responded by sending text messages, hosting in-person enrollment, and informational sessions completely in Spanish.

- iii.** TPS also worked to connect with significant, and well know community members for assistance in reaching out to families in the neighborhoods. As a result, the number of Latinx family applications grew by 50%, and the team saw utilization of the system significantly increase. A classic example is Rogers High School. Many Latinx families prefer to attend Rogers, but you have to apply and participate to receive admission into the school. Oftentimes, students will just show up on the first day. Since the implementation of the system, and targeted outreach- TPS leadership has received so much growth in participation in transitional grades. They're encouraged by feedback, results of metrics, and school leaders who have positively sounded off that this is working. They plan on building on this foundation.
- iv.** Ceaser announces that they've also seen an increase in participation across the board, and that reaffirms this new system is simpler for everyone. There's continued growth year after year – and TPS leadership is working to increase participation every summer.
- a.** Latinx is the largest growing demographic in Tulsa – and TPS sees it in their numbers every year. This year Latinx students represented 42% Of applicants in the system, as compared to 35% the year before – the largest growing demographics in the system.
 - b.** The Board of Education has also created a strategic plan for the next 5 years – which includes intentional family engagement, which TPS leadership hopes to assist with.
 - c.** Commissioner Martinez thanks Ceaser and Jorge for the work they've done, and asks how TPS is making sure students that aren't native English speakers are competing with students who are native English speakers.
 - i.** Cesar responds that this topic is very important to him. The short answer is in the strategic plan – two of the goals the board set are entirely focused on literacy. They're specific strategies to work on literature and language simultaneously. Most kids are literate, and educators have to understand and assess them on their native level before they can bridge the gap in English. The data shows that TPS's multilingual learners get to proficiency in English a little slower, but when they get there, they outperform English speakers significantly.
 - 1.** TPS wants to equip teachers to understand how to facilitate appropriate literacy work – there's a lot of focus on the subject, and TPS is looking at a new curriculum to support that work.

- d.** Commissioner Chavez asks if those statistics shown today are per family or application.

 - 1.** Ceaser responds that each application is considered per person.
- e.** Commissioner Chavez asks how Latinx students are performing in terms of retention and matriculation, and if they are participating throughout their education.

 - 1.** Ceaser responds that TPS has work tied to those goals, via quarterly conversations with students that they're naming "college, career, and life programs". TPS is not measuring the impact of the program with metrics, but they are focusing on making sure students are hitting "milestones" in the program. Data is actively being disaggregated to ensure that there's progress across the board.
- f.** Commissioner Martinez asks how the goals the board selected, align with the general community. Especially the Latinx community?

 - 1.** Jorge responds that the goals the board put together were the result of 30+ community meetings held last summer. In those meetings, the board captured data to make sure they reflected clear community interests and values. There were a lot of rich discussions, and there were folks who were very invested in capturing Latinx community concerns. TPS also assembled a committee of community members and relevant representation from important parts of the community to provide input.
- g.** Chairman Bejarano remarks that the work presented today is very intentional, and asks if Jorge and Carlos can describe who specifically is working on these enrollment initiatives, and what representation looks like internally.

 - 1.** Ceaser responds that TPS has a core/enrollment team, that works alongside other teams. The team is made up of school leaders, communications, and feedback from families which is an important voice for us. The work is essentially on an ongoing basis, and they have intentional points and times where they're receiving live feedback i.e. the community

sessions. Those points are important to know what's not working or getting across.

2. Jorge reflects that in terms of representation, he doesn't want to dismiss the significance of having identities like himself and Ceaser present, and how their experiences can be of assistance.
- h. Commissioner Little asks if TPS is addressing students who sometimes just don't come back to school.
 - i. Ceaser says yes. TPS has an engagement team that focuses on attendance, and they will reach out to see what happened with any kid who has stopped attending class. They figure out if a student has transferred, moved, dropped out, etc. TPS also has a specific dashboard that takes attendance and alerts the team to any discrepancies. But there's room to grow! They're still working to find strategies to better connect with undocumented, and non-technology accessible households. Covid has also made reaching out more difficult.
 1. Chairman Bejarano thanks Jorge and Cesar for the update, and expresses that he's looking forward to seeing this relationship between TPS and the commission grow.

IV. Chair's Report

- a. Chairman Bejarano reports that:
 - i. The Hispanic Resource Center will be hosting an "Author's Award" ceremony, and he's been asked to serve on the committee.
 - ii. He met with the Human Rights Commission to discuss ways for the commission to grow, and connect.
 - iii. He met with the TPS Bond Committee and toured the Discovery Lab, which was amazing.

V. Committee Reports

a. Executive Committee

- i. Commissioner Bejarano reports that there is no commission meeting in July – they'll reconvene in August.
- ii. The TPS letter has been translated into Spanish and sent out to – Deborah Gist, all board members at Tulsa Public Schools, and the board clerk.
 1. Krystal is working to coordinate a meeting with the board, or Dr. Gist, but if they don't hear back then we'll try to engage in person.

b. Education

- i. Commissioner Linares shares a printed report with the commission for the Tomas Rivera Awards.

c. Community Advocacy

- i. No report
- ii. Commissioner Chavez reports:
 1. She's been working with Leticia Cavillo, Immigration Affairs Manager, to include the prioritization of assisting immigrants with STEM and engineering degrees during their strategic planning meeting. Awareness of the gap was the biggest factor.
 2. On May 26th, the Tulsa Regional Stem Alliance organization had an engineer's night out with over 100 people in attendance. Out of that group, there were at least 10 available job positions for engineers, without a professional degree requirement. Krystal, Leticia, and Grace (MORE) will be working to get folks connected to those job openings.
 - i. Liaison Patino asks about the significance of Latinx as part of the Commission name. Carlos stated he has a sheet of talking points that he can share concerning the term "Latinx."

d. Public Safety

- i. Commissioner Ohensgore reports:
 1. Ivan Patino –Cortez, deputy for the Tulsa County Sheriff's Office will serve as the new delegate for TCSO in place of Monica Blendowski.
 2. He had a recent change in his work assignment and now serves at the TPD police academy as the assistant trainer of recruitment. TPD is also reigniting its outreach for more Hispanic representation in the police force.
 3. The Hispanic/Latinx community was a strong support system in the aftermath of the St. Francis shooting.
 - a. The Commissioners congratulate Commissioner Ohensgore on TPD's quick response time to the shooting.
 4. Sound the alarm was very successful this year, and TFD will be moving toward partnering with OSU Tulsa to fund and promote the program long-term.

e. Immigration

- i. No report

f. Special Committees

- i. Chairman Bejarano thanks Commissioners Peregrina and Reina for their efforts with the translation of the commission letter for TPS.
- ii. Commissioner Bejarano reports that the commission's community engagement is improving, and the community is recognizing who the commission is.



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VI. Old Business

- a. None

VII. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Back-to-school events are being discussed – TPD will be managing 33rd street to manage traffic flow.
- b. United way is hosting a food and blood drive on June 24th. Supermercado Morelos will be supporting that as well in all of the Tulsa locations.
- c. The summer reading program has kicked off at the library

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Commissioner Bejarano adjourns the meeting at 6 pm.