

**Burlingame School District
Immersion Program Presentation
February 19, 2008**

I. Introduction – Paula Valerio, Principal

Overview of the Program Development for 2007-2008 School Year

Over the last few years – the Spanish Immersion Program has had many people who have contributed greatly in making this program a reality for Burlingame students. We would like to thank the Board, the Superintendent, our McKinley staff, the consultants, and the incredible group of Immersion parents for their support.

1. Facility and Curricular needs:

Having additional space available allowed us to host the program at McKinley. Last summer, we scrambled to get the room ready for September. Textbooks were ordered, assessment materials were borrowed, and classroom libraries were gathered from many sources. Elaine Tarango worked many hours in August to get the classroom ready for the incoming kindergartners.

2. Collaboration:

At the start of the year the collaboration with the staff at Fiesta Gardens helped to forge our program's curricular direction. McKinley's kindergarten team worked to plan the two programs together based on the state standards. We feel that it is important to have the same learning occurring in both classrooms. Release days were offered for the kindergarten team to complete curriculum mapping, and they continue to meet regularly to plan.

3. Integration into the McKinley community:

Our immersion parents are very involved in volunteering in the classroom and at school events. Our parents are a dynamic group of individuals who have joined in the Harvest Festival, Multicultural Night, Friday Family Lunches, the Dad's Club, the PTA and in May we are planning to help our school celebrate Cinco de Mayo.

Our Immersion students have daily time with other kindergartners – center time allows them to work with other kids from the regular program, recess is together and this year we have been able to accommodate all kindergartners having PE together.

4. Website :

We have a web-master dad from the Immersion program, Mr. Wunderlich who has created a link on our website for the Immersion Program. We hope to include dual immersion research and more program information in the future.

5. **District – Parent Spanish Classes**
This class taught by Eduardo Akins has been an overwhelming success with approximately 23 parents attending every Monday evening. We have an incredible babysitter – who watches about 13 children each week. Next year Eduardo hope to expand to two different levels of Spanish classes.

- II. **Elaine Cruz Tarango – Spanish Immersion Kindergarten Teacher**
 - Highlighted the program’s curriculum and student language acquisition success.

- III. **Linda Wolin, Linda Russell and Gina Saddik - Immersion Parents**
 - Pleased with the program and complimented Maestra Tarango and the school for embracing the Immersion Program.
 - Concerned with the losing the Bilingual aide next year. Parents are investigating the possibility of getting an international intern to help next year.
 - Concerned with teacher recruitment – addressed by Ms. Valerio.
 - Would like more District positive media attention of the program unique to our District.

- IV. **Sheila Speiller, Principal of Fiesta Gardens International School and BSD Immersion Program Consultant**
 - Program progress has been extremely successful!

- V. **Next Steps – Paula Valerio**
 1. **Ongoing Reflection and Year-end program summaries** – Teacher reporting, student language acquisition statistics, parent input on the program so far is all-important as we move forward.

 2. **Classes for next year**
(2 K/1s) 14 kindergartners and 26 first graders = 40 students
 - Class configurations will be 7 kinders/13 first graders.
 - Of those 7 kindergartners in each class - 3 will be Spanish speakers.
 - **Note: Kindergartners will be Early Birds**
 - **Note: First Graders will be Late Birds**

 3. **Teacher Recruitment:**
 - Ms. Valerio was pleased to report that there are three good candidates that have applied for the K/1 position, and we are working with Vikki Ouye in convening the interview team. We hope to have a teacher hired soon.

- Elaine and Ms. Valerio will be attending the CABE conference in San Jose in early March – resources.

4. Burlingame Recreation Spanish Summer Program:

- Provided here at McKinley and taught by Melissa Mendoza our bilingual aide this year – this mini immersion camp will be covering music, art, and many cultural topics of Spanish speaking countries.

5. Needs:

- Classroom set up
- Ordering materials and textbooks as soon as possible
- Coordinating team planning – working with Fiesta Gardens and Escondido