

**Chinese Advisory Meeting**  
**February 4, 2014**

- Opening and introductions
- Mr. Joe Wiemelt gave an overview of the dual language program as is and the steps that happened to set up the program
- Joe explained the steps that have happened so far in proposing the Chinese DL to get us to this point of discussion
- Explained that based on discussions that he has had with the constituents, the next step is to get parent/community engagement
- Joe also explained that he has been in contact with other districts in IL that also have Chinese DL programs and will present video clips about those programs
- Joe showed video clips of “Speaking in Tongues”; explained that this video shows 4 families who are going through the DL experience
- Joe explained that we can tap into English speaking staff that we have with a 50/50 model; also limited number of Chinese teachers needed
- From feedback, Joe feels that Chinese families are more interested in participating in 50/50 model over a 90/10 model; possibly due to the fact that they are here for a short time; Dr. Zhang, King Chinese teacher, agreed
- University professors explained the Confucius Institute at the U of I – to offer Chinese language teaching and do outreach with the local schools/community; Institute pays for the salary of the Chinese exchange teachers; less financial burden for the district
- District would need to expand Chinese materials with this program
- Program can be an entire school or a strand-model; Joe believes that the district would need to do strand-model based on the fact that the district is neighborhood school based and needs to continue to serve those students as well.
- Joe explained that school location and space issue are ultimately an administrative decision; this group can give feedback, but the district has final say.
- Joe explained that the group may like to have a parent forum to get feedback from the overall district population before the next board follow-up
- Joe explains that the district may not need to be as strict about the number of native Chinese speakers that are in each class for this type of program
- Joe explains that the program can start at K or 1; new non-native speakers don’t typically enter beyond 1<sup>st</sup> grade
- Joe explained that this program would follow typical class size requirements that the district requires
- Joe also addressed the option of setting up a way to allow students to enter the program at a later grade; requires more research
- Joe discussed community partners – Dept of C & I at the U of I, Confucius Institute would like to be a partner;
- Joe discussed proposing to the board that we limit the amount of teacher transfer due to this program

- Joe explained that the current enrollment policy for English-speaking applicants is based on where their homeschool is, then look at petitioners
- Discussed offering the program to the entire district while providing transportation to petitioners as well.
- Discussed the idea of parent involvement – parent forums?; have an open forum with all district families; pass out flyers at K registration and to preschools
- If more families apply then there is space, then students are selected by lottery
- Discussed that the two different groups of Chinese families would be effected through this program – families that live here and some that visit; have a targeted forum to the Chinese community
- Discussed the possibility of working with ISBE to get international certificate for 3 years in order to have foreign teachers; the district would like to see a combination of local candidates and foreign teachers; mentorship program possible as well
- Joe explained the survey results from the teacher surveys; Thomas Paine was the least interested, Wiley is the most interested; highest concern is regarding staffing/displacement

Next Steps:

- Organize two parent events to discuss parent interests/concerns; one specifically targeting the Chinese families in the district