



**Board Meeting Date:** 5/5/2025

**Title:** Spanish Dual Language (SDL) Update

**Type:** Discussion

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Frannie Becquer, Director of Achievement Equity and Multilingual Learner Programs; and Nate Swenson, Assistant Superintendent

**Description:** This Executive Summary is intended to provide clarity and an update on the District's Spanish Dual Language Program at Countryside Elementary.

**Recommendation:** No recommendation is being made at this time. This item has been prepared for board discussion.

**Desired Outcome(s) from the Board:** Please review the information and bring forth questions & comments that you have for the presenters.

**Attachment(s):**

- [Presentation](#)
- [Detailed Report](#)

## **Executive Summary: Spanish Dual Language Program Update**

Over the past year, our Spanish Dual Language program has faced challenges that have elicited strong emotions from students, families, staff, and the broader community. We acknowledge these concerns and are committed to responding effectively, appropriately, and promptly. Our commitment to excellence remains steadfast, and we are dedicated to continuous improvement. We are committed to aligning the program more closely with the needs of our students, families, and staff, along with priorities identified in our district's strategic plan. (Pages 6, 7, and 8)

### **Leadership and Organizational Structure**

We have provided additional resources and appointed a new coordinator, Dr. Alex Giraldo, who brings extensive experience within Edina Public Schools and our Spanish Dual Language program, and is highly respected by our stakeholders. Additionally, the hiring process for our new principal, Ms. Lisa Barnholdt, involved active participation from students, families, and staff, ensuring a collaborative approach and excellence. This leadership team is dedicated to fostering a unified Countryside school environment while building a successful dual language program. (Pages 13 and 14)

### **Program Oversight and Role Clarity**

Clear organizational structures and defined roles are in place to enhance accountability and communication within the program. We are committed to providing transparency about who is responsible for various aspects of the program, ensuring that all stakeholders understand their roles and responsibilities. (Pages 13 and 14)

### **Communication and Community Engagement**

We recognize the importance of ongoing dialogue with families and the community. Plans are in place to expand our communication efforts, including updates on middle school programming decisions. (Pages 6 and 7)

### **Program Metrics and Student Achievement**

We are reviewing the metrics currently used to assess the program's effectiveness, ensuring they remain relevant and aligned with our goals for student and operational success. Student achievement trends will be shared through the comprehensive data metrics plan, highlighting areas of success and identifying opportunities for improvement. (Pages 11 and 12)

### **Curriculum and Resource Planning**

The procurement of specialized curriculum materials in the target language is underway, with careful consideration of the resources and support needed as the program expands. We are committed to ensuring that these resources are aligned with best practices and meet the needs of our students. (Pages 6 and 16)

### **Unified School Vision**

Efforts are being made to integrate the dual language program more fully into the school community, fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose. This includes enhancing our website to provide current and relevant information, as well as showcasing the successes and positive developments within the program.

### **Collaboration with Other Districts**

We are actively learning from other school districts with successful dual language programs, incorporating best practices to enhance our own program's effectiveness.

### **Commitment to Success**

With renewed support from the Board, the Superintendent, and our families, we are confident that our Spanish Dual Language program will continue to grow and succeed, providing valuable opportunities for our students.