A Vision of Dual Language Immersion

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January 29, 2019
• Revisiting Bilingual education in SB Unified
• Global, National, State and local Context
• Biliteracy Benefits for our students
• A Broad Vision of Dual Language Immersion in SB Unified
Bilingual Education Battle Splits Santa Barbara

By FRANK BRUNO  MAY 27, 1998

On the night this city's school board decided whether to end a quarter-century of bilingual education, more than 600 people showed up. It was the largest board meeting that anyone could recall. It was also the most emotional.

The board's five members said they were haunted by accusations that the proposal before them amounted to "ethnic cleansing" and posted six police officers in the auditorium.

And when it was finally time for the vote, after three hours of anguished pleas from all sides, several dozen proponents of bilingual education moved within a few feet of the board members and glared at them. But the board unanimously approved the proposal that, beginning in September, would put the district's many Spanish-speaking children into classes where English would take precedence.
20 years ago...

Proposition 227
Education. Public Schools.
English as Required Language of Instruction.
Initiative Statute

This proposition significantly changed the way that English learners (EL) were taught in California. Specifically, it required California public schools to teach EL students in special classes that were taught nearly all in English. This eliminated "bilingual" classes in most cases.
Benefits

“People who are able to speak, read and write in two or more languages are able to participate in several different cultural and language worlds. Multilingual proficiency actually strengthens how the brain functions. Bilingualism is associated with more cognitive flexibility and better problem solving abilities. Children who are bilingual tend to perform better on achievement tests.”

Californian’s Together, 2014
Benefits

“Furthermore, bilingual students engage in less negative cultural stereotyping and have more favorable attitudes towards people who are different from themselves. Job opportunities become available throughout the globe for those who are bilingual, and there are often financial benefits associated with bilingual skills in the marketplace.”

Californian's Together, 2014
Since then...

2012
California State Seal of Biliteracy
First state in the nation to award a Seal of Biliteracy to graduating seniors with demonstrated proficiency in two or more languages.

2016
The CA Ed.G.E. Initiative
Proposition 58 was approved by 73.5 percent of California voters in 2016, including by a majority of voters in every county.

2018
Global California 2030
By 2030, half of all K–12 students participate in programs leading to proficiency in two or more languages, either through a class, a program, or an experience.
Locally

- District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC) recommendation in May of 2018:
  - “Explore the possibility of establishing a committee that would examine the feasibility of a dual immersion program (English/Spanish) given that a large majority of our community is interested in this educational program.”

- Adelante Charter School request for expansion
A Broad Vision for Multilingualism

By focusing on strategic planning to bring \textit{biliteracy programs} into the district, Santa Barbara Unified will begin to positively change academic outcomes for multilingual students and lead the way for other districts to transform their systems.
## Timeline

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Community Interest

Community survey:

- Junior High: 2019
- Elementary: 2020
JHS Planning 2019-2020

- Hire one credentialed biliterate English and Social Studies teacher in residence to:
  - receive professional development,
  - begin planning instructional model,
  - select and procure instructional materials, and
  - recruit students
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