

Summary:

Below are the notes from the October 29, 2025 staff meeting. Items with * indicated that multiple groups valued that item. To preserve intent, minimal editing was done.

Staff worked in groups on each item, but individuals could contribute independently as needed.

Two parents and Chair Blair Humphreys observed and listened in.

The meeting focused on WGES Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. It also focused on two potential future paths for WGES – remaining independent as a PK-5 school or possibility joining with other charter to offer a PK-12 pathway.

The meeting closed with the following emphasis:

- This is a discussion/listening phase. No decisions have been made or are planned for several months regarding the future of WGES.
- Joining/consolidating with another charter, if possible, would require at least a full year of implementation before combining – therefore, even if that option becomes viable, no changes are anticipated for WGES for the 2025-26 or 2026-27 school years.
- More meetings will be held in this discussion phase – including parents, staff, and Board – regarding the next 5 years for WGES.
- The best ideas often come from unexpected places!
- Future discussions will also be documented and shared.

If anything was missed or misrepresented, email Tom Deighan, so he can make corrections:
tdeighan@westerngateway.school

What Does “Somos Osos” mean to you?

- World learners ready to learn and show growth
- Somos Osos. Soy parte de una tribu, pero no cualquiera sino algo poderoso.
- Means community and dual language
- La union y representacion de nuestra cultura and nuestros lenguajes
- Close community of language learners and open to learning and accepting of other cultures
- WGES – Community of like-minded people whose purpose is to serve our students with passion, experience, and professionalism
- My family believes we're all part of a multi-ethnic international family called the family of God. WGES provides me & my son exposure to that end.
- Welcoming and understanding to call, a community inclusive to all backgrounds
- We are responsible and kind, and helpful. We are united.
- Somos una familia.
- We are united. Regardless of background, status, or language. We stand together.
- We are united. We are special because we allow students to value and cherish different languages and cultures.
- “Somos Osos” for me means that every child and every staff member represents the diversity of this school has and each of us makes this school great.
- A family
- Being open to new things. Being a team player.
- WGES for me is a family,.
- Somos Osos, identify tied to our mission to provide bilingual education for the community. It helps connect and bridge our culture.
- We are a bilingual school who's proud of our ethnic backgrounds
- WGES is my dream school. Being an OSO is being able to teach in my first language. It is not been the minority among the teachers. It's teamwork.

- Somos Osos means that there is a community that cares, trusts, and is looking to improve not only themselves, but others, too!
- We belong we are a family.
- Somos Osos – Que estoy comprometida con este hermoso Proyecto
- Somos Osos! When we say this we affirm that we belong to a community of bilingual learners who work together to achieve something unique and beautiful.
- Individuals striving for high bilingual academic achievement
- We are a community and a school family.
- Somos osos nos identifica como escuela unida.
- Community – every one is a language learner. One of a kind school.
- To be an OSO means you are kind, responsible, and helpful. Osos are also aware of others and what . . . and special. Osos love to learn English and Spanish. Osos build their bilingual brains!
- Either come in from recess (lol) or “let’s go” . . . do your best.
- We are community, we create ties, and work together.
- “Somos Osos” Estamos Listos! With this being my fifth year, this change to me makes me proud. It signifies the meaning of our bilingualism, our work, that although it hasn’t been easy, it’s been worth it! WGES has given me the opportunity to return to school and get my certification.
- Es comunidad. Es dedicación, es pasión por la educación. Es mi escuela de mis sueños.

Guidelines and Guardrails

- Transparent, open process – Staff, Parents, Board
- Clear Documentation of Outcomes/Results
- All Meetings Open – Visitors Listen
- Adults will model for WGES students
- We advise – only board decides

Meeting Topics for 10-29-2025

- Title I Review
- Shared Review of Data and Info
- Open Discussion: Priorities, concerns, suggestions, ideas
- Focused Discussion: Future of WGES
- WGES as independent (PK-5)
- WGES joining another charter (PK-12)

Parking Lot/Other Ideas Suggestions

- Surveys (for parents who cannot attend mtgs)
- Possibility of 6,7,8 Here?
- Cost estimates to build?
- Security – on site
- Police on Campus
- Better Security
- Better Fencing
- Make a sidewalk for Wheeler Walkers
- Carport for Dismissal and Arrival
- Another staff bathroom
- More staff parking
- Good times for meetings – Tue and Thur?
- Need food/daycare for parent meetings
- Consider weekend parent meeting
- Video/Record the meeting

WGES Strengths/Internal Positives

- We adapt
- We are active learners
- *****Bilingualism
- ***Family
- **Positive
- ***We are all language learners
- Accepted
- *Parental Support
- *Diverse
- *Economic Support
- Collaboration
- *Embrace different cultures
- **Welcoming
- Outspoken
- High Rigor
- Willing to grow
- *Our voices are heard
- Resource stipend
- **United in our mission for bilingualism (x2)
- *Being in the heart of Oklahoma
- 1st bilingual school in OKC
- Highly qualified staff

WGES Weaknesses/Internal Challenges

- **Lack of instructional support (bilingual)
- *Making sure all staff is pulling their weight
- Lack of bilingual resources/training
- **Lack of TRUE bilingual Teachers
- **Lack of framework – everything has to be made
- *Lack of communication ?from who or to who
- *Limited support staff
- **Need of PD's on dual language strategies to best serve students in any language (L1 or L2) SIOP
- **Behavioral support
- *****SPED Support
- Curriculum Improvement
- Creating Everything from 0
- Admission process
- *No transportation
- Not having sports for all student/extra

WGES Opportunities/External Positives

- **Partner with Exchange Avenue Baptist to use their space for a middle school! (x2)
- Families in our neighborhood that don't know we're here! Promotion! -- door to door and digital work of mouth
- ***Partnership with Latino Businesses and non profits (an Latino or not)
- Fundraising
- Cultural Activities
- ****More free coffee . . . Nespresso Please (X10)
- **After school partnerships and tutoring!
- Partnership w/other bilingual schools (Texa K-12)
- *Social media content creator
- Resources for parents
- ESL Classes/Partner
- Evening Classes for parents that would like to learn English/Spanish
- No sauna. No Pool!!! (-:

WGES Threats/External Challenges

- ***Funding\$ (x2)
- Other dial language programs
- No OK Spanish Standards
- *Politics (X2)
- *Immigration policy (x2)
- Crime in our area
- Losing good teachers/students
- *****Comparing our school to monolingual schools
- Having a small school
- *Curriculum not good
- *Parking
- *More behavior support
- *The Chihuahuas!!
- Lifewise

<u>Thoughts about the future WGES as an Independent Charter School (PK-5)</u>		<u>Thoughts about the future of WGES if Potentially Partnering/Consolidating with PK-12 Charter</u>	
<u>Advantages</u>	<u>Concerns</u>	<u>Advantages</u>	<u>Concerns</u>
*More families will join	Will dual language program continue? 50/50 (x2)	**Dual Language Pioneers	*Funding
*Partnerships		More leadway other schools	No middle school path
*More resources (clubs, sports, etc.)	*What about curriculum and assessments formats?	*Remain the Osos!	Threats of losing bilingual program
*People with multiple children will gain the chance to keep their children together!!!	****Will we keep our name, Oso (essence of WGES – Spanish, Keeping our culture)	First bilingual school in the city	*Parent interest because of no middle school
*Growth		*Job security	Parents dropping student in 4 th to get students into middle school. What @ 5 th ?
*More opportunities for programs	Being viewed through a monolingual lens (X2)	Unique	
*Opportunity for our students to have school stability		More opportunities	
*Middle School/High School Path		Dual support services	*Future of students beyond WGES (x2)
*Keep up with students progress as the grow (true representation of bilingual needs)	*Admission process	*We are a tight knit family. We know students by name & are able to meet individual needs.	
	*Retention of current teachers		