

Family and Community Engagement Committee Meeting

Present: Alison Amoroso (chair and parent), Julia Finkelstein (teacher), Catalina Sibilsky (parent)

October 25, 2019 8:00 AM; Principal's Conference Room

-Alison welcomed members and reviewed purpose of the committee and status of the work to date. The goal of the committee is to breakdown barriers for families and to increase family engagement for ALL sub-groups of students. With this increase in engagement, the larger goal is to address the achievement gap in student performance.

-Alison provided the team with copies of the IMS school survey results. The team discussed responses for school as a whole and for sub-groups of students. We want to use this data to inform programming. The committee discussed the importance of making sure that programming actually addresses an actual family/student need.

- Last school year the committee reviewed the process for getting the survey completed and making sure that a fair sampling of families across all grades, groups, etc. were represented. The committee believes the data in this survey represents and accurate sampling.

-Committee needs to set a plan for 2019-20 school year.

-The committee discussed that in addition to setting the goals for the year, we also need to look at adding committee members (Do we have enough? Does the committee represent the school population, etc.?). The charge for the committees' district-wide is to have all stakeholders represented. Ideally, we would like at least 2 more teacher and 2 more parents. The committee would then take on leadership roles, etc. and how the committee will function.

- The committee discussed short-term goals:

- Creating a space in the hall with a computer and materials for parents, and to get online for school needs and assistance (discussed in committee last school year); a recommended family engagement activity

- Involvement in the planning for the parent education room/resource in Howard.

- How this committee can engage the Howard Alumni Association; last year the committee asked for a liaison from the school (a parent or teacher) to the association and vice-versa.

- How the committees' activity can meaningfully engage the families outside of the school and in the community.

- finish the Parent Transition Handbook (already in the works)

- Looking at the current existing school events/rituals as small activities throughout the year– Meet and Greet, Curriculum night, Tutorial, etc. and thinking through how to design differently to remove barriers to access.

- Thinking through if there are opportunities for transitions from middle School to high school

The committee decided on several immediate action steps:

- Request a translator communication tool for the school website. (Alison asked APS, they are not doing it district-wide, Inman has to do it individually)
- Research tools and APPs available for parents for translation.
- Julia to meet with technology teacher Dr. Powe regarding website and translation tools.
- Alison to set up meeting with Catalina and Susana Roberts (Hope Hill parent liaison staff) to explore HH's family and community engagement efforts to see how we can align.
- Alison to bring entire committee together in the next month to continue the work.
- Alison will continue to follow-up with the Howard Alumni Association until a committee member becomes the liaison

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