

Family and Community Engagement Committee  
Friday, December 13, 2019 8:00 AM  
Meeting Minutes

Present: Alison Amoroso (chair and parent), Catalina Sibilsky (parent), Julia Finkelstein (teacher), Jean Russell (parent), Ulysses Mitchell (parent), Ginenne Walker (parent), Eugenia Esquivel (community member)

- 1) Meeting Call to order at 8:10 AM
- 2) Introductions
  - Welcome Eugenia Esquivel.
- 3) Meeting Agenda approved
- 4) Old Business
  - a. Official communication to clarify that myhomework is only an electronic agenda and that Infinite campus is for grades.
    - Request was made to Shanda Beadles to ask Dr. Maxwell to formally communicate to parents.
    - The committee discussed the continued need for communications improvement. Eugenia agreed to work with Ms. Beadles on internal and external communications for the school so that we are prepared for the handbook, etc.
  - b. PTO/Foundation/GO Team - no update
  - c. Communication with PTO – Catalina will be meeting with PTO leadership in January on the shared calendar information. No update at this time.
- 5) Communication /Transition Handbook Update – moving forward.
  - Alison working with Honora to continue to get this completed.
  - The committee discussed prioritizing this as an important task.
- 6) Engaging language-diverse communities – update from Julia.
  - Ms. Poe is helping in the classroom on how to use technology in the classroom. ELL students have a standardized test in January.
  - Plan forward – parent engagement room should have technology access.
  - Ulysses will connect with Shanda Beadles on the plans for the Parent Resource room at Howard.
- 7) The group discussed a comprehensive list of ideas/activities (handout) and things the committee to focus on. The following items were prioritized by the group present:
  - a. Handbook
  - b. Providing input on design and resources in the Parent Resource Room
  - c. Partnering with school and PTO to streamline communication across the school.
  - d. Connecting with Howard alumni club.
  - e. Parent liaison position (part or fulltime at the school)
    - i. MOTION **approved** Alison will report to the GO Team that the committee recommends a part or full time Parent Liaison position for the school.

- 8) Additional conversation and information:
  - a. Eugenia discussed yoga and mindfulness activities that could bring people together.
  - b. Ginenne reported that she has attended district parent engagement meetings and sees many resources available through APS.
- 9) Next meeting – Alison will send out a request for a January meeting.
- 10) Meeting adjourned at 9:15 AM