

Parent Community Engagement and Involvement Advisory Council

Meeting Notes: **December 13, 2012**

Federation for Children with Special Needs

Schrafft Center 529 Main Street Suite 1102 Boston, MA 02129

In attendance: Evelyn Bouley, Clay Connor, Patricia Gorham, Mal Hughes, Kim Hunt, Jo-Anne McCormick, Peggie O'Hare, Stuart Peskin, Kathy Rodriguez, ESE Liaison. Guests: Tanya Mead (School Age Program Director, Community Teamwork Inc.) and Matthew Nixon (ESE).

Absent: Kimberly Artez, Kristine Coffey-Donahue, Abigail Hanscom, Kathleen Jones, Kathleen Meagher, Brian Middleton-Cox, Julie Salois, Michelle Sylvaria.

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order at 10:45 am by chair, Peggie O'Hare, asking members to **share updates**:

- Evelyn is working on a new web site for parents of students in her school in New Bedford. Anyone with resources should send them to ebouley@gnbvt.edu
- Kim reported that Mass PTA Conference will be held on April 26 to 28, 2013 at the Red Jacket Resort, Yarmouth. More information at www.masspta.org
- Stu asked if anyone was interested in being a presenter for the Title I Dissemination Project annual conference on March 4, 2013. More information at <http://www.title1project.com/>
- Peggie announced the annual Federation conference is March 9, 2013 at the World Trade Center, Boston. More information at <http://fcsn.org/conferences/voc2013/>
- Pat is working on a proposal for 22 to 30 year old students to get work in the community.
- Peggie talked about the family and community engagement work at the Federation which includes developing an online course through Mass. Focus Academy, participating in the state professional development grant and working with special education on family engagement.
- Tanya introduced herself as the School Age Program Director at Community Teamwork, Inc. She is interested in family and community engagement work in Lowell.
- Kathy reported on the work within ESE on family and community engagement:
 - Developed a Share Point site to be repository of documents. (This is ready for rollout for the entire department.)
 - Working on a definition of family and community engagement.
 - Family literacy consortium includes family engagement
 - Working to reconfigure the web site to enhance information and access for families

Brief discussion about the location of the next meeting resulting in a consensus agreeing that keeping this same location at the Federation for the next PCEI would be most convenient.

Members discussed the **charge from Commissioner Chester** given to the PCEI:

- Peggie asked that in light of the charge from the Commissioner to document families' roles, what should the PCEI be producing? The discussion included the following points:

- Parents frequently don't know what their roles can be and don't know about supports to help them.
- Whatever is produced to reflect a positive perspective about families do to support their children's education and schools. We need to "celebrate" the positive.
- By documenting what schools do with parents, you are also documenting what families do.
- Identifying families' roles as co-educators was the feedback that the Board shared when the Fundamentals were presented to them over a year ago.
- Harlem Children's Zone is an example of parent empowerment.
- Other organizations and institutions do a better job of empowering parents typically than most schools.
- Need to take into account the range of parents' access to services, abilities, and availability to be engaged in their children's schools.
- Whatever the PCEI does this year, we need to define who is the audience and address any tensions about whose responsibility is it to engage families.
- One possible structure for the PCEI response would have three components:
 - Resources
 - Promising practices for schools
 - Promising practices for families
- There are themes throughout the Fundamentals, such as parent resource centers and reaching out to all families. Perhaps the PCEI could identify how these change and differ at the various age levels: early childhood, elementary, middle and high school.
- PCEI members struggle with the notion that "one size fits all" and that there is a "right" way for families to be engaged.

Lunch break 12:30 to 1:00 pm.

Discussion about the crosswalk between the Fundamentals and the Massachusetts Model System for Educator Evaluation:

- Members reviewed work to date and discussed how this crosswalk would be a useful tool for principals in coaching teachers and identifying strategies.
- Members agreed to take a look at the initial crosswalk that was developed over the summer to see if there are additional match ups between Indicators and Elements of the evaluation rubrics and the Fundamentals and Indicators.
- Peggie agreed to write up the key points about this comparison.
- Clay volunteered to set up a template to use for this Crosswalk.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Submitted by Clay Connor and Peggie O'Hare