



Parent / Community Involvement Task Force

Meeting Minutes

McFatter Technical College (Bistro)

December 14, 2015

6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Members Present: Natalie Beasley, Janet Bravo, Ana Corujo, Sheri Johnson, Esther Mizell, Lew Naylor, Cathie Starkey

Phone-in: Gloria Moschella

Guests: Andrea Blackwood, Wanda Robinson

- **Welcome and Call to Order**

Ms. Robinson called the meeting to order.

- **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from November 16, 2015 were unanimously approved.

- **Parent Engagement Conference**

- Date, place, time, theme

The event will take place at Piper High... Saturday, March 5, 2016... 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. “411 on Parent Engagement” is the theme.

- Ms. Robinson shares Superintendent Runcie’s recommendations for Conference

Ms. Robinson stated the Public Information Office is creating a save-the-date document for distribution.

She shared Superintendent Runcie’s comments on the forthcoming conference, stating he recommended presenting parent engagement awards to schools – one in each zone – to be

funded by the Broward Education Foundation and Partners In Education program. This is a great opportunity for schools to share ideas.

Some members said they liked this idea but suggested finding an alternative approach to a competition. Mr. Naylor suggested that best practices be highlighted and shared at the conference, but not cash awards. The principals should identify and choose their zone's best practices.

Door prizes were recommended. The members felt that was a positive aspect at the 2015 conference.

Ms. Moschella suggested staying with and improving upon last year's conference format (keynote speaker plus break-out workshops).

➤ Conference subcommittee

The subcommittee includes: Debbie Aleman, Natalie Beasley, Andrea Cavanagh, Sheri Johnson, and Wanda Robinson

➤ Brainstorming topics for workshops

Thirteen (13) potential workshop topics were discussed. The members will review and choose from the following:

(1) Ms. Bravo recommended a "Boosters Club 2.0" workshop; this time it should be a how-to, hands-on workshop, rather than an introduction.

(2) Ms. Bravo suggested a Technology workshop, expanded from last year. Present a live, hands-on approach...taking it to the next level.

(3) Ms. Johnson suggested a workshop on how to engage different cultures -- culturally sensitive parent engagement models. Ms. Corujo mentioned a cultural exchange program with Japan, as an example of looking at a different type of culture. Look at sister school models, even beyond Florida.

(4) Ms. Bravo suggested a workshop on how parents at the high school level can stay engaged. Mr. Naylor added: Figure out how to get communication to go both ways – from the school's and the parent's perspectives.

(5) Ms. Moschella suggested a workshop to support our most fragile students (which she defined as students in the Promise program, homeless children, etc.). Ms. Beasley said other agencies could help promote this, such as ChildNet and BSO. Mr. Naylor suggested sending out personal invitations to parents of Promise students. These parents can become ambassadors to the community.

- (6) Ms. Blackwood suggested reaching out to the PTA, SAC and SAF to present a workshop.
- (7) Ms. Johnson recommended a workshop on sharing best practices.
- (8) Ms. Corujo recommended a workshop on dealing with social and emotional development. Ms. Bravo stated teachers deserve much credit for recognizing signs in this area.
- (9) Ms. Robinson suggested a workshop on literacy.
- (10) Ms. Robinson recommended a “Typical or Troubled” (mental health) workshop – to be presented by School Social Workers. Ms. Moschella recommended a psychologist to present this topic (or co-present).
- (11) Ms. Johnson discussed an “Educating Our Sons” workshop to include engaging fathers and male figures.
- (12) Ms. Robinson recommended a gender equity workshop.
- (13) Ms. Beasley reminded the group of the grant-writing workshop from the previous conference and recommended this for 2016.

➤ Conference Introduction and Keynote speaker

Ms. Johnson suggested Supt. Runcie or Michaelle Pope, Executive Director, Student Support Initiatives, set the stage for how our District is supporting family and community engagement, and tie it into the workshops – where the parents can dig deeper.

Ms. Moschella asked if there is a pioneer of parent engagement in the Broward community who could speak at the conference. Subcommittee members will research this.

Mr. Naylor recommended attendees be informed of what the District offers re: education and services.

Ms. Beasley suggested Henry Crockett as a keynote speaker – his foundation provides after-school services.

Ms. Corujo suggested Ernst Pirre Louis, from SOS Children’s Village, as a keynote speaker.

➤ Additional thoughts

More help registering people is needed this year.

The group expressed that the Non Profit Fair was a success. Ms. Beasley and Ms. Starkey will help plan, following the same format as last year.

To market the event, a save-the-date notice will be emailed. Ms. Robinson will ask ESOL to translate this notice in various languages.

It was suggested that Cadre Directors promote the event to principals and administrators. Todd Sussman will inform Scott Jarvis (Service Quality Office) of this suggestion.

Ms. Bravo suggested inviting the media to the Parent Engagement Conference, in lieu of a separate Media Forum at this time. Mr. Naylor suggested reaching out to the media, utilizing contacts gathered during preparation for the Media Forum (which was postponed).

- **Update on PCITF Recommendations**

The update will be presented at a future PCITF meeting.

- **Middle and High School Forums**

Data and recommendations to be reviewed at a future meeting.

- **Reschedule Media Forum**

The members want to invite the media to the Conference -- to do a trial run -- rather than have a separate Media Forum at this time. They want to focus on preparing for the Conference.

- **Future Meeting Dates**

- **Monday, January 11, 2016**, McFatter, 6:00 p.m. This date, confirmed last month, is on the District calendar.
- **Monday, February 8, 2016**, 6:00 p.m. This date was voted on at tonight's meeting.
Update: Mr. Sussman confirmed McFatter as the location.

- **Adjournment**

Mr. Sussman adjourned the meeting.