



## **PARENT / COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT TASK FORCE (PCITF)**

McFatter Technical College (Bistro)

January 23, 2017 / 6:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.

**Present:** Mary Fertig (Chair), Debbie Aleman, Joseph Balchunas, Janet Bravo, Marques Brown, Andrea Cavanagh, Ana Corujo, Melanie Hemphill, Sheri Johnson, Esther Mizell, Lew Naylor, Veronica Newmeyer, Laurie Rich Levinson, Cathie Starkey

**Guests:** Nadia Clarke

- **Call to Order**

Ms. Fertig called the meeting to order.

- **Welcome and Introductions**

Members and guests shared their New Year's wishes, including parent engagement goals and collaboration....and meaningful engagement – doing something for the community.

Joseph Balchunas and Marques Brown – our two new members – were welcomed.

- **Approval of December 12, 2016 Minutes**

The minutes were unanimously approved.

- **Task Force Housekeeping Items**

Ms. Fertig asked Mr. Naylor to chair the nominating committee for a new election for Task Force Chair, and for Ms. Bravo to be part of the committee. She announced she is planning to leave the Task Force. She also indicated it has been five years since we brought the recommendations to the Board.

Regarding regular meeting dates, Ms. Newmeyer stated some Monday dates conflict with other committee meetings. Ms. Fertig replied that the Task Force always has Monday meetings – but they may vary by which Monday. The scheduled February 13 and March 13 dates will stay the same. April 3, 2017 was chosen as the April date.

- **Update on Parent Engagement**

Ms. Clarke (from the Parent Engagement Office) announced a new meeting (“Introduction to Active Parenting”) to help increase parents partnering with schools. In addition, the District is partnering with the United Way to improve engagement. Her department also provided a workshop to school social workers and family counselors to help identify resources, create best practices, and share strategies.

Ms. Fertig inquired about Parent University. Ms. Clarke replied her department is in the process of figuring out the best format. Ms. Fertig stated community volunteers will speak and provide the Parent University free of charge. She feels it was a strong recommendation from the Task Force. She also stated that our new member, Mr. Brown from the YMCA, is a natural partner for the Parent University.

- **Spring Conference Report**

Ms. Aleman indicated Ms. Beasley will spearhead arrangements for the non-profit fair, to be featured at the Conference.

Ms. Aleman and Ms. Cavanagh will organize the Conference. Saturday, April 29, 2017 is the chosen date. (7:00 a.m. preparation / 8:00 a.m. event starts / 1:00 p.m. end time)

Todd Sussman will ask Scott Jarvis (Service Quality Office) to request Ft. Lauderdale High for the event location. If not available, Piper High is the requested back-up. (**Update:** Mr. Sussman emailed this request to Mr. Jarvis.)

Mr. Naylor suggested zone transportation – shuttles for parents to attend. Mr. Balchunas agreed to look into the transportation for such a shuttle.

Mr. Brown indicated he was interested in joining the Conference subcommittee. Mr. Sussman summarized the previous conferences.

Mr. Balchunas reported that Dr. Valerie Wanza (Office of School Performance and Accountability) speaks of customer service at all principal organizational meetings and encourages principals to attend and participate in the conferences. He suggested each principal bring two to three parents to the Conference. Doing so would increase attendance.

Ms. Fertig stated there are diverse offerings from the non-profits. Ms. Rich Levinson indicated the non-profit fair is also a vehicle for principals to see and discuss the non-profit services available – outside of busy school hours.

Ms. Fertig reminded the group of an online directory for non-profit services. Ms. Clarke stated the schools must input their information.

Ms. Mizell compared past attendance by principals and administrators with recent attendance. Ms. Newmeyer and Mr. Naylor spoke of how greater involvement by these individuals would increase buy-in.

Ms. Fertig and Ms. Rich Levinson will speak to the principal association to encourage involvement with the Conference.

Ms. Bravo inquired if principals utilize and refer to the Task Force report and recommendations from 2012 to increase parent and community engagement.

- **Innovation Zone Support Discussion**

Ms. Fertig summarized this project for the new members: Task Force members visited and interviewed four zones – and looked at their strengths and needs. An intensive, hands-on experience was proposed – a worthy project for the Task Force to work with schools. However, this would be a huge time commitment.

Ms. Bravo stated four parent-inclusive meetings are required, annually, for each zone.

The four zones the Task Force initially chose to work with are: Deerfield, Boyd Anderson, Lauderdale Lakes, and Miramar. Ms. Fertig narrowed the immediate focus to two zones: Boyd Anderson – for intensive, hands-on modeling; Deerfield – for quarterly meetings.

Ms. Fertig said we should work with zones to increase parents' leadership capacity.

Ms. Clarke indicated parents may be able to attend more zone meetings if they were held at more convenient times for them. She suggested asking parents which times are best. Ms. Fertig reminded the group that this point was covered in the Task Force report.

Ms. Rich Levinson stated many parents prefer evenings for meeting times, rather than mornings or right after school.

Ms. Fertig added that modeling engagement for parents would be a welcome effort.

Ms. Hemphill agreed to participate in the Boyd Anderson zone project...Ms. Clarke as well.

Ms. Rich Levinson stated the Task Force's efforts have helped make the zones and parent engagement a priority. She has brought these efforts to Dr. Wanza's attention.

Mr. Balchunas said there is a culture shift now to focus on parental involvement in the zones.

Ms. Rich Levinson explained the zone concept: A high school and all the schools that feed into it make up a zone...so there is a common thread from start to finish. Parents used to be more involved. The purpose of this project is to bring back the parental involvement.

Ms. Aleman gave an example of how SBBC parents encourage incoming parents (to the community) to choose public schools over charter schools – including communicating via a neighborhood website.

Ms. Cavanagh, Ms. Hemphill and Ms. Clarke stated they would participate in the zone project.

- **Future Meeting Dates**

- February 13, 2017 (Monday) – Regular Meeting – McFatter, Room 602, 6 pm
- March 13, 2017 (Monday) – Regular Meeting – McFatter, Room 602, 6 pm
- April 3, 2017 (Monday) – Regular Meeting – McFatter, Room 602, 6 pm
- April 29, 2017 (Saturday) – Parent Engagement Conference – Location to be finalized

- **Adjournment**

Ms. Fertig adjourned the meeting.