

Wilmington Education Improvement Commission – Parent, Educator, and Community Engagement

Conrad School of Science

201 Jackson Avenue

Wilmington, DE 19804

Minutes – October 27, 2015

Co-chair Yvonne Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Welcome and Meeting Introduction

Co-chair Yvonne Johnson began the meeting by stating the need for at least five top priorities for the committee to pursue in the creation of solid recommendations. Those in attendance then brainstormed the main barriers and solutions to engagement based on the recommendations document provided.

Areas of Focus

While several priorities were discussed and expanded upon, the main thread between all the ideas was consistency. The Co-chair reiterated the importance of this concept in order to create effective and sustainable recommendations. In addition, the following priorities were discussed at length with the sharing of concerns, possible solutions, and best practices.

1. Direct Outreach- Parent Engagement Tool Kit
 - a. CDC early childhood development guidelines
 - b. City of Wilmington Resource list
 - c. Best practices from: Potaski, Stubbs, Handby, VotTech
 - d. Show parents why they should engage
2. Community Events
 - a. Community partners can fund events, resources
 - i. Stubbs Elementary School is a real practice model we can expand upon
 - b. Project Launch:
 - i. “A partnership of government, education, and health care leaders has been awarded a \$4 million federal grant that will build on Governor Jack Markell’s push to improve opportunities for some of Delaware’s most disadvantaged youth. Awarded by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to the Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families (The Children’s Department), the funding will help address the physical, social, emotional, mental and behavioral needs of young children, from birth to age eight, who reside in several high risk communities in Wilmington. The new resources will support Project LAUNCH (Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children’s Health), an initiative led by the Children’s

Department that uses a public health approach, including a home visitation program, to improve collaboration and coordination across child-serving systems and promote social and emotional success in specific high-needs communities.” <http://news.delaware.gov/2014/09/17/delaware-childrens-department-awarded-4m-federal-launch-grant/>

- c. Provide health services, wrap-around-services
 - i. Vision to Learn
 - ii. Lack of trust in health centers in school
 - 1. Should these services be subcontracted?
 - 2. Issue: This won't engage parents into the school
 - iii. Can this need be met by the “Meeting the Needs” committee?
- 3. Provide Transportation
- 4. Engage Parents
 - a. Family Engagement National Law
 - i. The recommendations will cost money. Can we use grants?
 - ii. Need to address Title 1 funding allocated for family engagement
 - b. How to measure successful family engagement
 - i. number of people, ratio (school to students)
 - ii. host a lot of events (quarterly?)
 - iii. be mindful of the community you're serving (i.e.: parents' schedules)
 - c. Meetings
 - i. We need to make sure meetings are adding value
 - ii. Include parents in the discussion
 - iii. Need to educate the parents why it's important
 - d. Community liaison/ Site Coordinator
 - 1. Lack of trust in state, government
 - 2. The People's Report documentary
 - a. follow this model
 - 3. Hire from within the community
 - 4. Utilize nonprofit organizations, smaller businesses
 - 5. Resolve simple issues (phone bills)
 - a. survival over education
- 5. Communication
 - a. Seen as a barrier and opportunity for strength
 - i. Current system: flyers, robo-calls, email
 - ii. Alternatives: texting, social media, apps, community partners (YMCA, Boys and Girls Club)
 - 1. need to take into account low-income family
 - b. Teachers to parents; School to parents
- 6. Train the Trainer
 - a. Professional development for educators
 - b. Applied Analysis Behavior
 - i. Applied Analysis Behavior for Teacher, Paul Alberto

Conclusion

The Co-chair ended the meeting with a final discussion on responsibility and accountability, specifically in regards to cultural competency and diversity. Not only is this a barrier to engagement but it hinders success in all aspects of the school environment. Some solutions included the need for constant training as well as a look into applied behavior analysis training (Applied Behavior Analysis for Teachers by Paul Alberto). The next meeting may include a presentation from Ken Livingston who is a site coordinator at the Eastside Community School Program.

The next meeting will be on November 17th from 6:15pm to 7:45pm at P.S. DuPont Middle School Library: 701 W 34th St Wilmington, DE 19802.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Wilmington Education Improvement Commission
Parent, Educator, and Community Engagement Committee
Attendance at the 10/27/15 Meeting

Committee Members Attending

Yvonne Johnson, Co-chair
Daphne Evans

Fredericka Jenner
Renee Duval

Members of the Public

Mike Wilson
Swiyah Whittingtal

Susan Haberstroh

Institute for Public Administration Staff

Kelly Sherretz
Nicole Rodriguez- Hernandez