

Family and Community Engagement (FACE)

02/15/2024

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

	Name	Role
1	Angel Alicea	East Home School Assistant
2	Adrian Jimenez	East Engagement Coordinator VISTA
3	Luis Zarate	East Community School Coordinator
4	Carmen Torres	Children's Agenda, Parent Advocacy Leadership Coordinator
5	Ed Mascadri	Upper School Principal
6	Janielle Crocker	Chief Impact Officer, Connected Communities
7	Shaquita Ortiz	IBERO Family Service Assistant

**Collective Impact Networks; Health & Wellness, Family Engagement & Support,
College Navigation, Career & Workforce Development**

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Welcome and Introduction (Agenda Review) (A. Alicea)

- Mr. Alicea opened the meeting and provided an overview of the agenda.
- All attendees introduced themselves and answered the icebreaker “What is something you look forward to in the Spring??”

Approve Minutes from 1/18/24

- Motion for Approval by A. Jimenez
- Seconded by C. Torres

Community Café: Advocacy & Leadership (Connected Communities)

- We held a very successful Community Café last Thursday. We had a really great turnout of about 25 families represented. For those of you who are unfamiliar, we adapted the Community Café after ROC The Future and the BeStrong Families Parent Café Model.
- We focused on 2 out of the 5 protective factors which were parental resilience and social connections this session. We had food provided by Casa Campo and we had some guided questions that really helped us discuss how we can become more resilient as a community as we’re thinking about “Renew East [EPO]”. From there we had some time harvesting ideas around what Collective Action looks like/can look like in our community which consists of current scholars, alumni, families, community partners like myself and some of you on the line, of course the East staff and administrators and overall supporters of the EPO model.
- Most of you either already have or will get the petition that the scholars were able to initiate which was really good. I have already signed the petition, so anyone who is interested in that we do have that information (tinyurl.com/extendeastepo). We also have a leadership and advocacy toolkit that we’ve developed that just has all the information for you if you want to elevate your voice even more on the matter and how you can do that with elected officials, politicians and so forth, ways that you can advocate (tinyurl.com/CCxEastAdvocacyToolkit24).
- The next Community Café is coming up on March 7th. That will be the second and final session of this two-part series. Additionally at the upcoming RCSD public hearing on February 29th, families and community members will have an opportunity to sign up to speak and address the board.
- The March 7th session is also open to those who participated last week as well as their students or alumni. Really it’s open to anyone who is interested in “Renew East” and all that we want to preserve, we also provide dinner, childcare and buspasses for those who need transportation to and from the event.
- (A. Alicea) Another nice thing about these Community Cafés is they are being held bilingually and we see good flow and nice engagement from both sides.

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Many people may feel out of place when the event is in a different language, but in this case I think parents felt good, there was lots of good communication and involvement.

Title 1 Update (Alicea)

- Mr. Alicea provided an update regarding all the Title 1 Family Events that have taken place already and those that are upcoming.
 - **Previous**
 - Community Career Fair
 - Thur. Oct. 26, 2023
 - This event took place during our PTC
 - Community Parent Café
 - Thur. Nov. 9, 2023
 - Partnership with Whole Child Initiative/RTFA to host Be Strong Families Parent Cafe for East Families
 - Family Learning Activities Workshop #1 Graduation Requirements
 - Thur. Nov. 16, 2023
 - (virtual), after FACE Meeting
 - Family Learning Activities Workshop #2 Mental Health
 - Thur. Dec. 14, 2023
 - Done as an East Community Café #1
 - Family Learning Activities Workshop #3 Financial Aid Workshop (FAFSAFest)
 - Thur. Jan. 11, 2024
 - This event took place during our PTC
 - Family Learning Activities Workshop #4 Athletic NCAA Requirements
 - Thur. Jan. 11, 2024
 - This event took place during our PTC
 - Community Café #2
 - Thur. Feb 8, 2024
 - In collaboration with Connected Communities
 - Focus: Advocacy & Leadership
 - **Upcoming**
 - Career and Technical Educational (CTE) Open House
 - Tue. Feb 27
 - Community Café #3
 - Thur. March 7, 2024
 - In collaboration with Connected Communities
 - Focus: Advocacy & Leadership
 - PTC/Black History Dinner
 - Thur. Mar. 14, 2024
 - ELL Cultural Event
 - Thur. April 25, 2024

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Upper & Lower School Governance Council Updates

- (E. Mascadri) Since we last met, US has completed its first semester. We had a very successful exam week where many scholars came in to take or make up exams. We are now in the second semester third marking period, we had an Honor Roll assembly which had several dozen scholars. We have a Black History Month celebration during school this coming Friday, upper school will be on a modified schedule all day.
- And I just can't stress enough the importance of the advocacy for the renewal of the EPO, so anything our partners and parents can do to help support the renewal is greatly appreciated whether that's advocating in the community or at future board meetings, the next couple of meetings will be very important for that.
- (L. Wingo) For lower school we are also participating in the Black History Month celebration we are preparing for our half day SEL choice sessions and a lower school dance we will have over the course of the day. More good news is that we were approved for our annual eighth grade trip, so we are planning for our eighth grades to go to DC.

Community School & Agency Updates (L. Zarate)

- I really want to highlight all the great work Connected Communities did with the Community Café, we did see an increase in parent engagement and a high rate of interaction and it was very moving.
- I am part of a network team of all the different Community School Coordinators in the district and we meet monthly. We're working on our needs assessment for East High School and updating it. It's an annual, ongoing document that represents everything all the work that we do, so that's coming in the near future. I am also putting together an asset map so I'll be working with all Community Partners at large throughout the city and creating a map that basically shows and pinpoints all the different resources that are connected to the community and some that we could use here at East
- IBERO (S. Ortiz) - We have our Digital Skills for Life, our basic computer skills workshop that is set to begin March 6th, it's our fourth cohort. We want to start promoting that soon we will send that out, hopefully you guys can send that out to families or post around the school so we can get the word out there. We are also putting together a Girls' Support Group. We're trying to get it to start after break so that's still in the works.
- Children's Agenda (C. Torres) - The Children's Agenda has been working with legislators, assemblymen, and political leaders in New York. We are fighting for folks that work with these children to get better pay rate because we're losing a lot of folks that work as speech pathologists and whatnot with these children that are actually needing their support. What happens is that a lot of the times a child

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needs early intervention and a provider comes to the home and works 2-3 days, 2-3 weeks, then suddenly that person might be given an opportunity to work elsewhere at a better rate. The rate has stayed the same since 1994 and so we are trying to push for an 11% increase so this way, at the end of the day this will help our children. We're looking at these kids that are ending up in special needs programs because Monroe County did not have enough providers for our children. We did a lot of lobbying with various legislators and they are all for increasing the rate so hopefully we'll see amazing things happening for our babies.