

Family and Community Engagement (FACE)

11/16/2023
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	Angelica Pagan	Lower School Mother
5	Blake Harriman	Lower School Math Teacher
6	Bradley Capers	Hillside Youth Advocate
7	Janielle Crocker	Chief Impact Officer, Connected Communities
8	Caterina Leone-Mannino	Assistant Superintendent
9	Shaquita Ortiz	IBERO Family Service Assistant
10	Edward Mascadri	East Upper School Principal
11	Pamela Rivet	Upper School Mother
12	Nicole Gardea-Butler	URMC East Health Center
13	Manny Ortelaza	Southeast Neighborhood Rep
14	Dabdiel Ramos	Bilingual Program Scholar
15	Denise Daly	East Psychologist
16	Christina Christman	Upper School Mother
17	Mary Gilbert	School Counselor

**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 “Do you prefer the Thanksgiving meal or the leftovers?”

Approve Minutes from 10/19/23

- Motion for Approval C. Leone-Mannino
- Seconded by A. Jimenez

Café Con Leche (D. Ramos)

- Mr. Ramos gave a brief presentation about the bilingual student town halls and the support they would like from FACE. He also emphasized the many languages within the bilingual student body, not just Spanish and inquired about eventually adding more languages to the program.
- The Café Con Leche takes place during family group until the start of the second block, Mr. Ramos wonders if FACE can assist in promoting to students and parents.
- Meetings to solidify what that support might look like will be planned.

NYS Receivership Quarterly Report (Admin Team)

- C. Leone-Mannino
 - We had a very important visit with the State Commissioner, Chancellor of the Board of Regents, members of the Big Five districts, and members of the RCSD leadership team. They spent 3 hours at East, interacting via student-led tours and classroom visits. One of the really important improvements is East’s graduation rate has gone from 33% to 86% in a four-year cohort over the 7 years of the EPO partnership.
 - An important deadline is 12/30/2023, a plan should be put in place that describes how East would be reabsorbed into the RCSD. The commissioner made clear during the visit that perhaps that isn’t what we’re looking for, that there was not a clear presentation of what the next steps are, other than the culture that’s been developed at East (throughout the EPO) is something that should continue to be nurtured and enhanced instead of erased and absorbed back into the district. This means there are decisions ahead in the near future around the continuation of the EPO contract which is set to expire at the end of the 24-25 school year.
 - Potentially some budget advocacy work will be needed to sustain the work that has been done.

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- When the EPO was appointed as the receiver, we were required to make demonstrable indicator progress. We have met those demonstrable indicators each year.
- Ultimately we will need to determine what the next steps are for advocacy and will evolve over the next 6-8 weeks quickly. We have family and student voices that truly demonstrate that, at a time when RCSD is reconfiguring and redesigning secondary and middle schools, East has a model that works. The question is how do we replicate that? How do we create equity for other students, not just the 1200 at East? Consider how we might be able to reach even more and push our community to think about instead of “East gets XYZ and it’s not fair, “ let’s say “it’s not fair other schools don’t get the same,”
- RCSD should have a proposed plan by 12/30/23 but it does not seem likely they will have one.
- A vote recently took place regarding the reconfiguration of the district, not about the EPO.

Upper & Lower School Governance Council Updates

- Principal E. Mascadri
 - Gave an overview of various Upper School highlights since the last meeting.
 - Held Community Career Fair / Parent Teacher Conference with a great turnout. Culinary Scholars provided the food.
 - 10/27 first half day or Haunted Half Day. Morning for scholars had a focus on social-emotional learning and concluded with a Halloween-themed dance. The afternoon was professional learning for adults, with SEL focused choice sessions as well.
 - 11/7 superintendents conference day where the morning focus was professional learning and the afternoon had choice sessions. Many staff had a leadership role in developing the sessions.
 - 11/9 Marking Period 1 end
 - 11/10 Boys V Football won our first sectional class A title in 18 years
 - 11/14 grades due, report cards to be mailed next week.
 - A reminder that we do hold tutoring for the Upper school every Monday and Thursday after school and Saturday school.
 - Governance Council has approved 14 clubs to be offered this year for US

Community School Updates (L. Zarate)

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- Mr. Zarate shared information from the Urban Clothing Closet & the Food Pantry
 - 68 more students accessed the closet from October to November, a total of 205 items accessed. We are receiving plenty of clothing donations almost on a daily basis, from students, staff, community members and partners.
 - Our big focus this month is collection of thanksgiving food for the holiday baskets. We are utilizing a site called Perfect Potluck. It's a great way to keep track of who's bringing what and what meals or items to choose from. There are 22 different items, all the traditional Thanksgiving day foods. We have already collected many of those items and will have the Student Lighthouse assist with preparing the bags.
 - Additionally, Foodlink came in and we passed our pantry inspection for the new space. They gave us the thumbs up so we will be placing an order soon.
 - IBERO
 - (S. Ortiz) We have an RG&E pop up, we had our coat giveaway where we served over 700 individuals so that was a pretty good turnout. We are supporting East with the baskets and also have our Thanksgiving event, a hot meal served at Ibero on 11/17 open to anyone.
 - URMH Health Center
 - (N. Gardea Butler) Our goal was to get another hundred students registered, I do not have those numbers currently but I will have them by the end of next week.
 - City of Rochester SouthEast Neighborhood Center
 - (M. Ortelaza) While there aren't many events that people can really participate in right now, we do have lots of community things that we're doing. We're going to be rolling out a Healthy Food initiative by partnering with local corner stores to offer healthy options like fruits and vegetables, milk and eggs, wheat bread etc. It should be kicking off next March with the Mayor
 - Hillside Work Scholarship
 - (B. Capers) So far one of our students has received a scholarship from Keuka College. We are almost at capacity, I personally have 7 spots available for more students. At the end of the month is our senior luncheon where we try to figure out with the students if they want to go to a 2 year, 4 year school or other plans. We plan on collaborating with Micheal (College Prep Center / Upward Bound) on that.

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Collective Impact Networks (C. Leone-Mannino)

- Ms. Leone-Mannino gave an update regarding the Collective Impact Networks
 - **Family Engagement & Support** launched our first Parent (Community) Cafe with Roc The Future Alliance to launch this new model here at East. It was the largest cafe held since the model was first initiated in Rochester, it was also the first to be held bilingually. It was a huge success in terms of creating an authentic environment for families to network with one another about strengthening their families via the 5 Protective Factors. Angel and potentially Nidia with the Whole Child Initiative will be chairing this sub group. We will also be connecting with Connected Communities about parent leadership training which will sustain the parent leadership efforts, not just for East in Rochester as we continue to build capacity in this area.
 - **College Navigation** will be led by school counselors and Mary Gilbert, who is also a part of the Rochester College Access Network. We are starting to track our college bound seniors and making sure that every application is followed through on, that FAFSA forms get filled out. We will be hosting an event later this school year where we will help kids actually fill out the FAFSA since the federal government is changing the form this year. Usually it is already available in December but we think it will probably become available late January. As soon as that becomes available that will drive our event date. This committee meets during the school day and is open to anyone from FACE who also wants to serve or provide input into ways that we can better support the college access and navigation process for our scholars and their families.
 - **Health & Wellness.** Thank you to Nichole from URM for providing a connection that could potentially serve as a co-chair. The idea behind these co-chair is to make sure we're bringing in expertise from the local community into East and constantly benchmarking the work that we're doing with the greater community. This can be a shared outcome that results from the initiative to have healthy foods in local stores, really thinking about what this looks like, where is healthy food accessible? How are we doing with food insecurity?
 - **Career & Workforce Development.** We are super excited to have 6 validated CTE pathways; Teaching & Learning Institute, Information Science, Computer Science, Vision Care, Precision Optics manufacturing, Health Sciences & medical careers. Students in these pathways not only take classes that earn them college credit but they have paid internship experiences in the field that make them super employable. We are looking to spend some time with industry related experts to make sure we're

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mapping our kids to the positive of what's expected in the industry and giving them really giving them the utmost lift. VP Stephanie Bliss is co-chairing that, we are reaching out to Rod Cox Cooper from Workforce Development Inc to be our external co-chair.

- What is our “passionate purpose”? -> Vision
 - Instead of just a form for updates, what outcomes do we want as a part of our vision and how can our collective impact groups help own and push those measurable outcomes for the remainder of this school year?
 - (B. Harriman) curious about connecting experienced parents of middle schoolers with new parents. (How can we create networks of peer support for parents?)
 - Outcomes could be; # of opportunities for parent peer networking, # of participants in each family event, survey parent connection
 - (N. Gardea) getting a better understanding of what overall health and wellness means to the students and their families, maybe creating a video of our students and families sharing those things, additionally having 100% of students enrolled in our school-based health center
 - Outcomes; % of students enrolled, % of new east student completing enrollment in their first month, attendance rate
 - (D. Daly) How can we find out what parent concerns are/what topics they want us to address
 - (A. Alicea) Every year we send out a Title 1 Survey with about 13 topics for them to select that would be of interest for all of us to discuss during the school year. This year some of the chosen topics were graduation requirements, mental health, college readiness, NCAA requirements. We use these results to determine what will become Title 1 Family Learning Activities during the school year. We don't get everyone's response but we do get a good amount of families.
 - Tapping into expertise and resources of individuals in our community to support scholars and families.
 - # of students/families served
 - # of need met
 - We're not really sure what the need is, particularly in the area of homelessness or housing transition or instability. We find out only when people tell us they are in a situation, but I

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am certain that there are a significant number of families potentially facing eviction or going through transitions right now that we don't know yet. How do we get ahead of this so that we have resources lined up to be able to serve and support families in a timely fashion in such a difficult period.

- Time from referral to support
- How do we engage families from sporting events?
 - Pop ups at games
- Broadening the definition of family engagement, it's not just sitting down and attending a meeting but it is "Count on Me" as in we are in this together. We have a goal of reaching 100% of parents throughout the year attending at least one event.

Community Café

- December 14th
- With teens and parents with a focus on mental health during the holiday/winter season.

Graduation Requirements

- First Title 1 Family Learning Activity
- Led by Upper School Principal and counselors
- Today after FACE Meeting 6:30 - 7:30 PM