

Family and Community Engagement (FACE)

1/18/2024
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

	Name	Role
1	Angel Alicea	East Home School Assistant
2	Adrian Jimenez	East Engagement Coordinator VISTA
3	Laquanda Fields	Upper School Parent
4	Lara McElwain	Upper School Parent
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	East Assistant Superintendent
9	Shaquita Ortiz	IBERO Family Service Assistant
10	Edward Mascadri	East Upper School Principal
11	Carmen Torres	Children's Agenda, Parent Advocacy Leadership Coordinator
12	Nicole Gardea-Butler	URMC East Health Center
13	Manny Ortelaza	Southeast Neighborhood Service Center Rep
14	Leandrew Wingo	East Lower School Principal
15	Marlene Blocker	East Superintendent
16	Aimee Custodio	Lower School Staff

**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 your favorite hot beverage during winter?”

Approve Minutes from 11/16/23

- Motion for Approval C. Leone-Mannino
- Seconded by B. Capers

EPO Future

- M. Blocker
 - Coming up, Tuesday Jan 30, 2024, is an opportunity for a public hearing. If you don't know, the EPO, Educational Partnership Organization, our agreement with the U of R is slated to end in June of 2025. The Board of Education for the RCSD at this time wants to bring East back under them and have all governing rights over East.
 - What we are saying is that we feel we need to continue to stay separate, a part of but have our own governing and continue on with the work that we have done for the last eight and a half years. The board is holding this January 30th meeting to hear what parents community members, partners, scholars and staff have to say about the EPO ending and East going back to the Rochester City School District.
 - The largest point we have been trying to make is that there has been no collaboration with the RCSD and East to even know what we've been doing here the last eight years and so our concern is not that we all come under one umbrella, our concern is that we will be brought back in but no one understands all of the elements of what have made us unique and what has helped us achieve success. There will be other opportunities for anyone who can't come on the 30th to speak at the board meeting; there are two in February and two in March. We are hoping we can garner as many voices as possible so that the BOE clearly hears that we would like the EPO to continue as is.
 - We are looking for students, parents, even former graduates that could speak and share what the East experience has meant to them.
 - Provides a brief overview of RCSD Board Work Session on January 1st, 2023 ([linked here](#))
- L. Fields
 - Question: My child is new to the school this year, so I am not too familiar with everything the school has to offer, I would love some sort of resource that can show that but also, is there anyway parents who want to support

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but don't really have an interest at speaking at a hearing or anything like that, what are other ways we can support? Is there a petition? I would love to support but I don't necessarily want to sign up to speak.

- C. Leone-Mannino
 - Response: We do not have a petition started, we would need a community member or parent to request to start that petition so we can begin that process and I will be reaching out tomorrow with some more details on that, but you can also submit your written comments to the BOE following the link on the flyer and the presentation is linked, we can also email that out. But essentially, you would email the BOE and you would have to note that these were your comments for the public hearing or for a specific board meeting so that they'll become part of the public record. That is an important piece, certainly the advocacy, there's additional advocacy that can be given to the State, the Board of Regents, our local regent is Adrian Hale, and Wade Norwood that help make decisions at the state level for our schools. We do feel like we have some support from the state level, ultimately the contract and the continuation will need to be approved locally. So really making sure that the board of education is aware of your support is going to be key.
 - We are also reaching out to our neighborhood associations around making sure that we can have citizens understand the impact. We do expect that the board will vote in March.
 - The history of the EPO, for those that are new, it was really an intervention designed to help school improvement, and what happens with that is as a persistently failing school within the lowest 10% of school in NYS, obviously, the state says you have to do something this isn't right for the kids. And so the EPO was designed with the community here, a solution that is what has brought it to where it is as Superintendent Blocker shared. We have gone from a 33% graduation rate in a four year cohort to 78% last year, so more than doubled the graduation rate for a 4 year cohort, which is when the clock starts ticking when you expand that out to how many kids might need an extra year or two, we're up to over 80% that graduates

East Federal Accountability Update

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East NYS Receivership Update

- C. Leone-Mannino

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- One of the pieces I want to share with this group, because the effort has been so tremendous from so many different pillars and angles, like this isn't all about the U of R or all about kids or all about teachers or all families, this is about the work that we've done together as a whole.
- We have a number of benchmarks to hit from the state that keeps us on track for making progress, these are called demonstrable improvement determinations. And in that there's a certain number of indicators and so this is directly from the state report that we received on Jan 8th. This indicated that East Upper School has made 90% of those progress targets and East Lower School has made 100% of those targets. And this is over multiple areas, absentee reduction, reading and math, exam passing rates, cohort graduation rates, all of those things combined and this is a really important step to understand what it takes. It has not been an overnight process, this has been eight and a half years, right? It takes a long time and it takes a lot of effort and pressure to sustain, change as well. So, if you are going to speak or even just speak to others in the community, this is a really important piece.
- We do have Jan Crocker from Connected Communities for parents on the call that may be interested, CC will be working with parents one-on-one on helping develop their skills and advocacy for the EPO discussion, but also for the sustainability discussion, how to put pressure on to keep the vote, your voice at the microphone, what's right for you and right for your children. This community won't change unless we fight for it, it's too comfortable to stay the same.

Upper & Lower School Governance Council Updates

- Principal E. Mascadri for Upper School
 - Before break we had some holiday concerts, band concerts from our music department
 - Winter sports are in full effect, they are nearing the second half of their season for all our winter sports.
 - We are on track with our goals as far as instruction and curriculum are concerned. We just completed our second learning walks with our staff, last week we held parent teacher conferences at the same time as our FAFSAfest for all of our scholars that will be leaving us and attending college. We had the highest amount of attendees for East scholars ever, there were 47 attendees that came to participate.
 - We are gearing up to start January exams next Tuesday. Exams will run Tuesday through Friday. At the conclusion of next week we will be

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entering the second semester of the school year so we're just about half way through.

- Principal L. Wingo for Lower School
 - We are currently getting ready and starting to prepare for the New York State assessment, which is in April and May, we are starting to identify scholars who need additional support and prep for the NYS assessment.
 - Just before break we had a successful pep rally, it was a fun SEL day that the students enjoyed.
 - We are now entering the last 7 days of the marking period for Lower School so we are preparing to discuss grades with families and scholars who needs additional support and our Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday schools are up and running. We just received transportation for those days so any scholar that needs additional support can reach out to myself or the program directors of afterschool and we can get them signed up for the help they need.

CCSI Case Management Tracking Tool Project Overview

- C. Leone-Mannino
 - We have an exciting project starting with a partner CCSI, Coordinated Care Services Inc. They're going to be helping us design a case management tool that will help us with all of our community partner coordination and align it with some of the tools that are already in place for staff.
 - There is about a 6 minute video presentation and a google form linked for folks that want to share information that they think is important to include in this tool and we will have folks on site and virtually from CCSI to have 1-1 discovery sessions with individuals that you could drop in on it and will be about 20 to 30 minutes for a session. But I invite any of our partners that are on the call or anyone that's interested in having some input into this. This is a tool that will be designed specifically for East scholars and families to help us coordinate all of our community services and supports and keep track of those services as well as the impact that it has in student attendance, behavior and course work achievement in that way. We can look at the effectiveness of the impact of the work that we're doing and if things aren't working, we can also make adjustments to the intervention.

Agencies Update

- Hillside
 - B. Capers

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- We had talks with our seniors about planning for the futures, they came to find about the commitment, looking at certain majors and how to receive scholarships.
- We currently have all 4 advocates with a full caseload, I have 4 more spots open. We have 144 students so far.
- Next Friday we're planning a trip to Brockport College with all Hillside scholars throughout RCSD.
- One highlight, as you may know E. Wiggins, he's a Hillside Scholar, he left East early to compete for Spring ball.
- The Children's Agenda
 - C. Torres
 - This coming Tuesday January 23rd, we are hosting a Solutions not Suspensions lab where you can come have dinner and hear some stories about how suspensions are really affecting your children's mental health and ability to thrive in education. We encourage you to stop by as this will actually be connected to a bill that we have in Albany that will hopefully pass this year to have more of a supportive role. It is Solutions not Suspensions Bill S1040A if you want to know more about that you can go online
- Connected Communities
 - J. Crocker
 - Ms. Leone-Mannino covered everything for updates, I am looking forward to meeting more and working with the parents.
- SouthEast Neighborhood Service Center
 - M. Ortelaza
 - I am working with training and onboarding new staff and front office coverage. There is lots of enthusiasm by folks in the community groups about this meeting coming up. People do plan to attend and even though I've not been in those meetings directly, I have overheard that in communication and in conversation with different people in the community so I just wanted to say, you know, I think you guys are doing an excellent job. Sounds like you guys are really well organized and just want to commend everybody for your work and wishing you the best of luck.
- URM School Based Health Center
 - N. Gardea-Butler
 - We have about 776 students enrolled and on average we are seeing anywhere from 25-30 students a day.
 - We have 2 nurse practitioners on-site and we recently hired a child and adolescent psychiatrist who will be joining our team for about 4

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hours a week so if there's any mental health further evaluations or medication management, we will have that psychiatrist available

- Our goal is to really try and get every single East student enrolled and it is, again, a 1 time enrollment. We are seeing a lot of flu and covid going around and if people are interested, we are able to provide those vaccines at the health center