

Family Leadership Council
April 14, 2022
6:00 - 7:30 pm
Zoom Meeting

Notes

1. Welcome & Introductions

- In attendance: Adriana Medina Garcia, Emily Reiter, Kathryn Dumas, Jen Cisneros, Heidi Johnson, Nina Watkins, Megan Miller, Rosa, Dan Lombardi, Mariela German, Susana Salinas, Tiffany Sanderson, Jeryka, Teresa Leon, Sol, Adrian Pollut
- Reminder of Group Agreements

2. As an FLC we have decided to work on how COVID-19 has impacted the education system. The issues we are seeing appear to be a systemic issue. Let's identify our goals, focus, and questions around this issue so we can be prepared for conversation with Tony Scurto of Lane ESD.

- Nina: services for kids with disabilities; funding but no staff. Schools can't hire 1-on-1 supports. Online program will be going away, waiting to see what's next.
 - Heidi: a lot of theoretical support and no practical support. Conversation in the Parent Cafe: "Yes, we want the FRC's to be involved but there's no FTE to support that." If you're adding to someone's plate, they need to be supported with resources.
 - Complex medical issues; medical piece doesn't flow into the education piece; high risk situation
 - Would rather have daughter attend school with a support worker; support workers aren't allowed to be in the school (funding won't allow)
- Sol: Someone dedicated to following up on issues; more follow-through
- Heidi: *Getting parents involved in parent engagement and parent education*
- Adriana: Next steps? Another chat? Speaking with superintendent?
- Jen: concerned about special ed services at daughter's school; not wanting to test children for IEPs, attributing issues to other issues (COVID, second-language). Friend's children who aren't successfully reading, severe behavioral issues; COVID becomes excuse for poor education/not testing/not providing services
- Adrian: *What about addressing some policy makers directly as a group- town and county level stuff? But then we'd have to have something coordinated to say. Not that that's not an achievable goal.*
- Kathryn: *We almost need like a town hall type meeting with Lane ESD and district leaders*
 - Nina: Agree; supports that have been there aren't educated, being paid \$13-14/hr; hard work and low pay; need higher trained and higher paid supports
- Heidi: *I would advocate for groups like this as regular parts of school districts, esds, school boards, etc.*

- Jen: I hear funding used as an excuse because they haven't budgeted for something; where we put our money is the priority; at the end of the year state agencies need to either use or lose funds. Lack of importance on education; low paying positions. Lack of funding is a great excuse to use.
- Heidi: loosen the standards, accept out of the box solutions, the red tape of funding only being used for specific things; requirements for state/federal funding; passing the buck onto others who are in charge of that instead of solving the problem.
 - Nina: *Agreed!*
- Mariela: concerned about child's education; was in preschool during pandemic, missed half of the year, now in 1st grade. They aren't doing full academic year, focusing on the most basics, wondering how far behind she is/will be. Would like more information about what she's learning: weekly or monthly. Daughter is already behind.
 - Megan Miller : *My kiddo is in preschool and I would like to know where he should be as well. We are lucky to be at Relief Nursery for preschool this year and I get a lot communication from his teacher. I'm nervous for next year being in pre-K and not having the communication*
- Adrian: my kid will be entering Kinder, worried about long-term, gaps throughout school. Are kids in his cohort going to be left with gaps in knowledge? Are districts thinking about this? How do we make sure over time, covid kids are getting what they need to be successful in older grades.
 - Jeryka: *I agree. With all the expectations of kids and such it would be nice to be about to keep track of what they're supposed to be working on before they're behind on it. Mine don't come home with homework so I often don't know where they are at and if I ask and they don't give me a specific answer like most kids at a certain age then I don't know until the report card comes. So just a small notice somehow of what's happening in class that week or month would be helpful to help them do well in school.*
- Heidi: not certain about authenticity but heard they did studies on kids after Hurricane Katrina and most outcomes were generally positive- kids caught back up and didn't have long-term negative outcomes. But not research about COVID yet.
 - Adrian: *I wonder what those districts used as a plan? Or if it's available?*
 - Heidi: going back and filling in the holes wasn't as successful as moving on and doing the typical things in that grade
 - Adrian Pollut : *Well that's neat*
- Kathryn: why such a big disconnect between schools and parents now? Before, parents were allowed to be in schools, hard to speak at board meetings. Now we can start making our voices heard again: here's what's happening and what needs to be fixed. More parents need to be heard again.
 - Heidi Johnson (she/they) : *100% agreed*
 - Adrian Pollut : *Directness is an awesome idea! That's a great idea. Would we just be drafting a personal letter?*
- Dan: regarding taking issues to the state, might think about next legislative session, they have time for informational hearings, we can go and testify on the record about what we're seeing in schools; in front of education committee

- Adriana: could capture everything we're saying, have one or two parents go to that legislative session and advocate for that; I could email these issues to Tony Scurto before next FLC meeting (superintendent for Lane ESD); have 2 meetings before breaking for the summer
 - Dan: wouldn't meet again until February 2023
- Jen: another option would be to draft a letter to representatives. Power in numbers with all of us being on the same page, maybe our little voice will be heard. Let's also send folks to Salem but in the meantime could write letters.
- Nina: I'd be happy to be involved in different ways; I have a lot more than I even share in this group.
- Adriana: Next steps, get notes out, does anyone want to take the lead in drafting a letter?
 - Jen: can't lead it but would love to proofread
 - Dan: *I can be helpful with a template.*
- Sol: Another idea, if we get a letter written, we could collect signatures, collect other letters from Latinx families, would add more significance to the letter
 - Adrian: drafting a personal letter
- Adriana could piece these together into one letter
 - Jen: Was thinking about explaining who we are, why we're concerned, each of us could name our concern in the letter. Direction Services advocate was saying something similar about writing letters. Could see if others in the community want to join in too.
 - Dan: a letter from the group is a great idea plus individual letters; I'm willing to be helpful in building a toolkit- who is your legislature, how to write those letters
 - Sol: Will the letters be focused on all topics or should we focus on one topic?
 - Nina: for the folks who have direct experience- do individual letters b/c these are powerful as well as the collective letter and submit them together
 - Adrian: *Personal stories are powerful*
 - Heidi Johnson (she/they) : *If someone has the bandwidth, creating a template for letter writing would be helpful*
 - Dan Lombardi (He/Him) : *Tug at those heartstrings!*
- Adriana: want to make sure this is accessible and equitable for everyone. Please reach out if you need more help with this; can find a template.
 - Dan Lombardi (He/Him) : *I can be helpful with a template.*
 - Nina: *Thank you Dan!*
- Timeline?
 - Adrian: *A month seems reasonable*
 - Megan: *I agree, by next meeting sounds good*
- Helpful to have Tony Scurto attend next meeting? Will email him notes and let him know our concerns, invite him to May meeting

3. Preschool Promise Bilingual & Monolingual Family Outreach Project. - tabled for next meeting.

- Don't have time for next agenda item (monolingual/bilingual family outreach project)

4. Opinions on holding FLC meeting in person?

- As we return to hybrid office model, in person vs Zoom meetings for FLC?
 - Megan: *Zoom is so much easier for me*
 - Adrian: *Maybe quarterly?*
 - Heidi Johnson (she/they) : *I agree with Adrian. I think it's easier to build community in person. I think it would be cool to have at least one or two in person a year.*
 - Kathryn Dumas : *It would be nice to meet at least a few times in person*
 - Jen: *Zoom is so great for working parents who are running kids around, can attend from sports practice. But would also be nice to get together on occasion. A fun event together? One time annual event and the rest on Zoom?*
 - Megan: *Love the fun event idea*
 - Celebration before going on break?
 - Adrian: *That'd be fun*
 - Sol: *Zoom pues tengo a mis niñas. (Zoom I take care of my daughters)*
 - Mariela Germán : *I prefer zoom, but an annual get together would be great!*
 - Rosa : *Me gusta la idea de hacerlo en persona (I like the idea of meeting in person).*
- Not huge rush to get back to in-person, can keep talking about this. Just wanting to gauge how folks are feeling. Before we break for the summer we can tentatively plan for an in person celebration.

5. Announcements or other news good for the order

- Heidi: reminder of Parent Cafes! On April 28th (last Thursday of the month), flyers available in English and Spanish, bilingual groups are interpreted live. On Zoom, stipend is available as well.
 - Megan: *Love the parent cafes!*
- Sol: are we doing the letters this month before our next meeting? Or wait until after next meeting?
 - Your personal letter before the next meeting, then will try to have them compiled before the next meeting. Will email out the group letter before next meeting.
 - Megan: if not time for full letter, can we send you a statement? Yes, no pressure to make it a full letter, whatever you're able to do.

Next meeting dates

May 12th, 2022

June 9th, 2022