

Community Meeting

YMCA

Date: July 25, 2017

Time: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Facilitator: Michael R. J Felix, MSHA **Type of meeting:** Community Meeting
Location: YMCA, 425 S. 15th Street, Allentown **Note taker:** Lucretia Brown, Ph.D.
Administrators: Mr. Thomas Parker, Dr. Lucretia Brown, Mrs. Jacqui Scott, Ms. Kristin Kruger, Ms. Jennifer Ramos, Mr. Ralph Lovelidge, Mr. Brian Siket, Mr. Tom Smith, Mr. David Wildonger, Mr. Thomas Derhammer

Notes

Discussion: Mr. Felix led conversations asking questions on the perception of the District.

Perceptions of the District

- ✓ Students got out what they put in
 - Great experience
 - Constantly defending ASD
- ✓ Community (YMCA) share positive experiences
- ✓ Low graduation rates (students of color)
- ✓ Low scores
- ✓ Emphasis on testing → loss of students
- ✓ Availability of materials to students (books out of date, not accessible)
- ✓ SPED Extended School Year program (UT → Middle School)
- ✓ Lack of cultural competency (Administrator, Teachers)
 - Trauma awareness/sensitive

Advice to the District

- ✓ Review/align curriculum – Pathway
- ✓ Improve student engagement
- ✓ Tutoring teachers (availability of)
- ✓ Mentoring (community based teachers/students)
- ✓ Critical thinking
- ✓ Student-centered
- ✓ Need for learning strategies designed for each student
- ✓ Family/community shared responsibility for children to be college/career ready
 - Make community engagement a priority
 - Goal in strategic plan
 - Identify needs (role for parents)
- ✓ Personal contact – Relationship building
 - Teachers
 - Review models/best practices
- ✓ Cultural leaders (affinity groups) to educate/advocate for families
- ✓ More diverse staff – should look more like the community
- ✓ Extend use of schools to community/business
 - Community centers
 - Partnerships
- ✓ Barriers to family involvement
 - Clearances
- ✓ Volunteer coordinator (@ building)
 - Non-clearance needs (Undocumented people)
- ✓ Improve communication with families, students and communities
- ✓ Professional development
 - Trauma awareness-sensitive
- ✓ Extended School Year available to all
- ✓ More inclusive of community
 - Black Greek organizations
 - Colleges, Churches
- ✓ Strategic outreach strategies
- ✓ Use of PTSA/PTO
- ✓ Value parents/families
- ✓ Spanish translation always (volunteer parents)
- ✓ Don't give up on community discussions
 - Community check-in
- ✓ Recruitment of diverse people
 - Grow your own
- ✓ Clarify transfer process of students with behavior issues
 - Kids treated with hostility
- ✓ Community confidence – low
 - What's missing?
- ✓ Hiring ↔ Representation of diverse staff
 - Cultural competency
 - Student voice
 - Passionate qualified teachers