



ENGAGING PARENT LEADERSHIP IN COMMUNITY SCHOOL DECISIONS

Federation for Community Schools Forum
November 20, 2015



ACTIVITY

If you could wave a magic wand and improve parent engagement in your school or community, what would it look like?



INTRODUCTIONS

- Name
- Role
- Organization and/or Community
- One thing you hope to get from this workshop



PRESENTERS

- Elizabeth Averyhart, Parent Leader, P.O.M.
- Amy LaDuke, Community School Manager, Y.O.U. & Chute Middle School
- Erin Moore, Director of Community Schools, Y.O.U.
- Liliana Salcido, Parent Leader, P.L.U.S.



AGENDA

- Introductions
- Context of Y.O.U.'s community schools in Evanston and Skokie
- Values of family-focused organizing
- Parent leadership and community school structure
- Small group discussions on possibilities for parent leadership in your community
- Q & A and evaluations



CONTEXT AND OVERVIEW OF Y.O.U.'S COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

- Y.O.U.'s Dual Role
 - After-school and summer programs for youth
 - Community school development



CONTEXT AND OVERVIEW OF Y.O.U.'s COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

- Context - Evanston and Skokie



CONTEXT AND OVERVIEW OF Y.O.U.'S COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

- Focus on increasing access and sense of ownership
- Building a culture of collaborative decision-making



VALUES OF FAMILY-FOCUSED ORGANIZING

- Parents share common struggles and goals. It's important to build networks of support based on those goals.



VALUES OF FAMILY-FOCUSED ORGANIZING - *CONTINUED*

- There will always be differences in our backgrounds and ideas. We try to embrace those differences.



VALUES OF FAMILY-FOCUSED ORGANIZING - *CONTINUED*

- Parents are leaders. The qualities of a leader overlap with the qualities of a parent.



VALUES OF FAMILY-FOCUSED ORGANIZING - *CONTINUED*

- Parents bring important knowledge and perspective on children, schools, and communities.



VALUES OF FAMILY-FOCUSED ORGANIZING - *CONTINUED*

- Parents should have opportunities to make decisions and determine what programs are needed in the school and community.



STRUCTURE OF PARENT LEADERSHIP (WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE?)

Self, Family, and Team training

- 6 week workshop series
- Led by parents



STRUCTURE OF PARENT LEADERSHIP (WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE?)

Example from *Self, Family, and Team* training

- Web of Support exercise



STRUCTURE OF PARENT LEADERSHIP (WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE?)

Graduates of *Self, Family, and Team* workshops encouraged to join parent teams



STRUCTURE OF PARENT LEADERSHIP (WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE?)

Parent teams

- Establish and accomplish team goals
- Hold ongoing meetings



CONNECTION TO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Community School Action Teams (CSAT)

- Parent teams have strong representation
- School staff (teachers, clinicians, administration)
- Community partners

Goals:

*Community school programs reflect what families need and want.

*Community school programs are more effective because families feel a sense of ownership and belonging.



PROCESS DISCUSSIONS

Break into groups of 3-4
people.



PROCESS DISCUSSIONS

Break into groups of 3-4 people.
Discuss these questions:

- Do parents have a leadership role in your community school? If yes, what does that look like? If no, why not? What are the obstacles?



PROCESS DISCUSSIONS CONTINUED

Break into groups of 3-4 people.
Discuss these questions:

- What are some long-term visions for developing parent leadership in your community schools? How would you like to see parent leaders playing a role in 3 years? 5 years?



PROCESS DISCUSSIONS CONTINUED

Break into groups of 3-4 people.
Discuss these questions:

- What are some steps you could take in the next 6 months toward that vision for parent leadership in your community school? Who could you ask for support?



PROCESS DISCUSSIONS CONTINUED

Small groups
share back

Q&A



THANK YOU!

- Evaluation!!
- Contact:
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