



# 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



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

## Parent teams

- Culture of meetings - what does this space look and feel like?
  - Childcare, Dinner, Atmosphere/How we work



# 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:
  - Liz - [eaveryhart@my.nl.edu](mailto:eaveryhart@my.nl.edu)
  - Amy – [aladuke@youthopportunity.org](mailto:aladuke@youthopportunity.org)
  - Erin – [emoore@youthopportunity.org](mailto:emoore@youthopportunity.org)
  - Liliana – [liliscalcido81@gmail.com](mailto:liliscalcido81@gmail.com)
  - POM (Parents on a Mission)  
[pomparentsonamission@gmail.com](mailto:pomparentsonamission@gmail.com)
  - PLUS (Parent Leaders Uniting Schools)  
[plus.district69@gmail.com](mailto:plus.district69@gmail.com)

