

Family Connections Meeting Notes: 5/13/21

Those in attendance:

- Kate Suchomel
- Donna Andrews
- Andrew Graham
- Jackie Decker Travis
- Marija Nicholson
- Claire Tralle
- Mathew Somlai
- Sonia Perez
- Margarita Castanon
- Rebekah Martin
- Garrett Petrie
- Michael Hogan

Topics Discussed:

1. Introductions
2. Andrew & Marija's presentation on NE Super Summer programing (recorded & slides) - through community education
 - a. Northeast Super Summer June 21 - August 12, running Monday-Thursday
 - b. Youth will have fun, stay active, explore new interests, develop social emotional skills, and connect with their community
 - c. Like a daycamp model:
 - i. Rising K-6th graders have morning camps, lunch, then sports camp. Can choose just morning, just afternoon, or full day.
 - ii. Rising 6th-8th graders, offering after GEMS/GISE programing for weeks 1-6, and then Middle School Trek for weeks 7-8
 - iii. Small group or private swim lessons in the morning at NE middle school
 - iv. Kids will stay in their pods throughout
 - d. Many different offerings, tie dye, to bucket drumming, to hip hop dance, to zine book and building, to being a private detective (can be found on website)
 - i. Classes have sliding fee prices
 - e. In the afternoon, there are sports arts offerings
 - i. Same youth bands/pods for afternoon options, with an option for longer term projects, sign up for two weeks at a time or the entire 8 weeks
 - ii. Also sliding fee prices - folx identify their own prices, no income proof required
 - f. Middle school additional offerings after GEMS/GISE programing (3:45-5:15) for weeks 1-6
 - i. No transportation available at the end
 - ii. Many different options: biking, babysitting skills, bucket drumming, tie dye and more
 - g. Middle School Treks: for weeks 7-8 (Aug 2-12), in the afternoon

- i. Focus on biking and public transit, to get to know the city
 - ii. Also sliding fee scale
 - iii. Programs: Rivers & Lakes and Connecting the Cities
 - h. This summer programming will be a little different than past years, offering time in the morning as well. There will also be more middle school options - giving them more independence, but also because it was so enjoyable in elementary grades.
 - i. If families can't afford any fees, they should reach out, because fees shouldn't be a barrier.
 - j. Student: adult 12:1, most are 10:1 for safety and community building
 - k. Folx on staff can help parents register if language is a barrier for the adults.
- 3. Donna, Principle Report
 - a. Opportunity to have more money, with being a new magnet
 - b. Able to recruit 13 new positions, in classroom teachers and specialists - Marcy able to get their top candidates for all positions (53 interviews conducted)
 - c. Able to hire more teachers of color, and male educators - want staff to reflect the student demographics
 - d. Kindergarten welcome event went well - 32 families attended - it was adorable.
 - i. Donna even rolled up her sleeves and helped to clean the building.
 - e. Focus now on how to celebrate students and say goodbye to so many staff and students who are leaving this year.
 - i. Difficult to plan because of changing covid requirements - Donna has to balance Marcy's needs and the district rules.
 - ii. Open to input from anyone to how we should celebrate this transition
 - iii. Will try to do the 8th grade completion ceremony as "normal" but each student can only invite two people, treats probably outside - will be the last day of school, June 11, late morning.
 - iv. Departing 5th, 6th, and 7th graders will have a picnic during the afternoon of June 11, with teachers able to say their goodbyes, and parents/families welcome.
 - v. MAP has bought each kid a yearbook.
 - vi. May do something around the labyrinth for 8th graders (and maybe also little kids - TBD). There will be student speakers, no outside guest speakers.
 - f. Rebekah suggested Donna makes an announcement for 8th graders to submit baby pictures to Phil (from school facebook page).
 - g. Middle schools are struggling the most right now, even those who were "ok" are now struggling, and staff are working hard to keep up to help all needs.
 - i. About 20% of youth "checked out" during distance learning, with about 80% "keeping up".
 - ii. Donna reminds us this is not a race, but this year was all about survival. Next year staff are recognizing.
 - h. Asked about centers teachers - Paulino, Cris, and Abby are leaving.
 - i. Andrew will teach 4th and 5th grade band, with other music, and Mike teaching other grades music.

- ii. Some kids hesitant about dance - Donna promises it won't be all tutus.
 - iii. This year incoming K has slightly more girls than boys - the past few years have been more boys than girls
 - iv. Centers: Molly Rose will teach art, Mike in Gym, Dance, Theater Arts, Mike and Andrew with music.
 - i. Unknown exactly how many kids will be in each grade, we have 198 kids assigned from Falwell. Class sizes will be about the same size. Donna just doesn't want the student placement office to tell Donna to cut a teacher. 18 kids in a class would be an issue to potentially cut a teacher/class - this date would be sometime in October.
 - j. Need to find a balance from old and new.
 - k. Conflict/clarification on money issues:
 - i. How money was getting spent
 - ii. How we will move forward as a 501(c)3
 - iii. How we will move forward to elect people in the fall
 - iv. Need to legally change the name to reflect the name change of the school?
 - v. Pull up the bylaws to look at protocols, member requirements, ect....
4. Rebekah on their Map presentation:
- a. Usually have a Gala to have an artist residency. No Gala last year, but still had funds, Betsy was the arts coordinator.
 - b. \$22,000 spent on residencies: photography for 5-8th graders, along with all school hip hop videos, and printmaking
 - c. MAP committee met with Trinity and Hannah to figure out the future, along with the committee on May 6
 - d. Approximately \$35,000 in MAP bank account, MAP has a proposal to rollover into the parent council budget to be used for only arts-related programs. Hannah and Sidney (and hopefully a parent MAP committee) would approve the funds. The funding does not need to be spent all next year, but can be rolled over for future years.
 - e. What would qualify as arts needs? This could be for future years in case funding runs out at a district level. Hannah might have ideas for future years for fundraising, and different artist events.
 - i. Beautification on the outside of Marcy - Hannah helps
 - f. Motion passed to transition money: Kate made the motion, Margarita seconded the motion, passed unanimously.
 - g. All MAP parents, except for Rebekah will be leaving next year.
5. Questions on what programming might be able to have for next year: what might be available - Donna hopes we can have a fall fun, maybe even the plant sale?
- a. Donna will reach out to other principals to see what has worked
 - b. Rebekah suggests a bike-a-thon.
 - c. Perhaps have a fundraising committee to start right at the September meeting.
6. Need to have a summer meeting, but need to have a big enough quorum.
- a. Questions on parent representatives.

- b. When to set the summer meeting? Probably late August.
- 7. Go back to the basics with following the bylaws
 - a. Better at formal procedures
- 8. Questions on the labyrinth:
 - a. They are part of the Family Connections, but are also their own section.
 - b. There will be a peace event later on as a re-dedication and dismantled when the cafeteria was rebuilt.
 - c. Rededicate it in the fall with Karen Devet - all website information is backed up with the IT department.
 - d. Not on the national labyrinth registry
 - e. Happy to reeducate staff and Marcy folk on the history and information on the labyrinth, does so every fall.
 - f. Brick fundraising, and grant information.
 - g. Would like to give information to parents at one of the beginning meetings in the fall.
- 9. Voting on Parent Reps:
 - a. Michael Hogan
 - b. Claire Tralle
 - c. Motioned by Kated, Second by Rebekah, voted unanimously
- 10. Meeting adjourned