

Leopold Family Meeting

Hosted by Peg Keeler & Rosie Gittens

April 9, 2019, 6:10 - 7:30 p.m.

18 attendees

Peg: Connecting the School Improvement Plan with the Community School Plan

- Core instruction at the center
- Wrapped by Climate & Culture
- Surrounded by Family Partnerships & Engagement
- With Access to Resources & Enrichment Opportunities

Rosie: Inclusion Activity - choose a photo from your phone and tells a little about you

Peg - Improving our school - 80 interviews to develop our school improvement plan (SIP)

- Systems for responding to behavior, communication and problem solving
- Integrate DLI & ELI
- Support staff - retention, onboarding & coaching
 - Love of school, ways of keeping them here
- Beautify our school: engage kids & staff to take care of it
- Promote community building and develop strong relationships with and among our children
 - Earn their trust to push them further in their learning

Peg - Leopold School Improvement Plan (SIP)

1. Build Collective Efficacy and Mutual Accountability - develop strength together, Together we can do this, work is too complex to do alone. All kids are all of ours. Not “my classroom” but rather “all kids are our kids”.
2. Develop and sustain systems for supporting positive behavior
3. Strengthen core instruction - closest point to the kids. Academic standards and social emotional learning

Feedback from meeting attendees on SIP:

- Students are receiving feedback from all teachers, not just their homeroom teacher for positive behavior
- What is the parent’s role to help support the SIP?

Rosie - Leopold Community School Priorities

Survey / needs assesment done with families previously to develop these three:

1. Out of school time
2. After school academic support for Arican American and Latinx students
 - Under construction, TBD...
3. Increased opportunities for people of color to be in positions of power at school
 - Families and Schools Together FAST
 - Black Parents for Progress
 - Latinos Parent Group
 - Edgewood ROSE Program

Peg: Celebrations: Leopold School Beautification

- Welcome Center including 2nd entrance off Post Rd.
- Artwork and painted bulletin boards
- Family community room - room 214

- Food Pantry serving 35 Leopold families daily (when open)
- Welcoming furniture, access to computers/internet, space for conversation & problem solving meetings
- Would like to add an area for kids to play when parents are meeting
- Green Team
 - Abe of 1000 Friends of WI, Adopt A School partner, pledged \$1,000 to improve landscaping
 - Yard currently has a lot of issues with water drainage - goal to solve these problems and implement areas for families to gather outdoors, outdoor classrooms, work with garden group & develop curriculum, beautify outdoors
 - Small team of teachers, families and Abe
 - In planning stage
- "Leave no Pawprint"
 - Peg encourages us to talk to our kids about this - discussed at assemblies and morning meetings
 - Great job with recycling program, family and partner led to get started and now part of the cafeteria system. Received an award from the Mayor of Fitchburg
- New LMC Redesign
 - Community gathering space - no community center in Fitchburg south side
 - Space used for ESL classes, after school programming, Black Boys Free, Black Girls Magic, and many other groups

Peg: Library and Media Center (LMC) Redesign

- \$50,000 has been raised in prior years
- Working with Demco and District TJ McCray to develop design
- \$50,000 is enough funding to do three areas of the design. Items are on order and work will begin this summer
- Need \$60,000 more to finish the rest of the design. Will continue to work on fundraising this year.
- Change the Library fundraising in classrooms
- Timber Wolf Trample - funds raised will support LMC redesign

Peg: Celebrations: Climate and Culture

- Average number of mobile response calls per day by week has declined 2018/2019 vs 2017/2018 (Engagement Data)
- Mobile Reponse Call - teacher calling for assistance with a child that has left classroom, is disrupting learning, not keeping hands to themselves, using harsh language - child needs a break - call BEA (Behavioral Education Assistant)
- Zones of regulation - Red, Yellow, Green. Green zone learning, Blue zone is tired, grumpy, sad. As humans we have different zones. Yellow - anxious, trying to regulate - a lot of teaching around zones. One of our core practices
- Green space - kids can take a break in this space. What do you need to get closer to the green zone? Kids are offered an active or a quiet break. Have a treadmill, bikes, weighted balls in this space - all to build regulation.
- Group of 35-40 kids that represent a large majority of these calls - teaching them ways to regulate themselves
- Kids choose activity and then time - 2, 4, 6 or 8 minutes. Visual timer is set. Then do a breathing technique. Have names for different types of breaths (Flower, Hot Cocoa, etc). Session ends and student heads back to class.
- Alternative Learning Center - temporary space to get work done, restore (fix, practice positive behavior) - threatening, swearing, hitting, left class and will not go back.
- Today average about 29 calls per day, last year at this time we were at 49 calls per day
- Creating a calmer climate and culture at Leopold - we are getting there!

- 75% of behavioral calls are coming from ELI classes
- Questions/feedback from meeting attendees:
 - DLI kids are exposed to two teachers - 50% with a Spanish teacher and 50% with English - but ELI does not have this, they spend more time with just one teacher. Peg would like to create more instructional teaching groups so students work with more teachers. Kids get access to different types of instruction and personalities. Challenge is transitions.
 - Previous principal had spend a lot of time with behavioral calls. Fewer calls and 2 assistant principals allows Peg to focus elsewhere.
 - Peg has 1 day a week where she is the administrative on duty to keep a pulse with what's happening in the school
 - Still seeing a majority of calls from black males. But this is trending downward vs. last year.
- Each staff has a focal student, called out in SIP, who are not achieving as high as other children. Staff apply what they learn in professional development to this focal student and then extend out in their classroom

Peg asked meeting attendees to brainstorm - In what ways can we strengthen our partnership with YOU - our Families in the future?

1. Partners to support academic achievement
2. Partners to support positive social emotional growth
3. Partners to Improve Safety and a Sense of Belonging
4. Increasing Access to Resources

Meeting attendee asked - What are the things that Leopold/Peg needs from us to support you for the rest of the school year?

Peg asked us to brainstorm ways we can improve Family engagement

- Grade level potluck
- Encourage / let families know they can come help out in classroom
- Academic Nights
- DLI classes - Teachers meeting with families together providing instructional activities that can be done at home - parents of different cultures engaging and getting to know each other
- Student Showcase / Link to learning
 - Breakfast - parents each with kid, spend an hour, each grade level has their own morning, two times per year, come into the classroom and see what the kids are working on
 - One reason why the music concerts are so well attended - short periods of time, showcasing the kids singing
- Challenge to engage families based on varying schedules, priorities, kid activities
- What events draw families back in to the school?
- Night is a struggle
- Feeling of owner vs. renter - do families hold an interest in what is going on as an owner? How do we engage parents to feel as an owner of what is going on, not just "sending" their kids to school
- Engagement looks different by culture. Some may not understand why they need to go to school. But can bring something, drop it off, etc... Need creative ways for the parents to be involved without needing to be at school
- Building up Affinity Groups and a coordinated family community committee that works with Peg and Administration. How to we bring everyone together to build trusting relationships?
- April 24th - next community school meeting - continuing this discussion

Additional Discussion

- Parent asked when the building is open/available. Rosie - Even though we are a community school as a district we are not treated as one. Desire a change in the approval procedures so Leopold authorizes who uses the building, we need to prioritize (now - group in district is giving permits to outside groups).
- Slide deck from tonight will be on Leopold's website
- Volunteer opportunities available - contact Rosie regittens@madison.k12.wi.us or 608-501-3451
 - Office
 - Classroom
 - Cinco de Mayo Family Night
- Amy D., PFO President - Remember WE ARE ALL the PFO (Parent Faculty Organization)
 - Fundraising role
 - Collaborate with Peg & Rosie on school & community needs
 - Board members rotate every 2 years - fresh ideas, new faces are valuable
 - Number of open board positions, including a Member at Large position that can be tailored
 - Bulletin Board updating
 - Flyers available with more information

Ask from Peg - Help spread the good news about what happens at Leopold. Media tends to focus on negativity. We need to share the positive things that we see.

This is a process not an event.