



Family Engagement Forum

An Education Collaboration
in the Capitol Region

November 12, 2020

Zoom

12pm-2pm

Meeting Notes:

San Juan Presentation

Lisa Borrego – As San Juan moved into distance learning, the FACE department became responsible for facilitating communications between sites and families, departments and schools. The department also assisted in creating a parent hub, connecting with groups and continuing listening sessions. Borrego and her team continue to keep communication lines open and consistently coordinate with community partners. Community partners continue to be engaged and have actually increased their efforts to support families. There has been a great deal of flexibility and everyone has pivoted to adjust to doing things a little differently.

The Fall 2020 HUB is a centralized location where families and the community can find all the information they need. The idea is to make it a one stop shop for information.

The Wellness Room is up and going. It has been a wonderful resource and over 12,000 people have viewed it, with many people coming back more than once. The district is planning on promoting the resource again as the holidays approach.

The Community Readership Program brings community partners and students together through reading. There have already been two full days of the program where community partners read LeBron James' book to the class. The district also sent a copy of the book to teachers so it can be in their classroom.

San Juan has continued the Women Empowering Speaker Series. During this series women of power do a speaker series for teachers and staff on how to be empowered and how to help empower girls of colors.

The district has a new director of special education that was a principal at a local high school and had worked with the district before so there was an established relationship. In collaboration with the FACE department the new director wanted to create a series for families to meet the special education staff and to learn the basics of special education. These are very small chunks with a broad overall view to allow people to get to know the staff and build relationships.

<https://www.sanjuan.edu/Page/292#calendar80860/20201112/month>

Round Table Sharing

Ryan Miranda (Center) – Center is gearing up for the holiday season. The department is working with community partners to meet the needs of families, especially around food and clothing. Also working closely with school sites to determine what the needs are. There has been a huge influx in accessing referrals for guidance and support around mental wellness. This will continue to be a large focus for the team. Also working on writing a grant for Homeless Education.

Jennifer Collier (Galt Elementary) – Collier is a STRENGTHS Coach and has found communication is key. With this focus in mind the Checking in with Galt Elementary series was created in partnership with SECC. The series brings information to families and staff in 5-minute bits and includes topics like help with technology, superintendent messaging and conversations with students. Collier is also working on getting communications out to the principals and encouraging them to use their STRENGTHS. Another focus for the district, and Collier, is partnering with expanding learning.

Shari Malespin (Robla) – Robla is focusing on self-training with parents. The first event happened a few weeks before and was not as well attended as the district would like, but this was the first one and everyone hopes to do better in the future. The district also created a re-opening video demonstrating what school will look like once students are able to come back. A survey was sent out to discover family's preferences in terms of re-opening. Staff is reaching out to those that did not submit the survey to ensure there is a response from everyone. Food distribution has been a large focus for the district so during the parent empowerment dinner families were encouraged to pick up food and watch the speaker from home. Staff has been going through training on how to better engage and interact with families of color. There are five consultants that are assisting.

Nancy Lopez (Elk Grove) – The district is thinking about how to keep new procedures after going back to school. Things such as workshops and opportunities to connect with families online have greatly increased communication and everyone has appreciated having virtual office hours. The increased flexibility is something the district wants to ensure continues especially as it provides staff with the ability to participate in professional development that they may not have been able to before. Continuing workshops (Latino literacy workshops have been very successful), lots of workshops for staff, virtual bridge visits (two trainings a month) and the advisory committee still continues to meet.

Lisset Mijares (Natomas) – Natomas created Secondary Showcase with SECC. The district's online engagement opportunities for families have been very successful. The secondary showcase had the best participation yet and has encouraged the district to look at processes and how they can be adapted to continue connections with families. District put together digital backpacks, which is similar to the hubs that other districts have created. All of the information families need is located in this one site. The digital backpacks have reduced the number of calls and most calls that do come in are referred back to the site. The post-secondary series has had about 60 people participate vs. 10-15 that were attending in person.

Robin Ryan (SCOE) – Seeds of Partnership, CDE Special Education Contract. On the website is a calendar of events related to family engagement, special education as well as lots of online and virtual opportunities. The information has come from family empowerment centers from across the state so there are new opportunities to attend events that may not have been possible in the past. If anyone did not have the opportunity to participate in the October series please let SCOE know, it will continue over the next few months. There is also a workshop series coming up on December 17th on bridging the achievement gap. <https://www.seedsofpartnership.org/calendar.html>

SCOE Workshop: Dr Fortune—Bridging the Achievement Gap - What Successful Educators and Parents Do, December 17, 2020 3pm-4:30pm Registration: <https://scoe.gosignmeup.com/public/Course/browse?courseid=11840>

Doug Niva (SECC) – SECC has been helping districts with check-in videos in a few different formats. Some districts have weekly news shows others are bi-weekly. If districts are interested in putting something together, please connect with Doug. SECC has also continue to put on SEVA CON events. This virtual version of Student Media Day has bene very successful. Events occur every other Thursday via Zoom and connect students with industry professionals. For more information visit <https://www.secctv.org/seva/training/sevacon/>.

Liz Rhodes (SECC) – SECC reimagined the SEVA Studio program and has been funding SEVA Home Studios. The program puts equipment in students' hands at home and has been getting parents involved. For students to participate in SEVA CON events parents have to provide approval. Also new this year, during the 2020 SEVA Awards there will be a special recognition award for students who have stepped up and are highlighting the new times.

Future Agenda Items

Meaningful Engagement

One item that has been very successful.

Transition Phase

Future Meetings: Thursdays, 12-2pm

January 14th - Hosted By: SCOE

March 11th - Hosted By: Robla

May 13th - Hosted By: Center