

Parent Teacher Community Council (PTCC) Meeting 1/14/14

The Question: What do we want to see – and when – to know GLOBE is on the way to success?

The answer came through a moderated brainstorming session by the 80+ parents present.

1. Finances
 - Parents are not comfortable waiting any more for this. We must have a solid report at the January board meeting.
 - Sharon Camara stated that her team is working with board member Sam Carter on a plan which forecasts into next year. There are 3 ways to solve our financial issues:
 - Increase revenue through county (ensure correct per student formula, especially with an eye to special education and gifted funding)
 - Financing
 - Fundraising/Grants
 - Miguel stated that according to Sam Carter, we are still operating in the black each month.
2. Get our 501c3 reinstated
 - Sam Carter was waiting for the report from the air quality test, so that he can include that in the letter to the IRS (this letter is to make a 'hardship' case in asking for retroactive reinstatement)
3. Reassurance that we are academically competitive
 - There needs to be communication to parents about what we are 'supposed' to see within this model. Because many parents aren't familiar with it, and because the model means there is not much work coming home, we are unclear how to even gauge where our children stand.
 - Would like empirical evidence to show that with language immersion there is often a plateau or dip in other skills, but this is to be expected.
 - Would like a clear rubric of what classroom expectations should look like:
 - i. Blog/Newsletter/etc from teachers – how often and what information?
 - ii. What should we be looking for?
 - iii. What are the standards – how do we know if our children are mastering them?
 - Need another curriculum night to educate parents more on the constructivist model – 'Parent University'
 - Need to know that rubric is in place to translate subjective assessments into grades so that we can be competitive in the county (for School Choice, children's records etc.)
 - Parents are seeing growth in reading and writing, but not as much in other areas.
4. PTCC Development
 - Structure needs to be formalized
 - Need clear operating policies and procedures (accountability and transparency)
 - Bylaws
 - PTCC website/parent portal
 - Budget and PTCC 501c3, to clarify use of fundraising dollars
 - Specific community building
 - Events by grade?
 - Continue to include/make accessible to all parents
5. A conclusion of EEOC investigation by Jan meeting, with report of next steps
6. Details about Head of School (HOS) search – by Jan board meeting
 - Need to see a timeline/process specifically laid out

- Would like there to be a committee with all stakeholders engaged: board, teachers and parents that select the HOS
- Dr. Boza has focus groups experience, could possibly help
- If parents know candidates, please send them to the job listings
- Ed Planners have resources for helping with hiring and with candidates, should leverage their experience and resources to assist with this
- Georgia Charter School Association (GCSA) may provide some candidates
- From Miguel:
 - Has asked Nominating Committee (NomCom) to assist, would be a combined committee
 - Willing to do focus group with parents
 - Will consider last 2-3 candidates to be interviewed by PTCC/parents
 - Job description will be posted this week
 - Questions asked – what about teachers? They need to have a voice in this.

7. Long-term school Vision

- What is the administrative structure? “What is our Dream Administrative Team?” What would work best for GLOBE?
 - Vision for support of the HOS? Maybe this means a HOS and then several support positions – constructivist, curriculum, language, positive discipline... what specific titles have funding linked to them ?
 - How can we learn from the structure at the Epstein School? (local private school with similar model)
- Overall school vision – where/how is it articulated? How is it being brought forward into HOS search and planning? (Need to ensure commitment to mission and structure of the school when moving into new leadership – ie: subjective evaluation, homework policy, constructivist, positive discipline, dual-language, etc).

8. Need a strong commitment from Board and leadership that the 4th grade matters – a statement that there WILL be a 4th grade, and a strong action plan/timeline to back it up (plan for modular, teacher hiring, budget etc). Need to see this by early March.

9. Organizational History and Documentation

- New policies to assist in administration, operations and academics being created by the interim administration need to be captured and passed on.
 - These policies and processes, needed to make our model (academics) and our school function, were previously not in place.
- These administrative policies and procedures are clearly based on research and best practices. This standard should continue as additional policies are created in the future
- Board needs to capture their processes as well (operate with policies, procedures, consistency)

10. Need a statement from the board recognizing that the parent body has carried the school through the last few months with work, expertise, resources, financial support, systems development, facilities planning, fundraising, positive PR and much more. Formal recognition and appreciation of this fact would serve our CREST vision.

11. More board members – would like to see 2 more by next board meeting.

Barriers to our success:

- Inexperienced administration (specifically B. Kenner , M. Molina, J. Greenwood)
- No leader
- Lack of parent faith
- Money
- 4th grade
- Community perspective
- Academics
- Respect amongst each other
- Lack of patience
- Administrative support
- Financial transparency
- Consistent classroom experience
- Lack of knowledge of what we signed up for (educational model)
- Need a successful model of this kind of school that we can see, hear, touch (parent noted that the Epstein school, our new partner, is exactly that – constructivist, dual-language, positive discipline)
- No assessment of leadership team, Board
- Lack of accountability
- Too much uncertainty
- Lack of steadiness/too much transition
- Communication

Strengths to celebrate and leverage:

- Parent involvement
- Teachers
- Students
- New board
- Vision/school concept
- Parent resources/connections
- Brave parents
- Education Planners
- We have to get our students/this drives us to succeed
- Happy kids
- Persistence
- Perseverance
- Ability to learn/adapt/change
- Unique story for fundraising
- FREE!