

Agenda

- ☐ 5:30-6pm Doors open & Dinner
- ☐ 6:00pm Ice Breaker and Introductions
- ☐ 6:15 Establishing Group Norms
- ☐ 6:30 Framing:
 - What is the CFC and walkthrough by-laws
- ☐ 6:45 Setting priorities for our work:
 - Diverse staffing, After School/Summer Programs, Student Experience & Student Voice, Early Childhood, College & Career Readiness, Attendance, Scheduling and Communications
- ☐ 7:15 Explanation Leadership and Nominations

Group Norms

- Be Respectful
- Silence cell phones
- Confidentiality is important
 - *Tell us*
- Share air time
- Use “I” statements- your experience
- “Yes and..”

What Brings You Here Today?

- Email from a friend
- Email from work
- All call -connected reminder call- didn't get first call
- Parent form for LPS - what language do you speak in? Need to make sure these calls come in that language
- Project LEARN email to Your Voice Matters email list

Issues/Challenges Parents Shared:

- Students should recognize important topics
 - Ex. Feb. is not focused on just V-Day, it's Black History Month
- Language Access: If a child is sick, how does school communicate?
 - Call is typically in English, can we get it in other languages?
 - Lowell has an emergency line = *emergency
 - 3 year Grant but funds are running out; looking for money to continue to do this
 - Building hopefully in the budget, staff
 - Volunteer all outs- we try this and sometimes work but not consistently and not across entire school district - over 40 languages spoken in Lowell
- Diverse Staffing: It's hard to break into the school system?
 - Plan? School Committee approved of an addition of HR Dept. -needs to happen ASAP
 - Question for Jeannine Durkin: How long will this take/what is the plan for this?

Issues/Challenges (Cont.)

- Diverse young folks - MCC & UML
- It's a challenge to be employed here - folks apply but not always hired
- Students need to “see” themselves in these positions
- Staff needs to be train in cultural competency / how to teach in this environment
- We need to go to families and invite them to CFC
- Education “pathway” @ UML & MCC = Working on this for LHS
- How information is communicated = Big Issue
 - Ex. Pathways courses @ LHS - Parents didn't know about that
- Do parents know their student's teachers?
 - LHS had an open house but not many parents attended, esp parents of Special Ed. students, what are the barriers here stopping them from coming?

Issues/Challenges (Cont.)

- There are a lot of resources here in Lowell!
- Look @ when do families attend and under what situations? We need listen to people and do what works
- Parents don't even know about events and meetings; esp. Language barrier, this is a community-wide issue and not just a problem in the schools
- Affinity type series (in each language) on learning how to advocate for your child, get the info you need, and find out where you get the info.
- One parent commented: If main language is English, it is very hard to accommodate every language (40+ in Lowell) it's up to the parent's/families to teach & learn English
- Could high school or UML/MCC students volunteer to interpret?

Issues/Challenges (Cont.)

→ Food @ LHS:

Juice in the morning only and milk only at lunch; no option

→ Last lunch runs out of food at LHS -Freshman Academy

→ Attendance:

At LHS - parent called to let school know her child would be absent but school sent an automated call and they got multiple calls - there is a text option policy system using cell phones → this might be a pilot program

Leadership Roles:

Chair/Co-Chair:

Will help set agenda and run CFC Meetings with Rebecca Duda

Treasurer:

Ensure any money received is spent and accounted for responsibly

Recording Secretary:

Take notes at each meeting and share them with council

Public Relations:

Communicate to members and the public through social media email, etc. and share information as needed

Question or interested in a leadership role or nominating someone?

Leadership members will be chosen at November meeting.

Contact Us!

- ★ Rebecca Duda:
Family Resource Center Coordinator for Lowell Public Schools

rduda@lowell.k12.ma.us

- ★ Shamir Rivera:
Alumni & Engagement Coordinator for Project LEARN

srivera@projectlearninc.org

Next CFC Meeting: Tuesday November 27th

Location: STEM Academy @ Rogers School: 43 Highland St, Lowell, MA 01852

Time: Doors open 5:30pm

Dinner, childcare, and interpretation (if requested) will be provided.

RSVP for next meeting: <https://conta.cc/2Q99kk9>

Learn more about Your Voice Matters & the Citywide Family Council:

www.yourvoicematterslowell.org & <https://www.lowell.k12.ma.us/Page/3290>