

# Agenda

- ❑ 5:30-6pm Doors Open and Dinner
- ❑ 6:00 Icebreaker and Introduction
- ❑ 6:15 Set Priorities for Our Work
  - ❑ Lowell High -January
  - ❑ Diverse Staff. & Student Ex. -February
  - ❑ Fam.Engagement & Early Child. -March
  - ❑ College and Career Readiness & After School -April
  - ❑ Schedules & Systems -May
- ❑ 7:00 Explanation of Leadership Roles and Nominations
  - ❑ Chair, Co-Chair(s), Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Public Relations, Other?
- ❑ 7:25 Wrap-Up/ Next Steps

# Early Childhood

- “Parent University” to understand systems and structures
  - Make website more user friendly for registering students; Translate, Supt. + School Committee member(s) to join [how selected?]; Parent Liaisons attend (have a representative from every school)
- Build relationships through BookNook programming
  - Site council reps
- Kindergarten Readiness
  - Offer full-day pre-K and Phonics; Define. Citywide pre-K, emphasis on basic classroom skills, not academics; Early Childhood Center & Equitable;
  - More nutritious breakfast than LPS free breakfast; Reduce food waste;
  - Redirect funding from standardized tests at early childhood/k and use it towards staffing (eg. T.S. Gold, iReady, etc.)
  - Screening + early intervention for trauma/disabilities; Teacher training ARC for trauma-informed schools;

# College and Career Readiness

- Internships, job shadowing, and career explorations
  - Make sure all students are aware of programs offered (Pathways, TRIO, PALS, etc), programs to be more inclusive, offered to new students, let students apply to programs, not selected, open enrollment periods; Have community members visit to discuss jobs/careers;
  - Exploration of higher educations (not just college);
  - Share info. about Career Pathways Program
  - Screening for financial illiteracy, life goals, readiness for working world, every HS year with help from community members;
  - Offer courses in manufacturing, finance, engineering, retail management etc.;
  - Add Ch. 70 vocational technical programs at LHS to supplement Greater Lowell Tech
- Financial Literacy
  - Involve parents in middle school; Explanation of financial aid; Financial aid seminars
- Senior Capstone Projects on Citizenship
  - Require civics education is coming to high schools; Have a representative from the International Institute of Lowell speak to students about the topic;

# Student Experience and Voice

- School Climate Survey
  - How old are the surveys? All schools? What are they asking? Questions & how are they asked? How will we get a good representation? How do the younger kids take it? How do you advertise the importance? What is school climate? Google Forms?
  - School Safety from outside intruders, School Safety in managing behavior (there's many rumors about fights at LHS which makes parents not want to send their kids there)
- Full Equity Audit of LPS
  - What is that? Standards should be the same for all LPS; Insure that all kids have the same experience at school; Perform a full audit such as the "Collins" Report by UML; In circumstances where we know there is not equity, what do we do about it?
  - How do we move away from programs/activities that depend on \$/PTO and make opportunities more standardized across the district?
  - [[Teacher Voice & Experience Matter too!]]
  - LHS Student Voice Group:  
How were they selected? Is there an application? Is it inclusive of all students?

# Lowell High

- Facilities Concerns
  - Transition during construction; Concerns about feasibility of construction plan; Addressing current issues (heating, leaks, broken doors, security)
  - Communicate about current progress for each step;
- Late lunch = no food left;
  - All schools?
- Noise during high stake tests possibly use noise cancelling headphones?
- Communication:
  - Update website; Plan for sharing information to avoid the spreading of rumors/misinformation; Parent/Teacher Communication;
  - Student/teacher ratios; Not having actual teachers for classes (teen subs not teaching)
- Special Ed:
  - Consideration of special ed students to avoid so much disruption and avoid all special ed students being grouped together in a less desirable place + chaos;

# Diverse Staffing

- Pipeline for students of color to become teachers
  - Establish aspiring educators club at LHS, partner with UML and MCC education programs and student education association; Retaining is important too;
  - Diversity and LGBTQ training for the staff;
  - Teach a second language
- Bonus for Bilingual Teachers
  - Review and establish comprehensive criteria for hiring to ensure best candidates (avoid hiring based on connections. Look at online system and how it might miss qualified candidates);
  - Hire an HR director with a background in diverse hiring practices;
  - Teaching tolerance

# Family Engagement

- Family Involvement Opps. Web Page
  - le. Dracut's volunteer system;
  - Find the right admins;
  - Alternative contact methods (not all have computers/internet);
  - Alternative language; Reach non-white families & ask how [work with McGrows];
  - One evening community night a month & invite other schools;
  - Speed up/simplify CORI process?
  - Blackboard Class Dojo Remind, FCOC Boston, Family community outreach coordinator; Parent University (Boston to Burlington), Parent to Parent peer support network
- Parent Liaisons who can interpret
  - UML, MCC, LHS students who can volunteer to interpret or for credit;
  - Training for volunteer interpreters from community and UML education program

# Family Engagement (Cont.)

- School-based social events
  - Welcome grandparents because parents may be working;
  - Babysitters, especially for special needs students;
  - Coordinate with community partners to post events
- Training on how to conduct home visits
  - And school culture; Coordinate with Boys and Girls Club;
  - Bullying: teach parents too;
  - Investigate Parent/Teacher Home Visits ([pthvp.org](http://pthvp.org) & how it is used in Springfield, MA); consider the value of the visits but also limitations on time (Are there other school staff to do this?)[Work with U.T.L]



# Schedule and Systems

- Systems Issues/Questions:
  - Can we have online registration for students?
  - Funding for additional translated materials; Fast translation;
  - Accurate timely info. Re: teacher assignment+turnover;
  - Text System (Improved System) for student absences & regular announcements;
  - Have parents update emergency contacts mid-year; Cost?
  - Centralize messages but capability to specify for schools/grades/neighborhoods/etc. Paperless reminders/notices in Rockport, MA.;
  - Expanded hours daily and weekends for school offices and family resource center;
  - More info./comm. for waitlists;
  - Ask parents how they want to be contacted;
  - Next Superintendent should prioritize updating school websites

## Schedule and Systems (Cont.)

- Feedback Loop for School Committee Engagement:
  - Is there school committee representation on the CFC?
  - CFC reports to school committee + SC transparent to CFC;
  - How does SC take CFC info. into consideration? How do they hear our voice?
  - Parent outreach for school committee topics + meetings;
  - SC public access with cable and call in with questions and comments.

# After School/Summer Programs

- Website:
  - Website of opportunities that is updated regularly [by whom?]
  - All-inclusive with schedule details, pricest registration deadlines;
  - Would like to see middle school language clubs, students exposed to other languages;
  - Promote opportunities to new families-with help from Family Resource Center and translation;
  - Partner with LHS & with GLT to “explore” the programs offered/engage in sports/clubs/language etc. at this school;
  - Summer programs that give college credit; Partner with UML+MCC and other organizations (Girl’s Inc) at Merrimack Repertory Theater etc.
- 21st Century Programs:
  - Increase 21st Century funding-give it to all schools equally;
  - Better communication with parents regarding schedules, etc. at the middle school level;
  - Spring fair for resources-advertise better and add dates;
  - Regular information about programs be translated (See Denver, CO Community community programs and opportunities website and app);

## Next Steps

- Leadership group meeting Dec 19th at 5:30pm
  - Interested in learning more? Contact Rebecca Duda [rduda@lowell.k12.ma.us](mailto:rduda@lowell.k12.ma.us) or Shamir Rivera [srivera@projectlearninc.org](mailto:srivera@projectlearninc.org)
- See more information online:
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