



Myers-Ganoung Elementary
Family Engagement Meeting
November 2, 2023, 3P.M

Present: Megan Stefanek, Principal, Lacey Grijalva, FE Director, Amy Busse, Teacher, Kiyani Hammack, Teacher, Latina Morou, Counselor, Josie Garcia, parent, Carolina Soto, parent, Diana Pitney, CL.

Welcome:

Mrs. Pitney welcomed all who were present, introductions were made. Mrs. Pitney introduced and welcomed Lacey Grijalva, Director of Family Engagement as our special guest.

The importance of Family Engagement:

Mrs. Pitney explained to the members about the Unitary Status Plan, why we have it and the requirements for being compliant with the court. Family Engagement is one of the components which is required for our district. All families need to be represented, valued and heard in the education of their children.

Dr. Joyce Epstein's 6 Principals of Family Engagement:

Ms. Grijalva explained when parents become involved in engaging with their children's education and school, the outcomes can be positive for all. The students, parents, staff, and communities' benefit from this. She explained how using the 6 Principals listed can produce positive outcomes for all.

What is Family Engagement?

Ms. Grijalva presented on what Family Engagement is, why is it important and how is it done. She explained that it can be done in various ways, it can be having parents volunteer in the classroom, they can participate on field trips, they can be involved in PTA, they can be included in the planning of school events, such as STEM NIGHT, LITERACY NIGHT. They can be involved in being part of welcoming other parents to events, helping them sign in, or passing out information on events. There are so many ways to involve parents in being a part of their school, giving a voice as parents to our school as to what they'd like to see happen at our school.

She opened for questions or comments. Mrs. Pitney commented on how Mrs. Busse and Mrs. Calhoun work to make STEM NIGHT happen every year. Ms. Grijalva said that is good, but inviting parents to make suggestions or provide input could make it even better. Mrs. Busse said that at our next curricular event, Literacy Night, we could certainly ask parents to help with that.

Parents who were present shared what the school where their other children attend are doing that is impacting their children's learning. Perhaps our school could try some of the things that the other schools are doing.

Mrs. Hammack also shared what another school where she worked at previously was doing. The ideas and possibilities are many and we could do so much more with the involvement of our parents, was what we all came away with.

Ms. Grijalva asked if we'd sent out the Family Engagement survey, to which Mrs. Pitney said yes, we had. Ms. Grijalva said this is where we'd take the results and be able to compose questions for our Parent Focus Group next year in February, or shortly thereafter. Everyone agreed this would be very good.

Mrs. Pitney asked if the survey was available in all other spoken languages in our school, Ms. Grijalva said she believed they were. Mrs. Pitney will ask Language Acquisition to translate the flyer with the QR Code to send out to our families.

Mrs. Pitney shared how she and another staff member from Refugee Services want to collaborate to reach out to the non-English, or non-Spanish speaking families to see how we can support them. Ms. Stefanek had previously suggested reaching out to Language Acquisition to ask for interpreters. Mrs. Pitney will inquire with Refugee Services first to see who the person will be assigned to us, and if needed, reach out to Language Acquisition to provide support to these families.

The meeting was adjourned with the next date of our meeting being February 27, 2024 @ 3pm. At that time we will discuss the answers provided from the Parent Survey results.

Meeting adjourned with next meeting on February 27, 2024.

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