



Myers-Ganoung Elementary
Family Engagement Meeting
January 13, 2026 3P.M.

Present: Diana Pitney, CL., Rachel Alvord, OMA Teacher, Latina Morou, Counselor, Scott Evans, Community member of CIC, Tucson, Tomasa Lopez, Parent, Dahabaya Arbab, Parent, Beatriz Lara, Parent.

I. The minutes from the last meeting were not available to review. Mrs. Pitney apologized for this and said we would be sure to have todays for review at our next meeting. If anyone would like to review the previous meeting's notes they are posted on our website.

II, Mrs. Pitney addressed the team with the issue we have at hand at Myers-Ganoung, a high rate of absenteeism. She read a letter to parents from Ms. Stefanek. We have students who are chronically absent and late. About 120 students have met or exceeded this threshold. How will they be prepared to go to middle school?

III. The team brainstormed; they shared some thoughts and ideas.

A. What can we do to help parents understand the importance of being in school?

1. First get the list of students who are chronically absent and call all the parents – what can we do to help you If it is in our control.
2. Morou – we need to get student grades up to help with school's letter grade. We won't be able to fix the attendance issue on time.
3. Scott – it's important to figure out why. We should identify them. At least a couple of reasons. Virtual option? What if someone has a chronic illness but does not know what the process is behind that or the option.
4. Beatriz – Some families do not want to go to school because of fear of being stopped by ICE. Sometimes it was too cold to take the bus to school.
5. Diana - We had sent out a survey, but we did not get very many responses. I wish I could have pushed more for QR codes. Unable due to husband's illness and death.
6. Scott – some parents might not even realize they are chronically absent from school
7. Incentive for parents to take the survey. Maybe a raffle? We must figure out an incentive that is WORTH it. The same thing for students and their own attendance. We need something a little more exciting than a popcorn party.

IV. A survey is being sent home with students today in different languages via QR Codes.

V. What about a student survey? We can ask students why there is much absenteeism.

VI. Which grade level has the most absenteeism?

B. A letter to parents was sent out to our parents via Parent Square. How do we reach our parents?'

1. We need to have a Parent Focus Group in February. Could this be made into a schoolwide event? Rather than just 5-10 parents, we could invite all our parents to come be a part of the Focus group.
2. We could make it a Focus Group Event. Parents seem to want to attend whenever their children are performing.
3. We could make an event where students will perform, then go to their classrooms while parents remain for the Focus Group. We will provide refreshments and have a drawing for prizes for those parents who stay for the Focus group.
4. Community members would conduct the group, giving parents the freedom to make any comments freely.
5. If we provide an incentive for our students to have their parents attend, maybe their parents will attend. Students would be placed in a drawing for a prize.
6. We need to come up with questions for our parents to answer at the Focus group. Please submit your questions to Mrs. Pitney as soon as possible.

C. Literacy Week and Night are coming in March, let's encourage parents to attend this event. Parents can invite other parents to attend.

We will meet again on March 10th for our next FE meeting. We can discuss the outcome of the Focus group then.

Thank you everyone for attending today.

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Meeting adjourned with next meeting on February 25, 2025

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