



EEE COMMITTEE MEETING

January 14, 2014

A meeting of the EEE Committee was held on January 14, 2014 beginning at 4:00 p.m. in the Mellon Board Room. Committee members present: Alejandra Aguero, Karl Radnitzer, Judy Reynolds, Cathy Mannen, Mabinty Tarawallie, Azark Cobb, Angela Hassell, Minnie Pearson and Sujata dey Koontz.

Also present: Justin Uppinghouse, Stephanie Eckels, Angi Franklin and Dr. Rema Reynolds (via Skype)

Ms. Smith reviewed the meeting agenda. She shared the group will work to determine the top goals for the current school year. Angela said at the December meeting the group re-examined the focus goals from the 2012-13 school year. Information was shared about what projects and initiatives were accomplished last year. From that, the committee worked to create a list of possible goals for 2013-14. Ms. Smith continued that the committee will decide on the top goals and work in break-out groups to select a campaign and determine action steps for the project. She announced that Dr. Rema Reynolds will be joining the group via Skype. Ms. Smith said although this is not something done on a regular basis, she wanted Ms. Reynolds to meet the committee and get a feel for the work being done. She added that it would be an option for Dr. Reynolds to address the committee at the February meeting. In addition she mentioned the committee's opportunity to talk with Dr. Hines at the AVID event.

Ms. Smith asked the committee to take a few minutes to review the December 3, 2013 EEE meeting minutes, noting Committee members received a copy of the minutes in an earlier email. A motion was made by Minnie Pearson, seconded by Cathy Mannen to approve the December minutes as presented. All yeas, motion carried on a voice vote.

Ms. Smith said moving to the remainder of the agenda, at the last meeting we unpacked goal areas. She said the votes are in for the top three areas to include:

- Goal 3: Grades 3 and 4 Gap for African American Males.
- Goal 2: The K-3 Literacy Gap.
- Goal 4: How can we help parents support the schools and their students?

After the goal ranking was revealed, discussion ensued about the importance of all the goals and how to integrate them to ensure that all goals are addressed. Alex Aguero talked about

combining goals, sharing that she is currently working on a project at the U of I regarding the literacy gap. She said the project works with parents/mothers who are illiterate, addressing sustainability and working with their children. She said research indicates parent involvement may be limited for those individuals because of the literacy gap and the parents' inability to understand information sent home. The project targets ways to help parents become more involved. Mabinty Tarawallie asked for clarification of who would be receiving services – the parents or the children. She asked what the goal is for parents and how do we engage them. Angela Smith reviewed Goal 4 focus is “How can we help parents support the schools and their students”, mentioning the K-12 milestone checklist, parent mentors and helping parents find support for students. She added it hasn't been about parent literacy. The committee talked about the importance of not leaving the community out by keeping the three goals.

Justin Uppinghouse interjected that as a middle school principal he sees the need for Goal 5 to plan a vision for the future, explaining the importance of goals for students and a sense of future. Mr. Cobb said before any goals can be addressed you have to have the parents involved, adding Goal 5 could be a reward system. Angela Hassell said in her perspective as it relates to 3 and 4 gap for African American males, that is a stand-alone and we don't do it justice to combine it with anything else. She added the importance of the parent piece, mentioning the milestone checklist and the graduation process. She said she has a graduating student and it is overwhelming and parents are lost in the process. Ms. Hassell said she really sees the parent piece very much involved in the K-3 piece, but can't leave out middle and high school.

Ms. Smith said based on conversation the Committee agrees that Goal 4 supporting parents is a theme that can be infused into each of the others goals. She said regardless of where you sit around the table or which goal you chose to participate in, Goal 4 will be a part of the focus. She asked committee members to select a goal and gather around and talk about a campaign just like last year. Ms. Smith asked the committee to ensure the strategies they choose are ongoing, but attainable with the expectation that they include something we can accomplish in that area.

Break-out groups were given time to select a Goal and discuss strategies within their group for achieving the Goal. Afterwards the Committee came together to report out on their group discussions.

Goal 5 - Planning for a Vision for the Future strategies include:

- Getting kids excited and dreaming big about their futures.
- Exposing them to careers they may not know.
- Career Fair – National Junior Honor Society - hold during school day and extend into the evening where parents can attend with their kids
- Having college visit days at the middle level where we have some college lunches.
- Meeting with recruiters on a weekly basis.
- Board designated for colleges and programs highlight

- Career Cruising
- Kids dream big and not to be shot down
- Start on a quick win – talking about a project career fair
- Hold a mini quad day
- Have to bridge the gap with university

Goal 3 - Grades 3 and 4 Gap for African American Males strategies include:

- Handpicking 3 and 4th grades teachers
- Think out of the box
- Professional development for lifelong learners
- Teaching the difference between being empathetic and sympathetic
- Action step – communication, culturally sensitive PD and student ownership in learning
- Minnie Pearson said the teachers are also life-long learners
- Have student voice in what they to learn
- Work around cultural responsiveness

Goal 2 - The K-3 Literacy Gap

- Have a place and space for reading – even at some of the homeless shelters
- Builders club
- Make and take workshop – create a bookshelf and getting books in the home
- Tips for parents: Infomercials for parents

Ms. Smith thanked the Committee for their time and the rich conversations that took place. She reviewed the three campaigns, Goal 2, Goal 3 and Goal 5, re-iterating that the parent piece cuts across all areas and can be infused in each of the 3 main goals. Ms. Smith announced the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11 beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned: 5:35.

Respectfully submitted:

Gayle Griffin-Jordan
Recording Secretary