

Panel 1 Meeting Notes - 7/23/20

Start: 3:03

Attendees: Sarah Whitman Geldart, Kenann McKenzie, Lisa Gurdin, Andria Gross, Lijia Li, Miriam Fein, Andy Liu, Igor Golger, Susan Wolf Ditkoff, Sharon Abramovitz, Ilya Rifkin, Lisa Wisman Weil, Alice Wong Tucker

- Approved minutes
- Presentation on Focus Area 3 - Lisa Wisman Weil
 - Focus on caregivers
 - Caregivers need clear guidance
 - PSB survey feedback informed this focus area's recommendation
 - Disparities between families' experiences during remote learning in the spring
 - Varied level of engagement of caregivers
 - Challenges with regards to online platforms
 - Critical to build strong home/school partnerships
 - Regular communication so that caregivers don't have to ask for information
 - Make load on caregivers easier than it was in the spring
 - Weekly exit tickets
 - Feedback loop
 - Caregivers need to understand expectations per students per grade
 - Consistent and streamlined online platform with low-tech options
 - Consistent learning hubs across k-8 schools
 - Parents have access to their children's learning management systems
 - Student/Parent/Teacher partnership
 - Equity worksheet
 - Suggested considerations for caregivers who are not able to support students for remote learning
 - Low-tech communication strategies who caregivers who do not have access to technology
 - <https://education.vermont.gov/sites/aoe/files/documents/edu-vermont-family-engagement-toolkit-and-self-assessment.pdf>
 - Lijia shared a platform in China that allows parents to be notified instantly when students do not engage or attend zooms. Parents need to enroll.
 - Would Blackboard work?
 - Consider creating community partnerships (i.e., Steps to Success) to identify strategies to establish bidirectional communication with high need families.
- Presentation on Focus Area 4 - Lijia

- Focus on optimizing communication with all families
 - Feedback loop - monthly surveys, Site Council, direct feedback from caregivers to the school/district with responses
 - Video updates - may increase access
 - How-to videos for caregivers
 - Consistent message that caregivers are partners in their children's education
 - Help hotlines for students
 - Online platform - forum - share questions/concerns and provide feedback, guidance, responses - maintain good relationship
- Similar themes across presentations
- Different role for a room parent - parents helping parents - provide supports to own classroom - hotline - retired teachers
- Ensure parent load is manageable
 - One place to check-in
- Need to make sure that teachers and parents work together and are not pitted against each other - tension
- Spectrum of families in Brookline - thinking about needs of all families

Discussion:

- Collaboration between families and teachers very important
- Inconsistent instruction across classrooms and schools
- Concern of hotlines - will people be able to provide help to students if information is taught differently. Need to consider this.

Next week - Presentations on Focus Areas 1 and 2

Adjourned 4:26