

Point Loma Cluster Parent Representative Meeting
June 19th, 2006
Dana Library

Process facilitator: Julie Zoellin Cramer
Secretary: Maureen Glaser

In Attendance

Julie Zoellin Cramer	Dana Assn
Andrea Justus	Dana Middle
Teresa Drew	Ocean Beach
John Bauer	PLHS
Jenny LaRocco	Silver Gate
Leslie Chinman	Silver Gate
Maria Gibson	Loma Portal
Beth Malachowski	Dana
Kris Spathas	Correia
Matt Spathas	PL cluster
Richard Glover	Silver Gate
Maureen Glaser	Sunset View
Christy Scadden	Loma Portal
Polly Traylor	Sunset View

Introduction – The Opportunity

Julie Cramer – introduction. Process facilitator, time keeper. Go around the table and introduce yourself, your affiliations, what you've been doing.

Julie Cramer– Dana, co-president, Dana Parent Association

Teresa – OB PTA president.

Parent meeting of 60-70 parents. Consensus of meeting was parents basically want more information. Want our kids in the best possible schools

Shelly Kirth – VP OB PTA.

Leslie – Silvergate. Co-Pres. of Silvergate. PTA

Jenny LaRocco – Pres. of programs at Silvergate. Strategic plan they've worked on at Silvergate. Enrollment of Choice kids up.

Richard Glover – Silvergate Foundation Board member– strategic planning. Vision, mission, goal areas. 27 tasks to cover in the next three years – full time science teacher will be hired this summer, completing one of the 27 tasks.

John Bauer – PLHS, Foundation Board, Alumni Association. Driving organizations toward a mission. The vision/mission wrapped around core values of the music program. 220 participants in the music program. Core values, a vision they're driving towards a mission they're accomplishing.

Kris Spathas – PLHS, Correia, Dana, SSV. Current president of Correia Association. Goal and vision is communication. Good communication between families and staff, and between the grade schools, Dana, Correia, PLHS.

Matt Spathas – collaborative efforts of PLHS, Dana, Correia. Held Principal meetings at the three upper schools. Best processes. Transforming the delivery system – 21st century learning. Best practices.

Polly Traylor – SSV. PTA Board. Committee to basically inform the SSV community of possible reconfiguration.

Maureen Glaser – SSV. Part of Configuration Committee. Multiple meetings held including with Grant PTA pres, SSV principal, SSV parent meeting and disbursement and tallying of an SSV parent Opinion Survey.

Maria Gibson – Foundation president. Parent meeting. 40 parents attended. People want more information. They want to understand more about cluster, more about the middle schools. Want to be educated.

Christy Skadden – PTA president. Lomal Portal. Blog. Goal mtg. for the school with parents. What can we do to bring the elementary schools together?

Beth – Part of the process six years ago. What authority does this group have? Discussion should include those who have authority. Talk about capacity. Why filling capacity? People who have more power than we are making decisions– Who are we trying to serve? Shared communications. The more bridge building we do the better. Personal relationships.

Andrea Justus – Dana rep. Haven't done anything, because we don't know where we are. Lets be concise lets get a vision, lets go for it. More confidence in our own schools.

History

Julie

Last time around.

Principal from each school, parent rep. and staff member. Authority for the group came from Bersin. District staff attended the meetings. We have not been given authority except that Cohn has indicated he likes “grassroots”

No Cabrillo, Barnard or Dewey represented here. Principal at Barnard is up to date.

Part of the discussion is who is part of this group. PTA presidents and association presidents here should be here? How inclusionary are we?

Jenny-

What is the structure of this group? Reconfiguration group. And a group that is starting with today? Two different tracks. Two different visions? Item 4.

Julie-

Is this group enough? It is more important to have people who have a passion for the process.

Richard -

We are missing, teachers, admin. If you don't have those folks you can totally fail at the implementation of a vision. Go recruit these folks. Just try it. We need more representation.

Our group is not complete at this point. We need to create steps to reach out. Engage people to come to this work.

PLHS PTA president is not here.

Kris –

There is a time for a small group, and maybe a time for bigger meetings.

Matt –

PLHS principal lead the meetings six years ago. It is important to have participation from district but not leadership.

Jenny –

Has a Dewey rep. and can get info. to her.

Richard -

Exactly what is the outcome? Strategic Plan with specific goals with specific objectives. Silvergate had 15 people on their committee for their vision work to come up with specific objectives. Depending on where you want to go you can have a big group as long as you organize the group.

Item 3 - What is the Vision Work?

Richard – Planning Process of Silvergate

Friends of Silvergate the Foundation. Implemented the process about a year ago. Strategic planning committee. The Process:

Stories – engaged the admin and teachers. History of the school. Teachers told stories which lead to a discussion about core values. Saturday retreat with professional facilitator. Values piece – five Core Values

1. Integrity
2. Respect
3. Passion

4. Motivate/Inspire

5. Maximize potential – envisioning what SG can be

Agreement on these five Core Values – we have something to move forward on now. If you don't do values you won't get anywhere, too many personal agendas otherwise.

Subgroups to implement the Values.

Vision – Short statement of what your dream is. Mission Statement is a specific statement on how you implement the vision.

How do we get there in terms of specific Objectives?

Seven goal areas we wanted to address: Citizenship, Communication, Curriculum, Partnerships (families/School partnerships), Facilities, Educational progression, Fundraising. 27 tasks to implement the seven goal areas. Specific items to implement over the next three to five years.

All we did was talk about what needs to happen. The Board approved the plan. The Foundation will now implement the Objectives.

The plan had multiple stakeholders. Parents/Teachers/Admin. A very clear direction, but it is an ongoing process and needs to stay current and engaging.

This is a Strategic Plan for an organization. Any organization that doesn't understand what its Core Values are will not do very well.

John Bauer –

If I were to put together a handout for tonight it would look exactly like Richard's.

Core Values – 75 values whittled down to five.

Passionate about PLHS music department. It starts with a story. A group of kids in band camp. Director quit. The kids stayed and ran their own band camp.

I saw this as an opportunity to help a group that was already on their way. We articulated Core Values: obtained them from parents, teachers, students.

Put together a small diverse parent group. Put together values. Shot out an online survey to parents, students and teachers. Ranked priority of values came back – 100 people responded.

We had to come up with Core Values first – maybe we need to look at the problem in a different way.

Vision – Music – nationally recognized center of excellence.

Mission –

Core Values – The music director uses as an instructional aid.

Strategic Goals – What are we going to do to get to this point.

If this group or any group is going to come up with a vision all of the stakeholders need to buy-in.

The music program went from 48 students to 220 students.

Now other departments are asking “How can we do this in the English department?” “Math department?”

Part of a greater strategic plan – how you move away from “you can’t” To doing

Matt –

Without Vision and Strategic Plan you can’t Survey. Caution, surveys only go on past experience. Core Values and Vision give you an experience. Not historical, not what has been, but what can be.

John – Vision should be the ultimate success, far reaching. What does perfect look like? Think large. What are the Core Values that I have?

Teresa – Values for the entire cluster should be encompassing to all of the schools.

Matt – Important to frame the Core Values.

John – How do we want these schools to be configured. A community discussion on configuration is an Objective. Process is a common vision.

Kris – elementary schools: Continuity with Diversity – don’t lose this.

Item 4 – What does this group want its work to look like?

Kris – Started some work at Correia. Sent out an email: Tried to ask. Accurate information out there. What are the thoughts at Correia.

Shelli – Do the PLHS, Correia, Dana parents look at the elementary schools and wish we would do something differently?

Kris – Dana/Correia/PLHS is currently doing it. Bringing the schools together. A common website. Easy first step to make it a “cluster”

Jenny - Maximizing our potential as a cluster.

Beth – We need to build Core Values. A “shared experience”. Come together and share the programs. Cluster thing – Dana music teacher is offering music lessons in this summer to third graders. This is an example of Cluster.

Jenny – Build on programs. We haven’t been good at doing this. We need to get all together.

Matt – Best Practices. Occurring in this cluster? Best Practices in the World? Think Big. How are we going to capture the Best Practices?

John – We’re not self funded. I’d love to look broadly and be innovative or I wouldn’t be involved. [not sure on context here, I may have missed it]

Kris – Carol Berry is officially our cluster Area Superintendent

Matt – Carl Cohn, Gino Flores (deputy sup.). Carol Berry area superintendent PL cluster.

Kris – I emailed deBeck. Do we have to make a cluster change? Facilities is looking that way at Correia for Creative & Performing Arts Magnet. DeBeck said not necessarily.

Julie – Does this group want to start this Process?
Core Values Work? Should this group meet again? Get other stakeholders involved. Knowing there are other possible tracks. Communications need to go out to the parents.

Matt – Call it “configuration” or “reconfiguration”

Richard – Configuration is on its own path.

Matt – I don’t know about own path. Block scheduling doesn’t happen in the elementary school. I don’t think the configuration issue where kids sit is on its own path.

Richard – The configuration grassroots effort is outside this room.

Jenny – This room is joining as a group to work on the cluster.

Julie – Majority of this group is interested in Core Values, Vision. Us moving forward doing with what we are going to do – a Vision Work.

Polly – Valuable process. Ultimately I’d like our goal to be not losing kids in the cluster.

Matt – Vision. I’d like to see this group get a Vision

Time Up

Conclusion for this meeting:

John – Best practices, communication. Not selling one idea or another. Educating the parents. Community involvement. Delivery of information, give examples, engage parents.

Beth – Hear an update from school principals. Current practices.

Julie - How are we going to start? Planning Process
Stories from our parent meetings

Matt – Feasible to set up a summer series?

Julie – Do we want to start an envisioning process? Next meeting to start the process with a facilitator?

Richard – Another meeting to start a meeting on the process.

Christy – This process is painful to me

Shelli – One or two more meetings before we get to the Plan

Christy – I'm ready to start.

John – If you don't get the involvement of the stakeholders you will fail.

Christy – I think people are stepping back, because they are excited they have a voice and they want to tap into it.

Julie – We could start the process and know we can get the teachers etc. in the Fall.

Matt – baby steps – What if we toured other schools, collected stories. Then moved with that momentum to engaging stakeholders. Then in the Fall we start in a direction.

John – domain knowledge is important. A lot of parents have their own experiences. Education

Julie – Engagement of the stakeholders, educating the stakeholders.. I suggest the next step is a meeting planning on how we are engaging and educating the stakeholders. Plan for the future vision work and possibly a future meeting with facilitator. One more meeting to set up subgroups: communication, vision meeting, educating stakeholders. Also, Best Practice – Bringing seven elementary schools together and what they are doing.

Do we invite more people?

When and where is the next meeting? Kris will coordinate.