
Tuesday, November 15, 2022

ESC Board Room, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Invitees: Cabinet/Directors:

Blue bold David Engstrom, Toya Stewart Downey, **Anthony Williams**, Beth Tepper, **Ariel Gittens**

attended Board Members:

Sam Sant - Chair, **Greta Evans-Becker**, Sharon Brooks Green

Staff/Community Members:

Edgar Aguilar, Brissa Donis, Sonya Lewis, Aiysha Mustapha, **Molly Olson**, Patty Reyes, Dena Russell, **Shannon Swanson**, **Emily Wallace-Jackson**, Lynn Walters, Derrick Williams, **Fowsiya Dahir**

Other community members/staff in attendance: None

Public Meeting Statement:

Thank you for joining us. We are about to engage in a Committee Meeting of the Community Connect Committee. Before we begin, we want to remind all community members that this meeting is designed to allow Invitees to participate and the public an opportunity to observe. There are multiple avenues for the public to share ideas, but this meeting is not one of those ways to participate. Thank you for spending time with us on behalf of Robbinsdale students, staff and families

AGENDA

RAPID REPORTS:

- **Marketing & Communications - Shannon Swanson, Senior Marketing and Communications Specialist**
 - Showed the committee our Heritage Video Series created with Captivate Media - shared with students in advisory and to the public on social media. Have completed and shared Hispanic and Native American videos, with others to follow (i.e. Black History Month, etc.) Also placed on our DEI web page
 - Family tutorial videos were created with our FACE team members to help families navigate things in our district
 - There is a new tab in the lower right corner of our web pages for Let's Talk, the easy way to contact the district
 - Full Service Community Schools(FSCS) - working on an ongoing launch
 - Athletics and activities tickets, rosters, coaches, schedules, etc. can be found on Armstrong and Cooper websites
 - District website refresh is in the works for the "Families" section at the top of the home page
 - Several grant applications are in the works for: Federal Full Service Community Schools, Freedom Schools, MDE COVID Test Sites, and more
- **Community Education - Anthony Williams, Executive Director of Community Education, Activities and Athletics**
 - Introduced Ariel Gittens, our new Director of Community Enrichment and Engagement
 - Fall swim lessons end this week, and start again in early January - new swim director hired
 - FSCS:
 - Affinity Plus donation to RMS for lunch debt, and supplies
 - New Hope/Crystal Fire Department made a supply donation to Cooper
 - Parent involvement for RMS and Cooper with Achievement and Integration affinity groups meeting again to voice concerns, learn about resources and opportunities for involvement
 - Propose we revisit Community Connect Committee meetings

- Need to connect more with the community
 - Work to maybe plan two big events (fall and spring) - plan and get marketing out to engage the community, probably best to do on Saturdays
- Redesign - more substantial partnership with PRISM - visiting monthly at FSCS
- Ready, Set, Smile non-profit will be at RMS next week - we need more families to sign up (helpful to have Spanish and Somali interpreters available. If they have insurance, services will go to that first, otherwise free of charge. Hope to get more for spring session - hoping to break down barriers of trust
- SEI testing at Cooper in partnership with Teen Annex
- **Achievement & Integration - Beth Tepper, Director of Achievement and Integration and Fowsiya Dahir, Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Team**
 - District Round Dance will be Friday, November 18 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at RMS - come enjoy the dance and food!
 - Black History Month Celebration will be held at FAIR Crystal on February 8 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.
 - Parent and Student University (PASU) regarding articulated trades in February
 - In May there will be a movie night
 - Workshops being held at Cooper for affinity groups regarding:
 - Showing tutorials
 - Meeting in Media Center to teach how to navigate Schoology, Parent Portal, etc. (may do again in December) - show how to login, and what to do if login is forgotten (made reminder cards for this)
 - Getting feedback from families
 - Letting them know how to access translation
 - Climate/Culture - newsletters, and video partnership with Communications
 - FACE, Climate & Culture and Achievement and Integration - Parent and Student University on February 15 - articulated trades
- **School Board - Sam Sant, School Board Vice Chair and Community Connect Committee Chair**
 - The face of the School Board will be changing with three new faces elected
 - Sam's last meeting with Community Connect, this has been one of his favorite committees - and he wishes everyone good luck.
 - Enrollment increased (November Work Session) - this is good news
 - Democracy led state after the election - Legislative Action Coalition (LAC) is working for an all education-oriented platform... the sky's the limit!
 - Parent voters want to know more about candidates... how can we inform those who don't speak English?
- **Seven Dreams Education Foundation - Emily Wallace-Jackson, Executive Director**
 - This year is the 20th Anniversary of the Seven Dreams Education Foundation!
 - Annual report is available for review
 - Give to the Max Day is Thursday, November 17 - please consider a contribution, and/or sharing posts to get the word out
 - Teacher and Staff Appreciation gifts to be distributed prior to winter break can be purchased for \$20 - each will include a personal message to the staff member, a bowl (in collaboration with Empty Bowls), and a soup - orders accepted through December 12
 - 10th Annual Bird Bash will take place Saturday, March 4 at The Heritage Center (formerly Earle Brown) - this year's proceeds will be funding mental health and wellness needs in the district such as proactive places for before/after school for students and staff (please let Emily know of any mental health vendors they can reach out to) - tickets are \$75.00 each or \$600 per table
- **Superintendent Engstrom**
 - Speak loudly about what we need (LAC) to best serve our students and families, and provide the best educational resources for our students - we need consistent funding
 - It's the season of student concerts, plays, etc. We just enjoyed our Fall Music Festival being able to go back to Orchestra Hall and it was wonderful! Armstrong's production of *Frankenstein* is coming up quickly, as is Cooper's production of *The Outsider*. Almost every evening has an event/performance - please show then your support
 - Armstrong and Cooper Athletics are doing great! Noah Breker ran in the state cross country meet in Northfield where he was running in the top three, but fell to eighth place due to an injury. He had just placed fourth in a national event last weekend!
 - Thank you to Sam Sant for his service to the School Board, this committee and the District 287 Board during his term the last four years

REGULAR DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **Guest Speaker**
 - None
- **Summer Parades/Community Festivals**
 - Attended:
 - Upcoming:
- **Farmers Markets**
 - Attended:
 - Upcoming:
- **Community Events**
 - Attended:
 - Upcoming:
- **District Planned Events**
 - Attended:
 - Upcoming:
- **Apartment Visits/Senior Living Facilities Visits**
 - Attended:
 - Upcoming:
- **Off-site Listening times for Board/Cabinet**
 - Attended:
 - Upcoming:
- **Lunch Debt issue**
 -
- **Other**
 -

2022-2023 Meeting Schedule

September 13, **November 15**, February 14, April 11, June 13



Community Connect Charge to the Committee

Community Connect is a standing committee of the Robbinsdale Area School District.

The charge of the Community Connect Committee is to recommend to the School Board and district administration involvement in interactions and events that support the **Unified District Vision** (UDV).

Community Connect researches and initiates community conversations that build relationships with targeted audiences to:

- Assure student success
- Connect with families, parents, and guardians of our students
- Foster awareness of the benefits of Pre-12 education
- Engage community members such as district residents and businesses
- Promote ongoing positive community connections
- Foster mutual support between the district and the community it serves
- Share key messages of the district

Membership is comprised of school board members, the Marketing and Communications Director, Integration and Equity Program Director, Community Education Director, and up to five community members.

A school board member will be designated as chair, who will prepare an agenda for each meeting based on input from committee members. The chair will be responsible for distributing the agenda and meeting summaries including action items. Meeting materials will be maintained by the School Board Administrative Assistant.

Unified District Vision goals to which the charge of the Community Connect Committee is aligned:

- **Goal 1:** Implement Policies and Practices that Open Pathways to Academic Excellence for All Students
- **Goal 3:** Engage Family and Community Members as Partners