



**Hillsborough
Education
Foundation**

**Empowering Effective Teachers
Community Engagement Group
Meeting Notes**

February 14, 2011

12:00am—1:30pm

Meeting held at the Hillsborough Education Foundation

In Attendance:

Elise Bengston, HCPS Consultant
Ann Berg, Community Foundation
Tracye Brown, Hillsborough County Public
Schools
Harry Costello, Hill Knowlton
Melissa Erickson, HCPTA
David Fischer, Community Foundation
Bill Hoffman, Hillsborough Education
Foundation

Emery Ivery, United Way
Bernardo Rodriguez, Hillsborough
Education Foundation
Michelle Shimberg, Community Volunteer
David Steele, Hillsborough County Public
Schools
Lu Anne Stewart, Hill Knowlton
Jim Strenski, Community Foundation
Brenda Walker, Ph.D., USF/NAACP

Welcome and Introductions

Bill Hoffman

Bill welcomed the group and had everyone introduce themselves. He emphasized that this group is to serve as a sounding board to provide feedback to the School District from the community and business perspective. This group was also formed in order to keep current on information so when out in the community you are knowledgeable and able to make sure accurate information is available.

Initiative Update & Feedback

David Steele

On behalf of MaryEllen Elia and Carol Kurdell, David apologized that they couldn't attend the meeting as they were at a conference for the U.S. D.o.E. He added that Hillsborough County is getting better known throughout the nation. Jean Clements was in Newsweek and there has been an article in The Economist. Hillsborough County has been recognized for the Superintendent/Union Leader collaboration.

Anxiety has dropped among teachers recently but is expected that anxiety would fluctuate through out the year and project around relevant deadlines and milestones. Communication with teachers and all stakeholders is very important to maintain low anxiety levels during the changes being implemented with this project. Lewis Brinson and Lynn Fell from the School District are in New York approaching the Wallace Foundation for a leadership grant to possibly tie into the EET project. Measuring Effective Teacher project, dubbed 'Little Gate', another grant with the Gates Foundation, is proceeding well across the country. This project focuses on video taping of teachers. This helps the teachers to reflect better on their skills. The mentors revisit the classroom to see if the follow-up of this reflection really occurs.

Teacher self-evaluation has started today. Dr. Steele reported that as of last week there have been 17,000 teacher observations.

Communications Update

Tracye Brown

Tracye reported on events that have occurred since the last meeting in November. Hillsborough County hosted a joint conference for union leaders and superintendents through the Florida Association of District School Superintendents and Hillsborough County Teachers Association. More than 200 participated with Representative Will Weatherford speaking at the event. Great feedback was received and affirmed that Hillsborough County is a national model. There have been several local teacher forums with the next scheduled for February 24, 5pm at Armwood High School. Parent forums are also being planned. Tracye asked the panel for potential questions.

Group Feedback

Tracye Brown

The group reported on feedback from students and community members that observation of teachers in the classrooms should be unannounced to be more valid. Tracye mentioned that 5,000 'pop-ins' have occurred to date. More need to occur, especially for struggling teachers. Members also provided feedback that the student perspective during the classroom visits is not significant enough. The students are hesitant to talk to observers with their teacher present. Teachers will be doing principal evaluation in April. Questions were asked about there being a formal policy in place for teachers to contest observations they disagree with; Dr. Steele responded that there is a process in place. There is an online teacher's journal where comments can be uploaded. Feedback for the last eight months has been positive.

Center for Teaching Quality

Bill Hoffman

Bill spoke of this organization that has met with him a few times. In the Fall of 2009, the Center for Teaching Quality (CTQ) launched the New Millennium Initiative. CTQ has initial funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support the work here in Hillsborough County. The Initiative is comprised of a select group of teacher leaders who have the interest and prowess to begin advancing teaching effectiveness reforms and the level of commitment necessary to expand their network over time.

Closing

Bill Hoffman

Bill thanked the group for attending the information session. Bill asked the group and received confirmation that the breadth and scope of the information we're providing is at an appropriate level for their interests. Notes of this meeting along with other updates will be emailed with a link to the Hillsborough Education Foundation website.

Next Community Engagement Group meeting will be announced.

Recording Secretary: Valerie Pennypacker