

Feb 28, 2014

Planning meeting notes for March 5, 2014 Action Session of the Community Book Discussion Group.

Attending: Dallas Schubert, Susie Kaeser, Deanna Bremer Fisher, Jane Harris, Patti Carlyle, Jan Resseger, Kathy Lawrence, Brian Schaner. Notes by Ari Klein

We started by speaking about what we were hoping for an outcome for the March 5 session:

-Dallas – a method for communicating. Work on the “big picture” not just what is right or wrong with one school or our District.

-Patti – A method to get input from a larger audience by building relationships, perhaps like the listening project used by the Greater Cleveland Congregations, but tailored to our interests.

-Susie – find out who is interested in going further on a policy level.

-Jane – how to connect/bridge local issues to the big picture

-Deanna – Create a manifesto describing what a quality education is, for example we believe that small class size is beneficial to learning. Address from a positive angle. Similar to the Principles that Unite us or the Education Bill of Rights from James Meredith.

-Jane – more discussion (perhaps articles or other books), build community, salons in homes

-Ari – some sort of sustainable organization that wants to continue working together. Perhaps consider affiliating with some other group that has the same goals.

We then discussed a possible mission but did not want to spend time wordsmithing something. So our basic goals are:

- We will define a quality education and won't let our schools and community be labeled as failing.
- We believe that tests inevitably lead to creating a failing label.
- We will identify our assets since we believe tests and other state defined measures concentrate of measuring deficits.

Obviously this will need work, but it was more a statement of overarching goals.

Susie suggested that on March 5 we break into work groups. She defined 4 areas, then Dallas' refined them a little. We decided on the break out groups below for people to choose with the following people initially assigned to facilitate. If someone from within the self-selected groups wants to be the captain that is fine too.

1. Research and Language Framing – Susie

2. Outreach – increasing awareness – Patti

3. Lobbying – push local first – this group may not be active right away, but may work as part of the other 3.

4. Grass roots efforts/actions – for example, but not limited to: teacher appreciation, test score action, etc. – Dallas

Dallas suggested that we will need a steering committee to coordinate the working groups. We did not define the steering committee, but I am guessing that it would consist of reps from the different partners, working group captains, and a smattering of other folks.

We discussed possible affiliations and names. I thought we agreed on the Heights Coalition for Public Education, but Susie emailed me later and suggested a different one. She also suggested we put up a poster board on Wednesday to solicit suggestions.

A draft agenda for Wednesday, March 5:

- Welcome – including asking if anyone has done any of the actions that we came up a month ago
- Overview
- Big picture
- Sub group explanation and split up – hopefully each group will plan their own next meeting
- Come back together
  - -ask are we ready to go forward? Are we on the right track? What are the next steps.

Should there be weekly email updates?

Perhaps there should be a communications chair? Or committee?

Susie will create the agenda

Ari will send out a reminder email to everyone we have an email.

Participating groups should be encouraged to send out a reminder as well.

There was an article in the March Heights Observer