

Multicultural Parent Advisory Committee Meeting
April 23, 2017

RESEARCH ARTICLE: Best Practices in Engaging Diverse Families, Hanover Research -
Published - May 2016

The Committee reviewed 5 key points from the research and discussed how these points apply to School District 7

- 1. Effective engagement of diverse families begins with understanding the local structural, attitudinal, and cultural barriers to their participation:**
 - A. What we do well.**
 - WD7 Multicultural Parent Advisory Committee
 - Teacher Professional Development
 - Padres Unidos
 - Home Visits
 - Understanding Families from Minority Cultures
 - B. Areas of Future Focus**
 - Identify barriers of “minority” minorities & their families

- 2. Diverse families often need basic information about the education system:**
 - A. What we do well.**
 - Padres Unidos
 - Native Language Family Information (Curriculum) Nights
 - Native Language Family/School Orientation Events
 - Bilingual Secretaries & Staff
 - Understanding Families from Minority Cultures
 - B. Areas of Future Focus**
 - Address native language needs beyond Spanish (and some Polish)
 - Host Family Game Night
 - Host Multicultural Events

- 3. Effective districts seek to encourage diverse families’ participation in general as well as in targeted involvement opportunities:**
 - A. What we do well.**
 - WD7 Multicultural Parent Advisory Committee
 - Having translators available
 - Translating written materials
 - Padres Unidos
 - Home Visits
 - Providing babysitting & food for family/parent events
 - Using simplified language
 - Personal phone calls & letters to families

- B. Areas of Future Focus**
 - Professional development for “minority” minority cultures
 - Multicultural events
- 4. Home visits and other programs that take place outside the school build trust and cultural competency:**
 - A. What we do well.**
 - Home visit program (EC = 100% & District 15%)
 - Collaboration with Wood Dale Library
 - Collaboration with City of Wood Dale (Power Hour/Police SRO)
 - B. Areas of Future Focus**
 - Increase home visits among K-8 teachers
- 5. Educators must build cultural competency at both systemic and individual levels:**
 - A. What we do well.**
 - In district professional development (ex: Salsa Dancing Book Study)
 - Building a diverse staff
 - Curriculum & materials reflect diverse population
 - Fine Arts Department - reflects diverse population
 - B. Areas of Future Focus**
 - Identify the unique needs of the individual schools