

Multicultural Parent Advisory Committee Meeting
November 13, 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 WD7

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
- Building Trust
- Transportation

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)
- Encourage PTO/Park District & Other Organizations to Publish Materials in Multiple Languages
- Host a American School - Cultural Orientation Program for Parents
- 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

- Research WD7 Demographic Data and determine the “minority” minority populations we serve.
- Professional development for “minority” minority cultures
- Multicultural Events - Deeper Than Typical (food, dance, dress & customs) Build Understanding using storytelling and experiences.

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

Goals Established for 2017/18

1. Identify the “minority” minority cultures served by WD7.
2. Provide training for staff to build understanding of these cultures.
3. Explore establishing a “school culture” orientation program for parents who come from different cultures.
4. Begin a multicultural program designed to develop a deeper understanding of the various cultures of our community. Integrate school, home, families and community in the learning activities.

Next Meeting Date: April 9, 2018 - 6:30 PM