



SESSION 2 REPORT – SCHOOL PLAN PRIORITIES

NAME OF SCHOOL: PANORAMA HIGH SCHOOL

DATE OF SESSION 2: 10/03/12

NAME OF ORGANIZATION REPORTING: BOYS & GIRLS CLUB/ PADRES ACTIVOS SFV

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL REPORTING IN BEHALF OF THE ORGANIZATION: PATTY LOPEZ

DATE THIS REPORT IS COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED: 10/08/12

This school plan priorities report was created by a combination of feedback provided by participants during small group exercises, share out of individual groups, written feedback provided, and annotated narrative data.

I. Student Performance: Where is the School Now?

During the small group exercise session participants were asked to select and analyze two data points from a pre-assigned section of the LAUSD School Report Card (SRC) and compare the data across school years. The sections of the SRC discussed by the participants were:

Group One: Progress

The Percentage of students scoring at the proficient or advanced level in Math was: for school year

2009- 2010 percentage was: 11%

2010- 2011 percentage was: 14 %

LAUSD average: 16%.

The Percentage of students scoring at the proficient or advanced level in English language Arts was:

- 2009- 2010: 22%
- 2010- 2011: 28%
- LAUSD average of: 37%

Group Two: Student Groupings

The Percentage of students scoring at the proficient or advanced level in English Language Arts was:

- Panorama high School 2009- 2010: 42%
- Panorama high School 2010- 2011 **%

The Percentage of students scoring at the proficient or advanced level in Math was:

- Panorama high School 2009- 2010: 31% ,
- Panorama high School 2010- 2011 **%

Group Three: Readiness for college or career

How many students are graduating in four years?

- Panorama high School 2009- 2010: 43%
- Panorama high School 2010- 2011: 53%
- LAUSD average 2011: 54%

How many students are graduating in four years?

- Of 586 students, 311 students graduated and the goal of the school is to graduate a higher percentage of students than the LAUSD average. WE CAN DO IT!!!
- LAUSD Average: 54 %



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Group Four: Progress

What is the current API Score (The Academic Performance Index maximum is 1000 with a minimum of 200)

- 2010- 2011: 635
- Change from 2009-2010: +34

What is the CST score for English Language and Arts?

- 2010-2011: 28%
- LAUSD Average: 37%
- We needed 9% to reach the goal

Group Five: Learning Environment

What was the suspension rate of one or more suspensions as a consequence of bad discipline?

- Panorama high School 2009- 2010 12%
- Panorama high School 2010- 2011 8%
- LAUSD Average: 6%

How many teachers have taught for at least 3 years?

- Panorama high School 2009- 2010: 59 %
- Panorama high School 2010- 2011: 73 %
- LAUSD Average: 81 %

One participant commented during this share out: "The change in teachers allows us to make a change and development in culture" (participant referring to the school culture)

Group Six: Readiness (duplicate group)

How many students are graduating in four years?

- Panorama high School 2009- 2010: 43%
- Panorama high School 2010- 2011: 53%
- LAUSD average 2011: 54%

Comments

During the activities there were some students who also participated and commented that they would like to see more support especially when they need to make up classes. They expressed that although they were referred to make them up in other adult schools, they cannot go because of transportation. They also commented that when they go to these adult schools, there is a very long list and most of the time they cannot register and for this reason it would be most convenient for these to be offered in the same school.

II. School Plan Priorities Brainstorm

During this exercise, participants were asked to identify priorities that would help Panorama High school meet it's of vision of student success. The feedback provided through written data collected was grouped into the following themes:

Student Support

- When the counselors give the students their classes that they make sure that they are not making students repeat the same classes.
- Better teachers, counselors and school staff who are not racist.



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- Improve the services offered by counselors when parents come to see them. They should be ready to receive the parents or to at least to offer an appointment.
- Offer more make-up classes in the school for students who need to make up subjects such as History, Biology, English, Math, etc.

School Safety

- Security inside and outside of the school and more supervision.
- To have more control and discipline for students who come late to school.
- Have motivational classes for students.

Data

- School Performance? How is the school performing at this moment?
- What does the school data and the data regarding student needs say? What does the data regarding the needs of the student groups tell us?
- What does the data tell us regarding what we should focus on in the schools?
- Where can we see the best academic advancement?

Parenting classes

- English classes for adults in order to better help our children and computing.
- English and resources for our families.

III. School Priorities that Lead to a High Performing Community of Learning

The participants shared out their main priorities and had several comments as they shared during the activity. These priorities discussed by parents were as follows:

Capable counselors

In numerous instances the parents provided feedback and comments about the school requiring counselors that are on top of the needs of the students and able to assign students the appropriate classes required for graduation and college preparedness. One parent commented that he lost two days of work trying to communicate with the student's counselor and find a solution in the student's best interest. In the end the parent noted that he was unable to find a resolution with the counselor thus losing days of work. Parents commented about the need to have better communication systems to reach the counselors and obtain needed information about their student's performance.

Safety

The parents advocated for better supervision both inside and outside of the school grounds. High use of drugs and students ditching school was stated to be a challenge that affected the school community.. Several parents shared their frustrations of witnessing and reporting students skipping school. Seeing that the school takes no action when groups up to 8 students are caught ditching, the parents contact police. . Parents commented that areas around the school site, especially around a bridge that is located in Van Nuys and Saticoy, pose dangers and risks for the students. Spaced like the bridge were said to be places where students go to skip school and do other things.

Academic proficiency and graduation

Parents commented that the school can be better. When they compared the LAUSD four year graduation average versus the four year graduation rate at Panorama High School, parents commented that they are not satisfied with the current graduation rate and expect the rate to be higher than the



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District average. Parents commented that they want to volunteer and work with the school so that the students achieve better grades, have the correct courses, and are prevented from falling behind. One mother commented that she did not mind losing time off work to ensure that her child has the adequate courses and not be affected and see that the student graduates on time.

The following recommendation and feedback for the Planning Team were written and submitted in an 8-page document separately at the end of the session by a participant. This document was condensed into the following comments/recommendations of what the school needs or what needs to happen for the school to succeed:

1. Fun classes that motivate students with field trips to educational and fun places.
2. Programs that help the students learn and enrich their needs.
3. Create working teams inside the classrooms so that students can learn to socialize.
4. Organize classroom visits with parents, staff and school district once a week. In this way, students will see an interest and an involvement in their education.
5. It is necessary to train administrative staff on how to better treat parents and students. One way of motivating the administrative staff is to recognize them at the end of the school cycle for their great service of the client (parents and students).
6. The school should have more responsibility and safety to prevent accidents that happen inside the school due to the deaths of many students because of excessive drug use, excessive exercise without knowing medical conditions of the students or unforeseen falls etc. The security staff needs to make supervisory runs more frequently to the restrooms, the gym or areas where youth hide to prevent student abuse or alcohol and drug consumption. Please, this is urgent.
7. Organize cultural events so that students will be exposed to different cultures and customs.
8. Organize social Fridays in each classroom where there is open communication to express concerns, and needs, incentivizing dialogue between students so that they can get to know each other better.
9. It is necessary to train parents with workshops on learning and leadership to help support with decisions related to academic instruction. When something is not functioning or there is bad conduct from an administrator, teacher, student or parent, it is important to solve the problem and not to punish the parent.
10. We parents ask for programs and support staff in order to have more security inside and outside the school. Our concern is for safety because parents have seen many cases where students are doing drugs and there is no supervision.
11. Recognize teachers, administrators and parents for the effort and help in improving the future of our youth.
12. Administer surveys every trimester of the students and parents to evaluate school function and have meetings to analyze the results.
13. We need the principal to establish a box in the office and in the cafeteria where anonymous complaints by the students, parents and teachers can express and denounce threats and delinquency.
14. In the case of suspensions, it is necessary not to judge a student before investigating the situation. We parents teach our children good habits and good conduct so that they will respect the school and the teachers.
15. The parents have to be conscious and understand the hard work of the teachers because it is not easy to educate 20 or 30 students at a time. It is necessary to establish consequences for students who do not follow the rules of the school. Parents have to help speak clearly with our children regarding conduct inside and outside the school.



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Session 2 Report – Dialogues with Planning Teams

NAME OF SCHOOL: PANORAMA HIGH SCHOOL

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Dialogue One – Dialogue between first Planning Team and participants

There was only one team for this school. The team presenters included the school Principal Mr. De La Torre and other school staff. The team shared the school top priorities in which the school plan is going to focus:

1. Raise attendance
2. Lower suspension
3. Raise students to proficient in CST
4. Raise CHASEE scores
5. Raise parent involvement

The planning team shared comments throughout the presentation that included how the school has showed great improvements but have not met some standards. More comments from the team included how the school:

- Has been moving students from below basic to basic,
- Has lower suspensions, and raised attendance.
- Safety has been improving.
- Is targeting Algebra I and II

The presenters also shared that the school provides the following programs/strategies:

- Assist 9th graders with tutoring, and those that need the greatest help will be sent parent conference meetings. Conferences will discuss strategies that can be used and what can be improved.
- A.V.I.D. is a program that gets students motivated to get into a 4 year college of their choice, more involvement like career speakers and fieldtrips.

The team also shared that: “We’ve been analyzing students and strategies for a long time. How they learn? What ways are the lectures being taught? We’re trying to improve it.”

The following part of the session was the questions and answers portion through a dialogue format. The following were the questions/comments from participants and the responses from the planning team:

Participant comment/Question: I would like to know if the school staff can include having students continue working with the same cohort of teachers from the 9th grade through the 12th grade.

Response: We have four academies divided by grade. The teachers will be getting a better connection by communicating with each other. The reason we can’t do that (cohort system) is because we are in small learning community working with each other for the purpose to get to know the students, which is stronger than having the student following the teacher throughout.



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Participant comment/Question: I would like to know why my son is repeating the same course again, is it because he did not pass the first time? The counselor gave my son this course again.

Response: They need to take an exam to pass the class. If the student passes the EOC and the CST is at proficient or above then he/she is promoted.

Participant comment/Question: We would like for the counselors to pay more attention to the students when they ask for help.

Response: We need as parents to make sure that our children are meeting their goals. I believe we need a new strategy. So that the counselors help us help our children. The Principal stated that his main priorities in the PSC school plan is to strengthen the relationship between the school and the home.

Participant comment/Question: A father asked the administration if they had a plan regarding drug prevention and how they go about this issue. On several occasions he has seen students using drugs and the officials see this and do not say anything when this is happening right in front of the school.

Response: The principal said that they are educators and not the police. If parents call police, they will get the call quicker. If you call us then we can also relay the call.

A different participant comment in response to the Principal's answer: "This is where parent volunteers would be a strong partner for the school site."

Another participant followed up with a comment/Question: Kids are always around smoking, doing drugs, and just hanging out. There's no one to stop them.

Response: We need more security. We'll try to act as fast as we can. We're not the police or wardens. We're here to educate but please call.

Participant comment/Question: I would want to share something. To me it's personally sad that there are so many parents that didn't show up today.

Response: We sent invitations to all parents.

Participants commented about this question as follows: We have been part of this community/school for years. We feel that it would have been better to have this meeting on Saturday to increase participation.

Participant comment/Question: The teaching/school is good (meaning good quality). One of the reasons for the students being low academically is because the parents do not come (meaning being engaged with the school). This participant followed up with an example stating that "this is just like an athlete needing to be surrounded by a team to ensure he/she meets her goals.

Response: We can do this if we come together. Sometimes we [school staff and teachers] can't make all the decisions we need input from others.

Participant comment/Question:

I think the way to participate in the plan is to develop plans for parents and teachers. Those students who have low grades end up repeating.

Response: Sometimes they [school staff and teachers] can't make all the decisions. There's no bad school, only unorganized staff. We can do this if we come together.

Participant comment/Question: We need as parents to make sure that our children are meeting their goals. I believe we need a new strategy so that the counselors help us help our children.



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Another participant added: My priorities are mainly about the teachers. More teachers providing tutoring and more security.

Participant comment/Question:

If we all act together we can prevent a culture of drug use and violence from continuing to develop at this school. As a parent, I have called the police to report incidents of students ditching school and using drugs. We all need to cooperate in some way or another. They [the school] need to show the other kids that the school is always under watch. No matter what gender they might be they are at great risks and need our support. Before other people provide them (the students) with wrong information in regards to delicate topics, which it's hard for us parents to talk about, we need to find the right information or get a professional to inform our children. Our children are precious to us and we respect their ideas and decisions.

Response: Teachers and Administration need to work together to decrease violence and bullying in the school. Believe me when I say that when youth hit the teen years it's one of the hardest stages to make good decisions. They tend to lose themselves that is why we need to be responsible and oversee what is best for our children. Preventing violence must come from within and outside of the school. We are willing to work with the community and you, the parents to see that violence, drugs and bullying are prevented.

Participant comment/Question:

Another mother commented that she always sees various students in the morning that do not enter the school and are roaming in the public bus and that she herself has reported this situation to the police where there have been as many as 8 students in this roaming group.

Response: The principal commented that they are educators and not the police and there is nothing they can do outside of the school. Although the school is not the police entity, the administration is willing to work with the community and the parents to prevent students from wasting their days outside of school when they should be in school. The principal asked the parents to communicate with the administration or the police when they see students outside of school during school hours.

Participant comment/Question:

Parents commented that there is a need to improve the services provided by the counselors and asked if the plan had anything included about this concern)

Response: The School Principal told them that he would be having a meeting with the counselors and parents. He also said that for the next meeting: "You can tell me if you have seen any positive changes or not".

Principal comment: The School Principal thanked the parents' participation and told them that it was a bit late already but if they would like to, they could continue the conversation during the week, and he also shared that he would be available to listen to suggestion and opinions.

Themes that were captured during the dialogue included:

1. Parents continued to stress that the school had to work together with them to help improve things such as attendance and state test scores.
2. The overwhelming concern from the participants dealt with one issue, student safety. It was mainly about what the students did outside of school and what they would do to get out of



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school in general. Many parents had the same story; they would call the cops or school on many occasions because they kept seeing kids smoking, doing drugs, or just not in school when they're supposed to be. They felt as if that played a major role in low score, attendance, and suspension.