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Strong Parent and School Partnership Overview-

Recommendations and Overview of Report from Kara Georgi, Alliance National Parent Partnership Council Co-Chair, NYS Community Café Parent Leader

The following information came from a presentation Kara put together. The overview encompasses the key take-aways. It answers the questions of how, when, why of engaging parents and families.

How do we get started engaging parents in the school? Ask parents what they want and need from your PTA programs. Ask parents questions that show you are interested about their needs and care about them, such as, "What's hard about parenting?" Ask parents how you can create a more welcoming place for parents and families that makes them feel comfortable to seek advice and help. Ask how you can reach and support families who may be overwhelmed, stressed or isolated. Inquire about how to make it easier for families to connect with each other. Let families know that you want to improve and their input is essential to do that.

So, when do you approach or ask parents to become involved? The simple answer is, anytime there is an opportunity, even if it was previously a no. Approach when families need support, a light at the end of the tunnel. Squeaky wheel parents are ideal candidates. Ask when you have time to really listen. Also ask for help from other parents when you need help and are overwhelmed and stressed.

What else besides the National Six Standards of Welcoming All Families; Communicating Effectively; Supporting Student Success; Speaking Up for Every Child; Sharing Power; and Collaborating with Community can you do for parents? Think what is the minimum you are or can be doing? Think what is the maximum you can be doing? What tools can you use? Keep the Family at the center of any program because the family is the center of a child's world and gives you a holistic view of how to support and strengthen engagement. When families are highly involved, it almost doubles the positive odds for the child in health, education and social-emotional development.

So why do parents get involved? Parents get involved when an issue is important to them and their families. Parents participate when they feel they can contribute. They will get involved when they believe they will be listened to and that their contributions will be respected. Lastly, parents participate when their participation can make a difference. Parents STAY involved and engaged when they are listened to and their ideas are supported and they do not experience any retribution as a result of their participation. They stay involved when their contribution is consciously and visibly appreciated and has impact. See below under vendors, for additional tools and resources that you can use to develop engagement programs.

Snippets of Advocacy for Family Engagement- *NYS PTA continues fighting for pre-K and full-day kindergarten for all and for meaningful family engagement. NYS PTA held a successful Family*

Engagement Conference for the second year. In December a new conference was launched -Supporting the Whole Child: A focus on student mental health, with partner Go Guardian.

A New Twist to Build Social Emotional IQ and Self Esteem -

For parents wanting to engage their child(ren) in writing or who want to boost their child's self esteem and social emotional IQ, giving them a prompt that connects them to an emotion or a vision or goal for the future can be helpful. Renee McRae, who has worked with students through NYC DOE for 18years, suggests a twist - have them write in a rhyme, making it fun for even resistant students.

A prompt such as, "You think you know me but you don't know..." can elicit all kinds of responses and give a parent or teacher huge clues as to what is going on inside the student. Further, it introduces a more accessible way for the student to express themselves. Poetry that is non-threatening is fun. Rhyme also lets them express frustration. It might look something like this, "You think you know me, but you don't know that I cry myself to sleep at night. I want to be the best, but sometimes it seems far out of sight.... And so on." Writing poetry gives them an outlet, sparks creativity and can build self-esteem. There is a link below in **Resources** if you would like to see programs that can be brought to your school or for more ideas for building social emotional IQ.

Family Engagement Affiliate Vendors-part 2

Go Guardian- GoGuardian supports a safe and engaging online learning experience in K-12 classrooms. With a suite that includes filtering, classroom management, suicide prevention, and device monitoring, 7 million+ students benefit from this one on one solution. This includes YouTube Filtering, online monitoring and actionable notifications. This like other technology programs could be part of a family engagement program educating parents and students about safe online usage.

Passport for Good-is a platform that chronicles and quantifies the positive impact of community service for individuals and organizations. It is a mobile or web- based app that schools, students and organizations can use to verify and record their experiences in a clear and concise format. Each user can chronicle his or her personal journey in the community, digitally stamping their passports for each community. The data is added to the digital a passport.

TechXtend Education Solutions- Focuses on impact technologies in the areas of assistive technology for individuals with disabilities, character development, curriculum development, school safety, STEM and other educational hardware and software products.

Awards and Grants-

Link for Innovative Teacher

Grant-<https://nyspta.org/home/pta-leaders/awards-and-recognitions/givingtuesday-funding-teacher-grant/>

- Jenkins Memorial Scholarship Award -due Dec. 15, 2019
- Youth Humanitarian Award in Memory Stanley Marcus-January 31, 2020

Key Dates to Remember-

- Advancing Artwork for Reflections Drop off – Dec 6 at Seneca Middle School from 5-9 pm
- Advancing Artwork for Reflections Drop off- Dec 7- at West Babylon HS from 9 am-1 pm
- NYSPTA GOGuardian Mental Health Conference- Dec 10, 2019 Albany New York, The Desmond
- President and Principals Dinner- January 16, 2020 -Villa Lombardi's Holbrook- REGISTER BY DEC 16
- Winter Break-Dec.23, 2019- Jan.4, 2020
- Winter Workshops-February 6, 2020

Family Engagement Theme for DEC2019/Jan2020-

- December 5, 2020- International Volunteer Day
- January is National Mentoring Month

Important Advocacy Calendar Notes- Dec/Jan

December –

- Send out holiday greeting cards to your legislators and invite to holiday concert
- Send out Press Releases to Local Media for PTA events you are holding
- Invite your legislator and local business people to your PTA meeting

January-

- Write a personal note-mail or email NYS PTA budget analysis to your legislators
- Give NYS PTA budget analysis to your school district officials
- Invite local legislators to a PTA activity (Town Supervisor Village Mayor)
- Begin work if planning on submitting a resolution to NYS PTA

RESOURCES and LINKS-

www.Poetic Motivations.com- Renee McRae 646-8987907- Social Emotional IQ programs using creativity and poetry as a springboard for building self-esteem.

Board of Regents Chancellor and Interim-State Education

Commissioner- Betty Rosa statement on Governor Cuomo's State of the State address- link-

<http://www.nysed.gov/news/2020/statement-board-regents-chancellor-betty-rosa-and-interim-state-education-commissioner>

A *NEW* Resource for Parents and PTA on pertinent topics is PTA.org's new *Notes from the Backpack podcast*.
<https://www.pta.org/center-for-family-engagement/notes-from-the-backpack> topics range across the grade levels from elementary to High School.- check out the episode-"Confident Parents-Confident Kids"

Child's Plan-Improving the Social and Emotional Wellbeing of New York's Children and Their Families

https://www.ccf.ny.gov/files/5013/7962/7099/childrens_plan.pdf

Apps for building Resilience in Children and Adults-

Pacifica Stress and Anxiety -4.4stars

Mindfulness Coach-gives tools for getting to sleep- 4.6 stars

HappiMe- 5.0 Stars- free and in app purchases

6 phase meditation- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gRhrdm_1afQ

SEPTA-

Accessibility Service- Going on an excursion or day trip to local New York historic sites, Adventure parks, State and Local Parks, Museums? Wonder if they are Accessible for mobility challenges? Check out Destination Accessible to know before you go. This is a free service to make your trip more fun and enjoyable.

www.destinationaccessible.com

or call 917693-3420

<https://www.learning-styles-online.com/overview/>

<https://www.developgoodhabits.com/good-study-routine/>

Other Resources-

NYSED updated ESSA website:

<http://www.nysed.gov/news/2018/state-education-department-announces-updated-resources-every-student-succeeds-act>

Parent Partnership Kit-

<https://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/parentpower/booklet.pdf>

Link to PTA Leadership webinars-

<https://nyspta.org/home/pta-leaders/trainingmaterials-webinars/>

Parent Workshop toolkit link-

<https://www.engageny.org/resource/planning-a-parent-workshop-toolkit-for-parent-engagement>

Link to Common Core Standards-

<http://corestandards.org/the-standards>

Prevent Opioid abuse

<https://www.operationprevention.com/#about>

New ESSA website and explanatory letter:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/#inbox/FMfcgxwBTsXXqxCRwWHpSPdTOJSttFdJ>