

Volunteering Collaboration Notes

November 14, 2018

To begin the meeting Mrs. Cutler introduced the 7 Norms of Collaboration. She asked everyone in attendance to choose one to focus on. A copy of the 7 Norms of Collaboration is at the end of this.

Identifying the problem: As seen by those in attendance.

*The school needs volunteers and we are trying to increase involvement by incentivizing them. Most charter schools have a requirement to volunteer so many hours a year or to pay a certain amount of money each year. When our school was formed, 15 years ago, Charter schools were still so new that volunteers were abundant and so it wasn't written into our charter to make volunteering a requirement. Since then, volunteering has faded.

*Our kids are being "punished" for lack of parent involvement. But we do need more help.

*How does donations count toward volunteering?

*We can't put a price on hours. There are different kinds of parents. 1)The kind you can always count on coming. 2)The ones who stepped up so their kids could have the free dress day. 3) The ones that can't come to the school during the day but still want to help. 4)And some that aren't interested in helping.

*It's isn't a punishment to have earned the free dress day or not. What really matters is filling the needs of the school. Is what we are doing really important and helpful to the school and teachers?

*Communication: it's hard to track the hours, donations, at home things, etc.

Ideas to solve the problem:

*Make it all a "WE" thing. So we set a goal for each month that is relevant to what is happening, so we know how much time we need helping out, and how many donations and monetary things are needed. Then we work all together to reach the goal so everyone gets the free dress day.

*We need to know what is really needed at the school. Ask the teachers to allow parents to help more. Send more things home, ask for donations, have parents come in to make copies or just walk the room to keep kids on task.

*Get donations to give away to the volunteers. Each time you volunteer or donate, you'll be entered into a drawing to win something great!

*Keep a running total and post in the newsletter so everyone know how close we are to our goal.

After discussing we decided on 4 things.

1. Starting after November's cut off date, it will be "WE", it's everyone gets a free dress day or no one does.

2. We will use a google doc to keep track of volunteering. This way you can clock in at the school, at home, and when donating things.
3. We will establish a school goal depending on the actual needs of our school.
4. There will be a list or Sign up Genius for all the ways parents can help out.

If you have any questions about this, please contact the SPO. independencespo@2summit.org