TEACHERS VOICE: How Unions Support Community School Initiatives

• Roberta Hantgan, Senior Policy Analyst, National Education Association
• Keith Gambill, President, Evansville Teachers Association
• Shital Shah, Assistant Director, Educational Issues, American Federation of Teachers
• Julie Sellers, President, Cincinnati Federation of Teachers

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AGENDA

Introductions from the Coalition

Union Support for Community Schools at the National Level

Local Examples

Questions and Answers
WHAT IS A COMMUNITY SCHOOL?
COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

A Collaborative Leadership Structure for Community Schools

COMMUNITY-WIDE LEADERSHIP
Key Roles: Vision, Policy, Resource Alignment

SCHOOL-SITE LEADERSHIP
Key Roles: Planning and Implementation

INTERMEDIARY LEADERSHIP
Key Roles: Planning, Coordination, and Management

Key System Functions:
- Results-Based Vision
- Data and Evaluation
- Finance and Resource Development
- Alignment and Integration
- Supportive Policy and Practice
- Professional Development and Technical Assistance
- Community Engagement

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IEL
Institute for Educational Leadership
Because Every Child Deserves Every Chance
NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Roberta Hantgan
Senior Policy Analyst
Priority Schools Campaign
National Education Association
NEA – WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

• In an environment where resources are decreasing, programs that attend to students’ vital, non-academic programs are often the first to get cut;

• Community Schools offer a strategy to efficiently arrange already-existing services in a community – medical, social, nutrition, out-of-school activities – aligning them with the academic needs of the student;

• When NEA members and leaders are at the table promoting efficiency of these services, all students have the opportunity to learn; and

• when non-academic needs are attended to, we, the educators can do what we have been trained to do best – teach

• True education reform requires informed leadership and partnerships based on the realities and circumstances that young people face both within and outside of the schools walls

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COMMUNITY SCHOOLS & THE NEA AGENDA

• Equity and Social Justice

• NEA’s Reform Agenda
  • Priority Schools Campaign
  • Teachers Leading the Profession
NEA’S SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS IN THE FUTURE

• Continue to be a supportive voice in Coalition with other national stakeholders
• Continue to elevate examples of excellence where our affiliates are at the table locally making change happen
• Continue to inspire replication of excellence
• Seed new activity that places community schools as an agent of change and a strategy of meeting the multiple needs of all learners
NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Shital Shah
Assistant Director
Education Issues
American Federation of Teachers
AFT’S QUALITY AGENDA & COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Teacher Development and Evaluation
Curricula

Community Schools—Schools as the hub of a neighborhood
Collaboration
Community

www.aft.org/newspubs/press/qualityagenda.cfm
AFT EXPANDING & DEEPENING CS WORK ACROSS THE NATION

- CS resolution passed at 2010 AFT National Convention
- Connecting locals to existing cs initiatives in their districts
- Conducting CS 101
- Working with State Union Federations
- Working with AFT State Education Issue Coordinators on determining how best to spread the word, implement, partner around community schools
- Creating an AFT CS Taskforce, made up of local and state AFT leaders
EXAMPLES OF LOCAL WORK

- McDowell County, WV - http://www.reconnectingmcdowell.org/
- Cincinnati, OH - http://clcinstitute.org/
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS AN INTEGRAL COMPONENT OF AFT’S REFORM AGENDA

• Why the AFT Supports Community Schools

• AFT’s work supporting Community Schools
  ▪ New York City
  ▪ McDowell County, West Virginia

Additional resources:
http://www.aft.org/issues/schoolreform/commschools/index.cfm
LOCAL EXAMPLES

Julie Sellers
President
Cincinnati Federation of Teachers
CINCINNATI COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

- CLCs provide programming during and beyond the school day and year round, including after school and summer enrichment, integrated and comprehensive health services, adult education, early childhood education, college access, parent/family engagement, mentoring and tutoring; although unique partnerships are customized to each site.

- Since implementing the community schools strategy, some results that the Cincinnati’s CLC’s have seen are: the city is first urban district in Ohio to receive an “effective” rating and is the highest performing urban district in Ohio.

- High school graduation rates have climbed from 51% in 2000 to 83% in 2009.

- Achievement gaps between African-American and white students narrowed from 14.5 percent in 2003 to 1.2 percent in 2010.
ETHEL TAYLOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: 2011 NATIONAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE WINNER

- Met AYP: rose from the ranking “Academic Emergency” to “Continuous Improvement” on its Ohio Report Card in 2009-2010 school year
- State performance index rating increased from 61.2 to 69.7
- 42.4% increase in the numbers of students scoring “Proficient” or higher on the Ohio Achievement Assessment
- Attendance increased from 93.8% in 2008-2009 to 97.3% in 2009-2010. Behavioral incidents decreased from 309 in 2008-2009 to 94 in 2009-2010
- 85% of our students had a parent engaged in their education, up from 40%
- Parent volunteers increased over 100%; Parent attendance at parent teacher conferences increased from 40% in 2009 to 85% in 2010; and parent volunteers doubled
- Community volunteers increased over 100% (from 36 to 788)

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LOCAL EXAMPLES

Keith Gambill
President
Evansville Teachers Association
EVSC Fast Facts
- Third largest school corporation in the state of Indiana
- Largest transportation system in Southwestern Indiana
- District size: 241 square miles
- District type: Urban, suburban, and rural
- Fourth largest employer in Southwestern Indiana
- 3,000+ employees
- 38 schools
- 4 PreK programs (3rd opening Fall 2011)
- 4 K-8 Schools
- 5 Specialized schools: New Tech Institute; Early College High School; Virtual Academy; STEM Academy; Academy for Innovative Studies
- 1 Career and Technical Center – Southern Indiana Career and Technical Center (for students from five counties)

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- Unified association with the Indiana State Teachers Association and the National Education Association
- 100 years of service
- Near 90% voluntary membership
- Exclusive bargaining agent
- Provides teacher lead professional development, Teacher Scholarships for outside professional development and a Peer to Peer release program
- Member of NEA’s Priority School Campaign
The Center for Family, School, and Community Partnerships

- Houses services to help students and families
- Services are identified and provided to students and their families to overcome barriers which prevent children from being successful.
- Focused on building a foundation for families that will support learning.

Services located at the Center

- Family Support Services
- Student Support Services
- Afterschool and summer programs
- Health Services and Coordinated School Health
- Extended Day Center Program
- Southwest Indiana College Access Network (SICAN)
- School-Community Council

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School Community Council

- Committees include:
  After Schools Programs (21st Century)
  Health and Wellness
    Nutrition/Physical Activity
    Social/Emotional (RTI)
    Asthma/Allergy (high absenteeism)
  Communication
  Evaluation

- Leadership Advisory Council includes an Association representative

- Over 90 partnerships with community supporters

- “Big Table” meetings with all partners to share what is taking place in schools and community

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Union Assistance
Our mission how to get to YES

-Bargained contract language for after school programs including; pay, hours, responsibilities, application process (i.e. Title I programs) additional language for summer school programs

-Grant writing including assisting in the writing process to secure grant and contract are in compliance, signing off on grants as needed or writing a letter of Association support of the grant.
Highlights

-Westbrook Revolution

-NEA Priority Schools assistance with Community Garden and Breakfast in the Classroom

-Health Clinic

-Family Engagement Policy

-Second year of a 2.5 million dollar Full-Service Community School Grant

-Supported more than 550 students with attendance issues, transitioned 69 students from the Department of Corrections, assisted with 500 work permits, aided nearly 400 homeless students including 45 homeless pregnant teens

-Increased the number of children served in Early Childhood education

-Provided support for 2 summer camps; one for children with Autism and one for students with Asthma

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Struggles

-Contract issues, teacher responsibilities, hours, salary have all been bargained and are NOT a struggle in our work.

-Partners with hidden agendas

-Matching partner resources to student needs and vice-a-versa - community is starting to partner resources together

-Programs in search of a problem
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

http://www.communityschools.org/leadership/unions.aspx

http://www.aft.org/issues/schoolreform/commschools/index.cfm

http://www.neapriorityschools.org
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