Community Schools

OUR CHILDREN, OUR CHARGE
Agenda

• WELCOME!
• Why Community Schools – LouAnn Ross
• What Community Schools Look Like Nationally – LouAnn Ross
• What Implementation Looks Like – Errika Fearbry Jones
• The Application Process – Camara Watkins
• Community Schools Update – LouAnn Ross
• Questions?
What is a Community School?

At their core, Community Schools are effective schools that recognize the importance of meeting nonacademic needs so that students can focus on learning.

Community Schools are a partnership between the District, schools, families, and community resources to holistically support our students.
What is a Community School?

From the PPS Community Schools Policy

• A place and a set of strategic, coordinated and results-focused partnerships among the school and other community resources that promote student achievement, positive conditions for learning and the well-being of families and communities

• Maintains core focus on the children of the school community, while recognizing that children grow up in families, and families are integral parts of communities

• Builds an integrated strategy that enhances academics and student well-being through enrichment, health and social supports, family engagement, and youth and community development

• Is anchored by the work of designated school staff; and

• Provides a base for parent and community advocacy on behalf of children, school and community.
Why Community Schools?

Community Schools are Smart Schools
• Leverage Human Capital by combining historical approaches with existing community based resources on site

Community Schools Build Strong Communities
• Engage communities, recognize parents & families, and work with shared leadership

Community Schools Help Students Learn
• Address outside barriers to learning by providing an array of health & social support within the school
• Teachers feel they are more effective in Community Schools
• Proven to improve student outcomes
Why Community Schools?

• Building on a movement within Pittsburgh that is based on nationally-recognized strategies

• Utilizing strong partnerships – built-in support of District Steering Committee with representation from:

  o Allegheny County Department of Human Services
  o Communities in Schools
  o Early Childhood
  o Education Rights Network
  o Health Department
  o Heinz Endowments
  o Homewood Children’s Village
  o Mayor’s Office
  o One Pittsburgh

  o Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers
  o Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network
  o Pittsburgh Promise
  o School Board
  o Special Education
  o Student Services
  o Superintendent’s Office
  o The Pittsburgh Foundation
The Role of the Steering Committee

The Steering Committee was commissioned by the PPS Community Schools Policy. It is a diverse group of stakeholders who are working to:

• Develop, monitor and implement the formal designation process,
• Assist with partnership development,
• Resolve conflict, and
• Evaluate the District’s Community Schools.
What Are Community Schools

Family League of Baltimore City
Full Service Community Schools Initiative
PPS Community Schools Approach

- District & Community Supported Schools
- Designated Community Schools
- Full Service Community Schools

Phase I of Implementation
PPS Community Schools Approach

District & Community Supported Schools

All PPS Schools will be effective schools that support the overall well-being of students. Support could include:

- High-Functioning Student Assistance Program (SAP)
- Support for Social Workers & Guidance Counselors
- Expanded Nurse Services
- Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)
- Positive Behavioral Intervention & Supports (PBIS)
- Restorative Practices
- Parent Engagement
- Parent School Community Council (PSCC)
- Out of School Time Opportunities

Designated Community Schools

Designated schools will engage broad community organizations to provide intensive support. Schools will have:

- Designation through an application process
- A person responsible for program & service coordination
- Enhanced services based on a needs assessment with students and families
- Transformative parent and community engagement

Full Service Community Schools

Serve as a Hub for the community, in addition to traditional school functions and activities.

- Includes a community needs assessment
- Provides comprehensive services for students, families and community members, which may include:
  - Adult Education
  - Medical/Dental Services

Phase I of Implementation
The Application

The Application is Open!

The PPS Policy states that “formal designation of a Community School shall occur through an application process…” that is managed by a central District Community School Steering Committee.

- Designed by the Committee with input from national Community School best practices

- Goal to understand a school and a school’s interest, readiness, and commitment to the Community School strategy
Application Overview

Sections:

• Identifying information
• Understand the need for a Community School
• Understand the current programming and initial ideas for services
• Stakeholder engagement
• School continuum analysis
• Optional questions
Timeline Overview

Application

• January 26: Application launched
• February 17: Application due
• March 1-10: Site visits

Board Meetings

• March 15: Agenda Review - Schools announced
• March 20: Public Hearing
• March 21: Legislative Meeting

Site Manager Selection

• March – May: Includes interviews at school sites

Implementation

• June: Training for all Community Schools staff
• Summer and Ongoing: School-Based Needs Assessment and Implementation Plan
Community Schools Update

• Held three Steering Committee Meetings to date
• Established three working committees
  • Communications
  • Data & Evaluation
  • Resource Coordination and Development
• Presented to the Principals and other school leadership at the January Leading and Learning Institute meeting
• Launched the application process
• Presented to Milliones University Prep staff
• Presented to Beechwood Elementary Parent School Community Council
• Met with the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Education
• Received our first application yesterday!
Q&A