



# SAN RAFAEL COMMUNITY SCHOOLS INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING

November 14, 2016

# San Rafael Community Schools Initiative Partnership Council Meeting

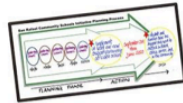
November 14, 2016

## AGENDA

11:00

### Gather; Lunch

- Welcome and Overview Introductions
- Small Group Discussions about the San Rafael Community
- Visioning Our Success in 2020
- Process Going Forward Next Steps



2:00

### Close

## MEETING GOALS

- Build excitement about the San Rafael Community Schools Initiative and what is possible for the future of schools and the community in San Rafael
- Launch the Partnership Council as a vehicle to plan for community schools

## GROUND RULES

- Try it on!
- Share air time
- Keep an open mind
- Wear a big hat
- Keep your eyes on the prize

## ROLES

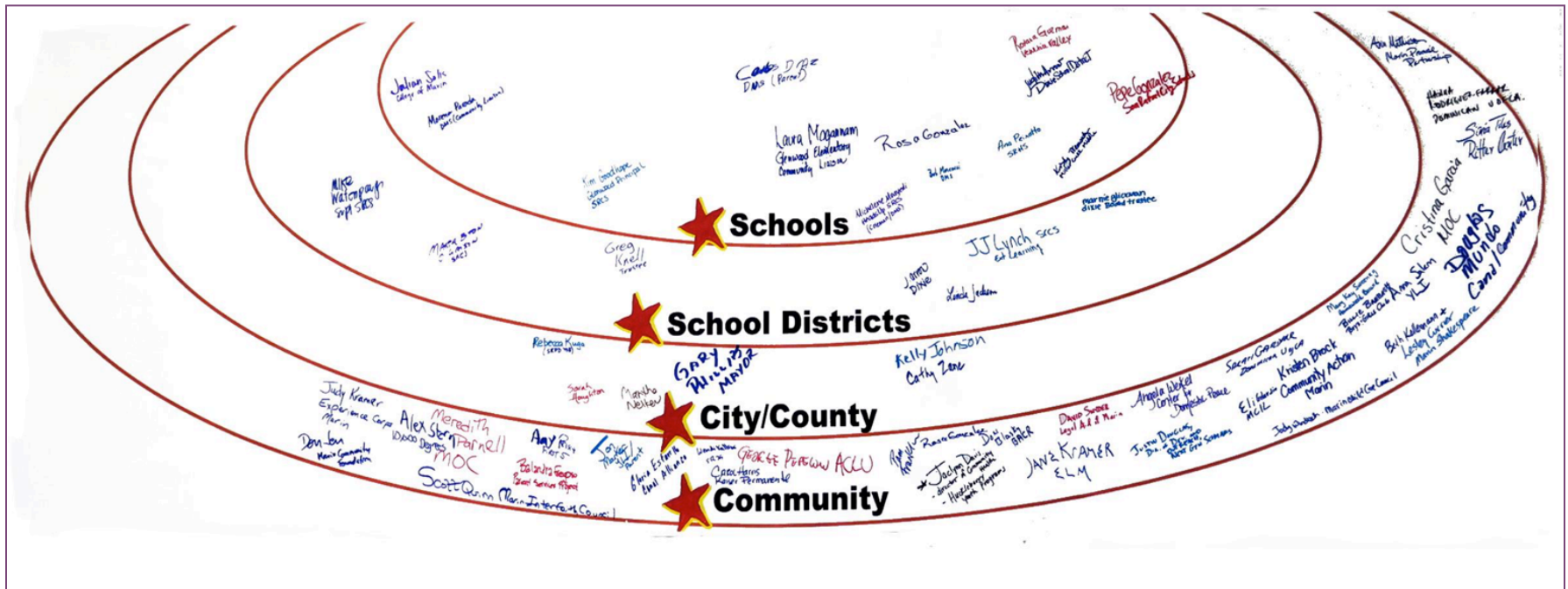
**FACILITATOR:** Manage the overall process support everyone's participation

**RECORDER:** Capture key ideas and phrases; group scribe

**ALTITUDE MONITOR:** Keep us at a high level and out of the weeds

Over 70 individuals representing schools, school districts, the City of San Rafael, Marin County, and community-at-large gathered on Monday, November 14, 2016 to launch the San Rafael Community Schools Initiative. The agenda and meeting goals are shown on this page.

## Who is Here



Attendees were asked to write their name, role and affiliation in appropriate circle. The map illustrated the broad representation of schools, districts, City and County agencies and community stakeholders who participated in this first meeting of the Community Schools Initiative (CSI) Partnership Council.

# WELCOME!

## ★ Mayor Gary Phillips:

① this work is huge - very significant especially now - given elections.

→ pocket books - shifting (ex: Measure A)

② City - very supportive (ex: City libraries)

③ we have to develop very simple messages.



## ★ Sup Michael Watenpaugh

① We wanted a good representation of our City - to improve the lives of children - families

② Post-election: this work is even more important - divisions are going to grow

③ San Rafael - has the ability to grow, come together

④ people in this room have the power to change our community - it's our collective responsibility



## OVERVIEW

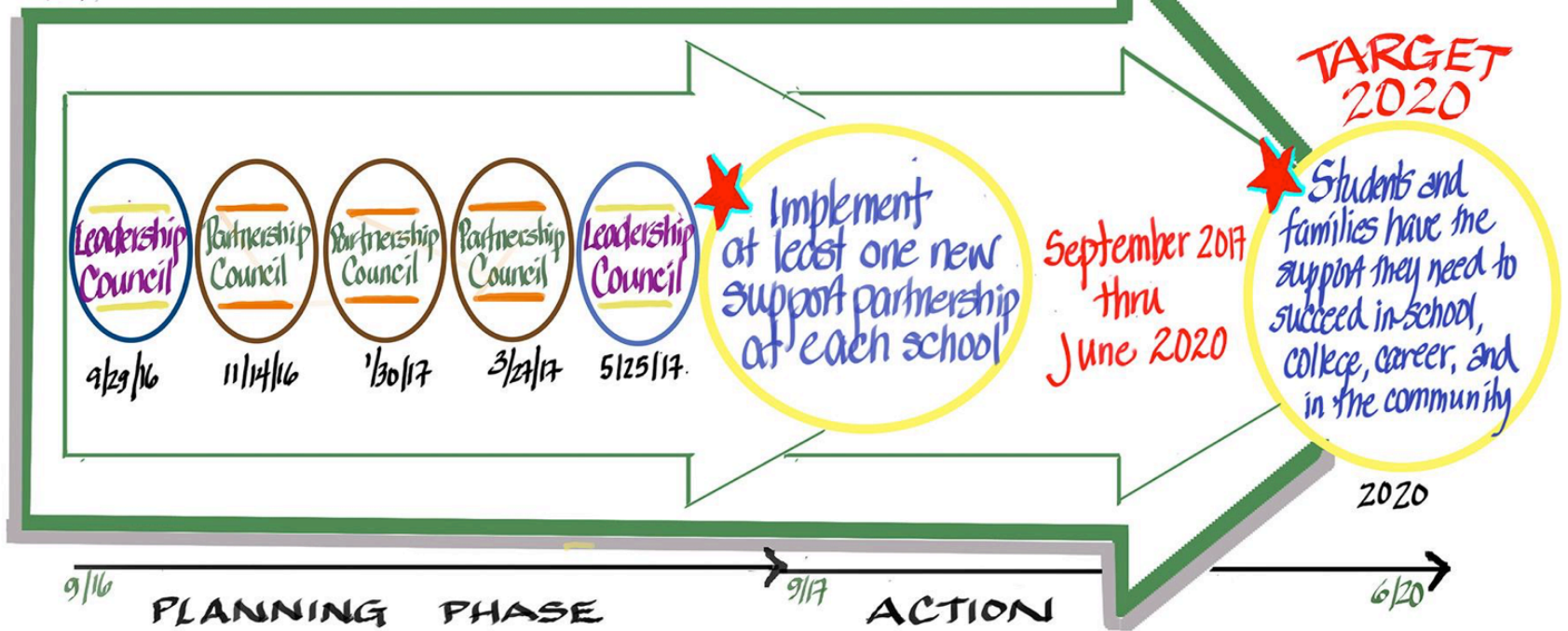
- ① We do our work with coming together as a community for our most vulnerable
- ② definition of a community school - a place and a set of partnerships
- ③ no two community school initiatives look alike - and we will develop ours - what works for us



Gary Phillips, Mayor of San Rafael and Michael Watenpaugh, Superintendent of San Rafael City Schools, welcomed the group. Harriet MacLean, San Rafael City Schools Administrator for Equity, Community Schools, and Restorative Practices provided an overview and background on the San Rafael City Community Schools Initiative.



## San Rafael Community Schools Initiative Planning Process



Ms. MacLean also reviewed the implementation target for 2020, goal for the initial planning phase, and proposed planning process for the three-year initiative.

Beginning in table groups, we identified trends and factors affecting our work to support children and families in San Rafael. Table groups discussed the following topics:

- Student Learning
- Family and Community Engagement
- Housing and Food
- Physical Health
- Mental Health
- Transportation

Representatives from each table wrote highlights of their discussion on the Environmental Scan chart, and then we talked about these trends as a whole group. The results of the discussions are shown on the next two pages.



## Student Learning

Need more monitoring esp for immigrants

- Support ELL of ALL levels (only K-8 now)
- Need - Newcomer programs K-12
- Need - Train teachers to identify PTSD/stress
- We are forgetting about Vietnamese/Thai/Hmong pop. + non-Spanish speaking Latinos
- Local: Not making best use of art for learning
- Life skills/mindfulness in schools
- Overall language/math scores higher here than in state - but large gap for income and people of color
- Economic insecurity leads to limited engagement
- Health/wellness for many students (assume health)
- Need more opp. for early child hood

- CCSS - up in air?
- SEAC uncertainty/accountability?
- Prop 53 + Bilingual programs
- PBL/STEAM +
- Schools help community understand issues -

- Shortage of teachers/SEAs
- Hiring/retaining quality staff
- Charter Sch./Privatization +
- Ed. trend -> lack of patience w/ initiatives
- Ed. trend -> lack of patience w/ initiatives
- Ed. trend -> lack of patience w/ initiatives

(continue)

- Soc/IEP - stewards of this
- L.G.A. - Support for these students necessary
- Pre-K -> max accountability/alignment Pre-K-12
- Alternative to discipline/suspension
- Research on student learning needs to be within in scope
- Respect for diverse learning knowledge/skills

State/national

Overall  
A lot more responsibility on schools  
need CBO's

## Family & Community Engagement

Uncertainty of state/federal funding healthy/social/economic programs

- Very diverse demographics + changing; segregated schools; housing
- Define: What is meant by this? Are there models we can evaluate?
- Many community partners available but not known to all schools (re-invent the wheel each time)
- Reduced school funding for support -> look more to parents, community for this
- Are schools the right hub for this? lots of orgs - not known to each other - may be gaps
- Many community resources but gaps

- Fight for right response of immigrant communities
- Decline of family rituals especially family dinners/decline family engagement dual working parents

STATE OF CA

- Progressive electorate, New Ballot
- Environmental System robot (Hickie bag ban, cigarette tax...)
- Bilingual education
- Growing representation of women/minorities

State/national  
Schools need to be "safe" places for kids + families. And places of connectedness.

## Physical Health

Obesity Issues, Families need to be better informed about healthy choices;

- Socio-emotional concerns - stress for pressure for both academic/physical performance; Socio-economic status makes a difference.
- Poverty + Trauma affects well-being; Limited access to health care; More information needed on sexual health
- Drug + Alcohol Issues; Lack of community wide facilities; Limited understanding about making better decisions
- Fear (real/perceived about being outside) - real/perceived about safety when outside
- There are clubs/committees/clubs/initiatives within the school district + community. However they are not being used as much as could be
- Fund Alliance Boys/Girls Club, Main Promise, etc. / Some of our students have responsibilities (jobs, child care, etc.)
- Ritter Center
- Racial disparity re: teen pregnancy
- Questions re: health insurance
- Think about whole ecosystem of children/families re: health

Funding for sports/recreation outside schools

unequal access to open space

Need for educ re: reprod. health





We have a crisis.

- housing shortage - not enough shelters, transitional housing, affordable housing. It's going to get worse.
- expense beyond people's means
- not building more

This affects children's:

- mental health - fear, stress, shame
- physical health
- safety
- ability to learn/do homework

HOUSING / Social Service Staff / First Responders  
Teachers

Disparity between "haves" and "have nots" is a social justice challenge, and also a learning opportunity for students.

When families lose housing, children's learning can be disrupted, may have to change schools.

Multiple families living under one roof

Can't afford to live in Marin.

State/National

• Trauma-informed practices in schools, hospitals, etc.

• Increase conversation about PTSD

• Increase access to mental health providers, provide on-site care

• Increase access to Spanish-speaking therapists

• Increase connection with public libraries that are currently addressing public health issues with library events.

• Life story-hug

• Support children's transition through middle school & college years.

• Educate school staff about mental health issues.

• Work more intentionally with ESL families

• Modern life is about more transience - support children and families

• Increase dialogue around inter-generational trauma/pre-migration trauma

• Support foster children transitioning back into the community

• Increase dialogue around inter-generational trauma/pre-migration trauma

• Health training

• Comprehensive training for school districts

• Model for students that it is okay to feel

• Develop more protection programs

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• Stigma of getting free lunches/breakfast

• Hunger in schools impacts the students ability to learn

• Lack of quality foods that students would choose to eat

• Lack of kitchens at the sites

• Gardens, wellness programs are emerging

• Food pantries are not easily reached (low in #)

• Lack of education around healthy food choices

• A need for education to build compassion, social justice, and empathy

Food

## Housing & Food

Fear of using certain programs (ex: Cal Fresh)

## Mental Health

• CROSSING ALL FINANCIAL/CULTURAL LINES

• STIGMA OF ASKING FOR HELP/ACCESS TO RESOURCES (BILINGUAL)

• LACK OF KNOWLEDGE SPECIFIC INPATIENT RESOURCES

• MARGINALIZATION OF THOSE SEEKING

lack of language + cultural competency

need support for parents/families

State/National

• K-5 HAS LARGE NEED FOR EVALUATIONS

• MODER TRAINING/PROFESSIONAL NEEDS MORE M.H. ED.

• NEED MORE M.H. ED.

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## Mental Health

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Transportation for **Staff** → **Close Teachers**  
 • Long Commutes... (Car to school to live here)  
 • Traffic/Bridges → Staff resigns  
 • Rain/Traffic causes school closure

Transportation for **Families**  
 • Have to leave so commuting back to town  
 • Traffic in N. San Pedro  
 • Parking in N. San Pedro and Canal  
 • Encourage carpool incentives

Transportation for **Students** → **Low Attendance**  
 • Buses is \$400 - \$100 SR - not avail for HS and JHS  
 • Public Transp - only passes for low income, Unreliable, Crowded, Not convenient times  
 • Transfers not available or convenient (Too much time!)  
 • Safe Routes to School - only helps when students live close to school (walk/bike)  
 • In certain areas - very dangerous



We then time-traveled to 2020 to envision our collective success. In pairs we shared stories about our accomplishments at the Coalition for Community Schools National Forum party, where the San Rafael Community School Initiative was recognized for its outstanding work on behalf of children and families.

Participants wrote some of these accomplishments on post-its and placed them on the chart shown on the following page.





# CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESS IN 2020



At the end of our 2020 storytelling in pairs, participants placed their post-its in the six categories shown above.

## Q & A / Discussion

**Q** Do we weight the categories?  
(we can't do everything)

**A** We will prioritize

Example of collaboration:

SR School-partner w/ CSA (Community Supported Agriculture)  
to provide support: food to families - and help them  
sign up for Cal Fresh

## NEXT STEPS

- look at data, plan our next steps,  
think about our focus/priorities
- compile list of participants -  
contacts + services/programs

After a brief question and answer period, Harriet summarized next steps and reminded the group about two additional Partnership Council meetings on January 30 and March 27th. After thanking everyone for their active participation, input and commitment, we ended the session with a sense of hopefulness about our potential to make authentic improvements in our community.