

SAN RAFAEL COMMUNITY SCHOOLS INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING

November 14, 2016

San Rafael Community Schools Initiative Partnership Council Meeting

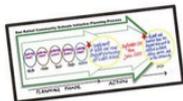
November 14, 2016

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

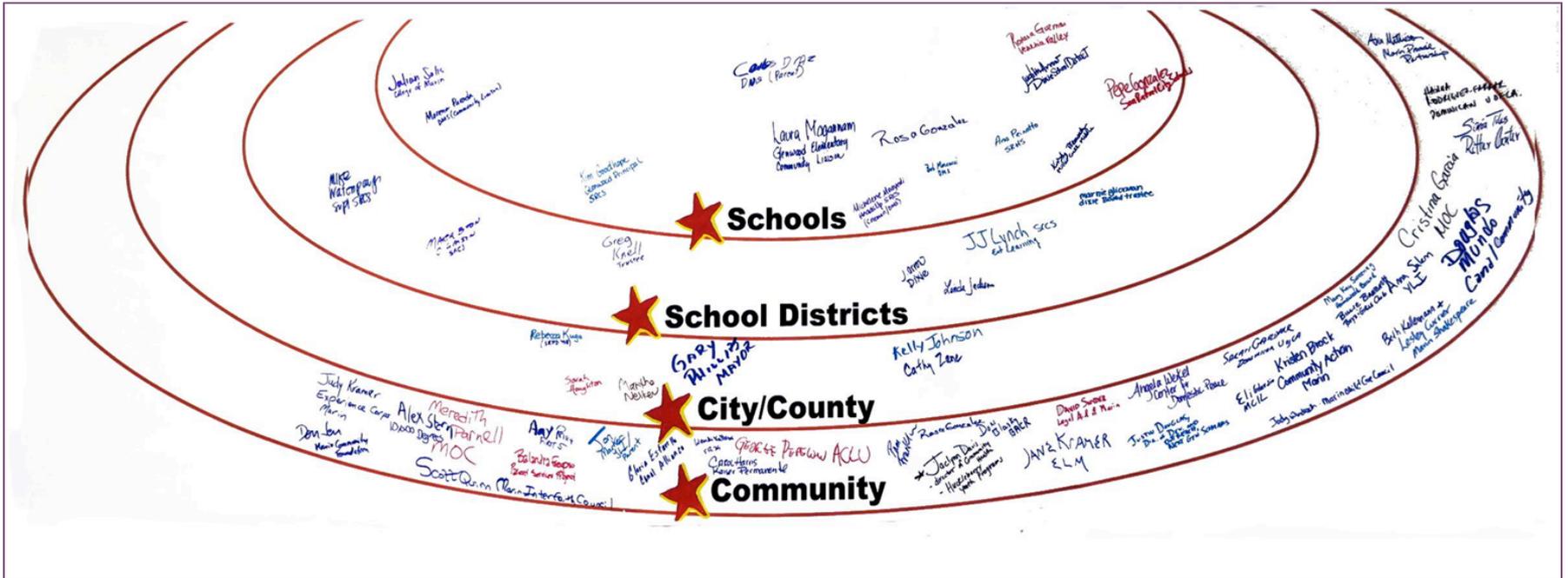
- Try it on!
- Share air time
- Keep an open mind
- Wear a big hat
- Keep your eyes on the prize

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

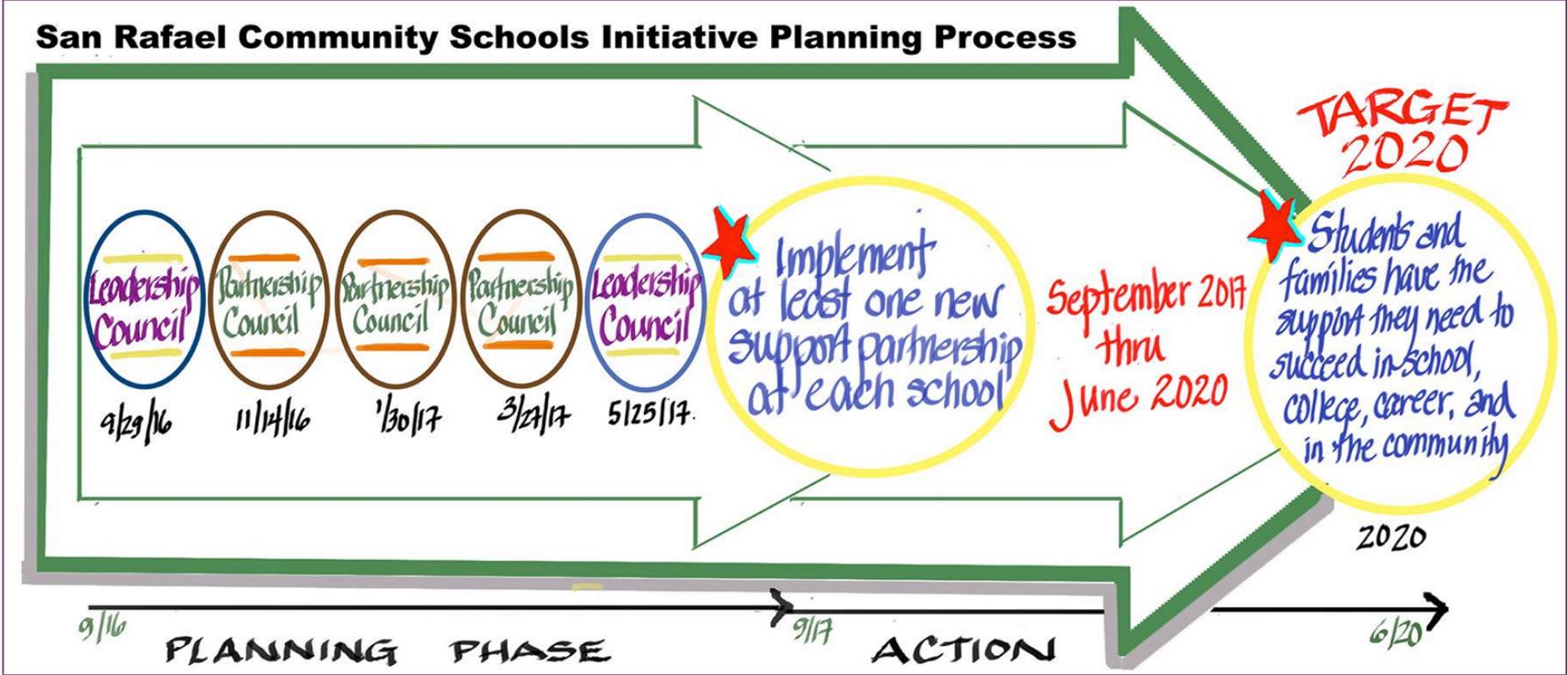


OVERVIEW

- 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.



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

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

- Limited opp. in AVID (30/grade in HS) would like to see it expanded.
 - Income insecurity leads to limited engagement
 - Health/wellness (or) 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/ Subs
 • Hiring/retaining quality staff
 • Charter Sch./Privatization ↑
 • Ed trend → lack of patience w/ initiatives
 • Sot/IEP - stewards of this
 • LGAT A - Support for these students necessary

• Housing impacts teacher retention
 • CCSS → teachers out of class room → sub shortage
 • ↑ mental health needs
 • Pre-K → more accountability/alignment
 • Alternative to discipline/suspension
 • research on student learning needs to be taken in scope
 • respect for diverse learning knowledge skills

Overall: A lot more responsibility on schools need CBO's

state/national

Family & Community Engagement

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

Very diverse demographics more personal relationships segregated schools
 Defines: What is meant by this? Are there models we can emulate?
 Many community partners available but not known to all schools (re-invent the wheel each time)
 Local: 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 or flight response of immigrant communities
 • Decline of family rituals Specifically Family dinners/decline family engagement dual working parents

STATE OF CA
 • Progressive electorate/No Ballot:
 → Environmental System robot (fiscal big 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-economic status makes a difference.

Socio-emotional concerns - stress pressure for both academic / physical performance; Limited access to health care; Mad info/motion needed on sexual health
 Poverty & Trauma affects well-being; Lack of community wide realities; limited understanding about making better decisions
 Drug / Alcohol Issues; 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
 Fundraising: Boys & Girls Club, Main Promise, etc. / Some of our students have responsibilities (jobs, child care, etc)
 Racial disparity re: teen pregnancy
 Questions re: health insurance
 Think about whole ecosystem of children/families re: health

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 childrens' mental health = fear, stress, shame

- physical health
- safety
- ability to learn/do homework

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.

HOUSING Teachers / Social / Service Staff / First Responders

NEEDS

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
- Greater connection with public libraries that are currently addressing public health issues with library events, like story hour.
- Support providers' transition through middle, high school to college years.
- Educate school staff about mental health issues.

- Work more collaboratively with ESL families
- Modern life is about more transiency - support children and families adapt more quickly to change better
- Increase dialogue around inter-generational trauma/pre-migrational migration trauma.
- Support foster children transitioning back into the community
- Increase dialogue around inter-generational trauma/pre-migrational migration trauma.
- Mandated mental health training for school districts
- Comprehensive training for school districts that it is okay to ask for help
- Develop more prevention programs

- 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)

- CROSSING ALL FINANCIAL/CULTURAL LINES
 - STRAIN OF ASKING FOR HELP / ACCESS TO RESOURCES (CALIFORNIA EX)
 - LACK OF KID SPECIFIC INPATIENT RESOURCES
 - MARGINALIZATION OF THOSE WITH LANGUAGE + CULTURAL COMPETENCY
- need support for parents/families
- state/national

Mental Health

* K-5 HAS LARGE NEED FOR EVAL PLACEMENTS

NEEDS MORE TRAINING/PROFESSIONS

NEEDS MORE M.H. ED.

① SAFE SPACES ARE BEING CREATED

need more teacher ed

lack of support for children to deal w/ stress

WHEEL

Transportation for **Staff** → **Leave Teachers** → **Close School**

- Long Commutes... (Car + road to lie back)
- Traffic / Bridges → Staff resigns
- Rain/Traffic causes school closure

Transportation for **Families**

- Have to leave so commuting back to/in traffic
- Traffic in N. San Pedro / Canal
- Parking in N. San Pedro and Canal not in
- Encourage carpool incentives

Transportation for **Students** → **Low Attendance** → **Late to School**

- BVS is \$400 - 11A SR - Not avail for HS and
- Public Transp - only passes for low income, Unreliable, Crowded, Not convenient times
- Safe Routes to School - Transfers not available or convenient (Too much time!) - only helps when students live close to school (walk/bike)

↳ in certain areas - very dangerous

Transportation



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

Student Learning

Students and families have the support they need to succeed in school, college, career and in the community.

Family & Community Engagement

Physical Health

Transportation

Mental Health

Housing/Food

We have leveraged the power of this collaboration to fundraise
We take our model nationally
We have a + impact on the environment
NO MORE NON-PROFIT COMPETITION ↓ COLLABORATION
Wellness Centers
Physical education at all schools
There is a family/health center in every school community where parents can be referred to needed services.

MORE STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION-MAKING AT SCHOOL AND IN THE COMMUNITY

WE CLOSED the achievement gap

Arts infused in elem schools +

More of our kids have a growth mindset and are experiencing academic success

Inclusive Approach to Mental Health integrating organizational funding and human capacities.

School based behavioral health counselors from C.B.O.'s

All school staff trained in trauma-informed care and the impact of trauma on children.
All students have participated in a mindfulness exercise everyday and have a valuable tool to calm themselves and cope in difficult situations.

All H.S. + M.J. school students who's parents opt in can participate in Teen Screen

screening & education about behavioral health and substance abuse for middle schools

FREE BUS PASSES FOR ALL STUDENTS

Google buses for low income kids

Free transportation to all school events + parent meetings Entire family!

Students can engage in learning without worrying about their basic needs being met.

NEW HOUSING FOR TEACHERS & SUPPORT STAFF

4 More low income housing villages (community wide) extended learning programs @unices

In 2016 schools put a stake in the ground about being inclusive safe space for students & families.

There are people of color on every board, committee, city council, commission, etc. throughout MARIN

All kids have access to needed P.E. school

We have organizing committees across the district that bring people from different walks of life that have allowed us to access (utilize) needed resources for people

BOYS + GIRLS CLUB + FIELDS AT PARK BY PICANTE IN CANAL NEIGHBORHOOD

AFTER-SCHOOL POTLUCK = CONVERSATION OF YOUTH & ADULTS

Help families with financial literacy

Providing a safe space and healing for families through the arts & therapy.

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.