

Can we apply what we
learned about **Family
Engagement** (2 years ago)
to our current school year?

Nov. 19th 2020 C3 Meeting

C3 Recap from 2018-19 on Family Engagement

We did really good work 2 years ago, over three meetings, to look at the research on family engagement, analyze our district's practices, and better understand our landscape. Here are the links to those three meetings if you are interested. (There are a lot of backup documents from each meeting)

[Jan 16th 2019 Family and Community Engagement](#)

[March 6th 2019 Trusts, Relationships and Valuing Education Together](#)

[May 1st 2019 Parent Engagement and Communication](#)

Takeaways from those C3 Meetings

1. Those meetings, and a board recap in June 2019, did have a hand in getting the Board's Communication Committee to reconstitute and refocus. (As well as our updated 5 year strategic plan)
2. We did realize that most of our current engagement practices are built around 2 parent families where at least one parent has the flexibility to connect on our time. These practices benefit more stable and more affluent families in town.
 - a. On the flip side we need to come up with better engagement strategies to work with families that do not fit into this conception and build more trust with them. *We have not taken any steps to have a larger discussion with staff on this topic.*
 - b. We need a clear method to listen to our families in terms of what they need from us. Current social media practices are not helping in terms of a beneficial dialogue.
 - i. Families could benefit from more on demand resources/approaches from us to stay in touch and interact with us as a system.
 - c. We do get large turnout throughout the year in each of our buildings at different events - mostly around extracurricular. How can we reproduce large engagement when it comes to academics, mental health/social-emotional learning?

Massachusetts Framework on Family Engagement

Donna Traynham (Committee member and parent in town) shared the following framework from our neighbors to the south.

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/sfs/family-engagement-framework.pdf>

If you look through pages 7 and 8, the guiding principles will be familiar to anyone from the meetings two years ago - they reinforce what we discussed and realized. Pages 10 to 17 map out potential action steps to take - some we discussed two years ago - some we didn't. The "transitions" section would be new to our work from 2 years ago (p. 18 to 23). The final section on "strategies and evaluation" is a mixture of concepts we looked at 2 years ago, and some we did not.

Task(s) for Today's Meeting

1. Can we apply what we learned about Family Engagement (2 years ago) & the Massachusetts framework to our current school year?
1. Are there any specific challenges to this year that we can apply sooner rather than later?
 - a. Are there any specific challenges to Remote Learning that we can apply sooner rather than later?