SIT Meeting 1/23/24:

Meeting began at 1:30pm

Fallon read over the group norms: Be on time and end on time. Make everyone’s time worthwhile. Take turns when talking and please raise hand. Be honest, explain when needed, allow others to voice their concerns. Keep an open line of communication. Remove judgement. Listen to others with an open mind. Agree to understand their perspective. Lead with decisions make by the team, discuss, and agree before deciding. Confidential information does not leave the group. Trust each other.

Brenda: last month we came up with ideas for the first part of our parent survey – time, day, what kind of avenues is best...on campus or virtual. Thanks to Dr. H for typing the survey questions and Debra who sent it through messenger. Now for the survey results.

Which days are best to attend in person ENCSD activities – 17 responses. Fridays is 53%, number one response. 35% was for Wednesday.

What time of the day is best for parents to come to campus in person for student events? Morning was the highest percentage – 53%. Evening was the second – 27%.

What days are best to attend virtual events at ENCSD – interesting...Wednesday was most popular for virtual – 53%. Second was Friday with 27%.

What time is best for virtual events for parents – afternoon was 53%. Second was 33% for morning.

Do you have internet access to attend virtual events. Yes – 94%. No – 6%.

How often can you come to ENCSD campus for student events – 69% said as often as needed. 13% two times a month.

Any obstacles to prevent from attending campus events – 67% work and family schedule. 27% other reasons.

Now we will analyze the data, build ideas for the next survey.

Question 1: 53% said Fridays in person – the best day for setting up in person activities. MC – can set up events for Fridays, and once they are done, they can take their child home with them, which would help transportation. That seems pretty logical. Sue Weber – do dismissal times on Friday vary? No – always at 1:00. If early dismissal is on Thursdays, we follow the 1:00 schedule. Sue – will Thursdays work for parents? I think we should stay with Fridays because it was the highest percentage answered in the survey.

I forgot to introduce the new face here – this is our new principal – Cheryl Iannucci – I practiced your name for today! She just started earlier this month – we are thrilled to have her here, she has been such a blessing with accreditation. This is Sue Weber, I am a community representative for ENCSD.

Question 2: Survey results showed the time of day that works best for parents is morning time. 53% responded mornings. Evening was 27%. Maybe events can happen on Friday morning for in person events. For evenings, maybe we can have some evening events, like literacy night that Barbie mentioned. Barbie – parents coming on a Friday night won’t happen. Dr. H – keep in mind that we only had 17 responses. That is only 40% of families represented. The majority said morning, but that means that most of our parents did NOT respond. Keep that in the back of your mind while planning. Fallon – probably can do a variety of days, some Fridays, some Wednesdays. While events are happening, take data to see how many families showed up, which activities were enjoyed the most. Barbie – keep data on which parents are coming, which grade levels are represented. If it is the same group of parents that are coming, keep data on that. Trish – parents are not all responding to events. Friday mornings, in person, they tend to take their kids home early, like after the event is over, which means they are going to miss school, and that’s probably not a good idea. We could do various times to keep data like Fallon was saying. Focus on what he survey says and expand it more. Melissa C – most events start at 11:00 and last an hour or two, we wrap up around 1:00, parents take their students home at the normal transportation time. Trish – we don’t feed half the kids during events, and half of the kids go home without feeding them, without food. When DPI was visiting, we cooked food for all of the students for the fall festival and half the kids went home without food. If they go home without food, and don’t eat on the weekend, that is concerning to me. Brenda – those are details we can easily overlook. Maybe we can ask parents if they are planning to come, if they want to stay for lunch, have them RSVP. Trish – I knew on one event that they were going to attend, but parents still take their kids home without eating lunch. Melissa C – I know concerns about this – send home a letter, ask if parents will be attending for lunch, have them purchase a meal ticket. Sue – can we provide bag lunches? Trish – yes.

Question 3: what days are best for virtual events: 53% Wednesday. 27% Friday. Keep in mind we have a low percentage of parent responses to survey. Sue – can we video Wednesday night, and show again on Friday? Fallon – post videos on the website for parents to go back and look. Brenda – after discussing these results, the next part of the meeting will be to come up with ideas for a second survey.

Question 4: Best time for virtual events? Wednesday afternoons, Monday was the second highest response. Like Fallon said, we can have a variety between Wednesday afternoons and Mondays.

Question 5: Do you have internet access: 94% - yes we have internet access. 6% said we don’t have internet access. One thing I was thinking about is why they cannot access internet, what is their obstacles. Melissa C – can’t afford, rural area, data limits. Sue - Computer illiteracy. Brenda – maybe if we find out the issues, we can address it and try to bring the % of internet access to 100%. Sue – can we provide an internet/computer literacy class? Brenda – we have a wonderful IT person, Frank. He is very proactive. We can recruit Frank in on this one and with Hugh’s support, we could set up a class. Barbie – internet access for students was an issue for some students at home. Jet was involved and all had internet access, but now I think one student doesn’t. Sue – they can possibly go to a local library to use the computer/internet.

Question 6: How often can you come to ENCSD to attend events: I think we skipped over this one.....

Question 7: Any obstacles to you attending events on campus: 67% work and family schedule. 27% said other – but we didn’t leave any areas for families to explain what other issues were. Transportation got some responses; childcare also received some responses. Sue – I wonder how many parents are afraid of communication – not being able to fluently communicate on our campus and with their child/staff. Brenda – make sure we are welcoming, open, accommodating, etc. to make them feel comfortable.

Brenda – we have discussed the results, and now we are going to move ahead with part 2 of the survey.

We wanted to go ahead and discuss what activities to add on the next survey, knowing we don’t need to go into too much detail, but also meet all of their needs. So...

PART TWO of Brenda’s document:

Question 5: Rate the following activities – 5 being the best, one being the worst. Or we can have the parents click and drag, favorites to the top, least favorite to the bottom. Barbie – rating things is stressful. Can we have them select 3-5 of their preferred activities instead? Then we will know most preferred, etc. Fallon – last year when planning field trip, parents weren’t allowed on the bus to ride with their children. If we ask parents to come on a field trip, can we allow them to ride on the bus – if something can be changed so it entices parents more. Sue – public schools are the same way. They are welcome to come, but they can’t ride on the bus. Iannucci – we don’t allow that because of liability issues. Brenda – we could ride charter buses, or we could follow the buses or meet them at the field trip. MC – can we do charter buses? CI (Iannucci) – who will pay? They are expensive! J Students usually pay for those buses. Iannucci – another concern with parents, in public schools.- parents have really changed. Often there are more issues with parents than with students. Brenda – can you give an example? CI – a few parents have tried to come into the school to get physical with other students. They have no boundaries. Brenda – I have seen news about the mental health crisis since the pandemic. Brenda – maybe parents can drive/carpool – a good way to network with each other as parents of deaf children.

Question 6: Which in person activities for academics/fun: like Barbie said, ranking can be difficult. It’s a good idea to pick which ones you are interested in. (listing all events that you have on your Word document you are working from). Barbie – maybe we shouldn’t limit parents to a specific amount of choices, it will give them a broader range of options. Instead of saying choose 3-5, let the parents choose as many as they want. MC – pick whatever they want, “choose all that apply”. Sue – should we ask what they are interested also, like leave an open response box for them to type ideas? CI: ASL classes, can we do those online? MC – I talked with someone who worked at UNCG, they offer classes. Bri – Rich is interested in offering parent classes, he needs to work out logistics with Dr. H first, once that is worked out, we can set it up and go from there. Online and in person. Sue – my concern for UNCG, they might not use the regional signs we do here since they are in a different location. Brenda – Read Across America Day – we will collaborate with the cafeteria. We will have green eggs and ham, they can wear red, white, and blue with jeans or dress as their favorite book character. I met with the ELA teachers about the visitors who would do read-alouds for us, and we will do the same thing we do every year. Reader’s oath, activities, decorating, birthday cake in the cafeteria for Dr. Seuss. FUN category – change to give options instead of limiting. (listing ideas we have listed on your part 1 document). In addition to ASL bingo, I think Kate headed that up last year – actually it was FUNDation. (more ideas from the part 1 document). I looked at our strategic action plan, I know we are focused on task 3, expanding parent engagement, but look at task 4 – we already have some events that are successful, muffins for moms, donuts for dads, we need to decide if we make it an annual tradition. It says start 1/2026 but is it okay if we start now – someone voiced they agree that we can start now. If we do Zoom, are parents familiar with that platform or what platform are they most familiar with. MC – depends on if the parents use Zoom for work, if so they will be familiar. We can incorporate that into the computer literacy class that we host for parents. Brenda – we can make a packet with screenshots, send that home so parents have a step-by-step guide on how to connect to virtual events. Fallon – we can give them a “tech support” number to call if they run into issues for virtual events. Parent panels – this is a good idea, but we want to make sure we make sure they get a variety of information at those panels and make sure they aren’t one-sided

Question 7: Which asynchronous activities do you want to participate in? (listing activities on part 1 document). I would love to help with story time next year. Activity box – similar to what we did for the back-to-work week staff activity.

Bathroom break: come back at 2:25.

Part two of survey questions – I want to ask Dr. H about open response boxes on these surveys....

Dr. H - we can do that, but remember the analysis changes. If the choice isn’t “forced”, it will be harder to say that 50% were interested in literacy of 25% were interested in learning about deaf related topics. The answers are open-ended, so establishing categories is more difficult. It’s easier to offer choices.

Brenda – what is your opinion on listing options – should we put the entire list, or limit all options? MC – the whole list. Brenda – so list all and put click all that apply? Sue – let them see the whole list and they can choose what they are interested in, type in their responses also.

Dr. H – many activities listed are very specific. Maybe some parents will see ice cream social and not want to attend because they don’t like ice cream. Pick 5 general categories and they can select. “Learn how to support my child in school”. “Learn more about deaf topics”. “Activities to do with my child”. If we try to list everything, we are committed to providing ALL of those activities. If it is a category, we have more flexibility to have specific events within those categories. Last year, many parents came for awards day. This year, we haven’t invited parents to the quarterly awards, and so many came to last year’s final awards. Back to what Fallon said, check data when parents come, what are they actually showing up for – that provides flexibility. What if several select ice cream social, btu only a few show up. You can list each event, but I think categories provides more flexibility.

Brenda – we have a student recognition category (examples could be: academic awards day, MC – Barbie did an art show/gallery/exhibits, athletic awards banquet.) I will look through our list to add more later.

Dr. H – you don’t have to list them all, just provide a few examples

Brenda – how to categorize open house? Dr H – that needs to come off of your list, we don’t need a category for that, we automatically provide that, we had a great turnout this year, over half of the parents came.

Fallon – let’s say opportunities in the classroom for the next category.

Brenda – field trips..?

Barbie – what did you say, Dr. H, the categories you listed, they were really good?

Dr. H – activities to do with your child – I was thinking of if parent/student build something together, interact with each other to do instead of coming to observe – a structured activity to do together

Barbie – just coming up with 4-5 categories for the parents to choose from is what Dr. H suggested, correct? Yes.

Brenda – interactive events, what category would that be...?

CI – “interactive activity assisting or with child or student”? Their child, our student. Dr. H – parent perspective we use child, from our perspective, we use student.

Brenda – “student activities” – ASL classes, deaf ed, summer camp, parent learning summer institute, computer literacy...will add more examples for parents to get the idea of what we are talking about.

Brenda – we have never really invited parents to come to Read Across America day, I can invite them if we decide to. Will this event count as “interactive” – they will be watching read-alouds, or learning opportunities? More general.

Various cultures and careers – learning, school events? For teachers, one student is from Haiti, another is from Vietnam. If they come and talk to our students and cook, but I know that is a liability. Tricia – if I know in advance, I can probably set it up so a cafeteria staff is supervising them while they cook, we should be okay to do that because we have food serve certification – if we don’t do that and we get a food borne illness, that means trouble.

CI: having the parents do something like culturally – if they have a specific career they can teach about also, have a cultural and career category.

Brenda – classroom visits, should we include that or get rid of that since we are talking about more interactive. What about dorm visits? MC – isn’t that open house? Everyone is agreeing it is open house. We will put those under open house events.

MC – is open house just a one-time thing, they would visit the dorms once a year?

Brenda – during the year, dorm could open up, invite parents and have the students show off their rooms, etc.

Brenda – last one for academics, we used to have a green and gold newsletter, but it isn’t consistent. MC – will we do that again this year? Dr. H – who will volunteer? MC – David A? I don’t know! J Sue – we can post information that is online, awards that have been handed out, we can do electronic newsletters also since some parents don’t have Facebook or online access. Send home paper copies. Sue – students can be involved in writing the newsletter. Fallon – it doesn’t need a category, Its not an event or activity, it’s communication.

Brenda – it’s almost 3:00, so let’s hold on the categories. I want to specifically ask if you want me to hold this until next meeting, or do you want me to work on this, categorize everything, show it to Dr. H, have her approve it and send out the survey?

All agree to give it to Dr. H.

Brenda – I will work on this, send it to everyone here, get your feedback, finalize it, send it to Dr. H and get it finalized. Dr. H will send me a link to the survey and I will have Debra help me send this out to parents. How can we increase the number of responses that we get?

MC – mail a letter to parents or send it on the bus – give them a paper copy

Brenda – good idea but can we collect data that way?

Fallon – just like with IEPs, we send one invitation, if they don’t answer, we can call them or send out the survey again, but that raises a risk of duplicate responses on the survey.

Sue – we can call parents who don’t respond.

Brenda/ Dr. H – we did not ask for names on the first survey but we can for this next one.

Fallon – we can put in the kids backpacks so it’s not just one person always contacting parents.

Brenda – What has always worked for me is for Debra to give it to the bus staff so they can give it to the parent/guardian.

Barbie – we need to send out multiple reminders so the percentage of responses can increase.

Fallon – If we have an event on campus, we can provide time for them to fill it out while on campus.

Brenda – anything else? Ok, please collect + and deltas

+ : good discussion, less talking over each other (Brenda seconds that), bathroom break

Deltas: none at this time.

Have a wonderful evening, see everyone tomorrow morning!

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.