



Session 1 Report – Student Vision

Name of school: Coliseum Street Elementary School

Date of session 1: 9/24/2012

Name of Organization: Building Skills Partnership (BSP)

Name of individual reporting in behalf of the organization: Juan Carlos Venegas

Date this report is completed and submitted: 10/02/2012

The facilitator set the theme for the focus groups by asking them: “What do I want my child to know and be prepared to do when he/she leaves the school to ensure success at the next level and beyond?”

The dominant theme that came out of the group discussions and their vision of what a student at Coliseum Elementary School should be was that they want children that come through there to be respectful, motivated, prepared, ambitious and generous students. The groups felt that in order for Coliseum Street Elementary Students to be successful at the next level, they need to work on developing their personal skills. The following written comments express the group’s vision of what they need to work on:

1. I want my child to think independently and not to be moved by peers.
2. To have pride in their work.
3. I want my son to be respectful and disciplined.
4. I want my child to be mindful and respectful of others.
5. I would like my daughter to be kind, respectful, open minded, and confident in herself.
6. I want my kid to become a leader.
7. I would like my child to share with others and be responsible.
8. I would like my daughter to become more independent.
9. I want kids at Coliseum Elementary to be dependable.

Another theme that developed from the group discussions and the skills that they envision their child to have in order to be successful at the next level are academic skills such as better test preparation skill, writing skills, comprehension skills, reading skill (at their appropriate level), communication/public speaking skills, and art and language skills. The following written comments are some of the skills that the students at Coliseum St. Elementary would need to have in order to be successful at the next levels:

1. I want my daughter to take advanced curriculum.
2. I want my child to be introduced to what a college/university is and what it takes to get there.
3. I want my daughter to be prepared for her class and state exams.
4. I want the teachers at Coliseum Elementary school to care about the children’s development.
5. I want my child to read at their grade level.
6. I want my child to have good grammar and able to write at their grade level.
7. I want my child to learn more about the arts such as music and playing instruments.
8. I want my child to be able to learn a new language.
9. I want my son to learn how to use have good computer skills.
10. I want my daughter to learn about other cultures.
11. I want my child to have good public speaking skills.

Another theme that developed from the discussion groups and the skills that they envision the students at Coliseum Street Elementary need to develop in order to be successful at the next levels was that they



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needed to have more extracurricular activity opportunities for their personal development. The following written comments tell us which are the following activities that they feel will help the students develop holistically:

1. I would like my child to be a teacher assistant.
2. I want my child to be exposed to professionals
3. I want my daughter to become a leader in her community and to give back.
4. I would like my child to volunteer in his community.
5. I would like my child to play sports for their school.

The overall vision for Coliseum Street Elementary School I is one that included a global need for higher educational achievement that prepares the students for college or university, test preparation, writing and comprehension skills that are cultivated by the proper staff. The vision was rounded by including the need for students to develop respect and to have opportunities for extracurricular activities in which the students can develop school and community pride.



Session 1 Report – School Vision

NAME OF SCHOOL: Coliseum Street Elementary

DATE OF SESSION 1: 9/24/12

NAME OF ORGANIZATION PREPARING REPORT: Building Skills Partnership (BSP)

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL REPORTING IN BEHALF OF THE ORGANIZATION: Juan Carlos Venegas

DATE THIS REPORT IS COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED: 10/04/12

During the breakout groups, the parents, students, and community members that participated in the activity shared what their vision of the school is thorough written comments, discussion, and annotated written data.

The themes for the School Vision were guided by the following questions:

1. What will the school feel like for parents and students?
2. What must the school do to make sure that all students are successful and prepares to be successful at the next school level and beyond?

One of the themes that stood out the most that the groups envision their school to feel like and the type of school they would like to see in order for their students to be successful at the next levels revolved around improving the environment around Coliseum Street Elementary in the following areas such as safety, cleanliness, welcoming environment, non-discriminatory campus, and a more prideful place. The following written comments portray the areas in which Coliseum Street Elementary can become a place that they envision:

1. I would like there to be more security.
2. I would like for Coliseum Elementary to be a more warm and friendly environment.
3. I would like for the school to require uniforms for all students
4. I would like for there to be more security outside of the school with parent collaboration.
5. I would like for Coliseum Elementary to be a racism free campus.
6. I would like for Coliseum Elementary to be a safe haven for the students.
7. I want Coliseum Street Elementary to be cleaner.
8. I would like for there to be a weekly school pride program.

Another theme that developed from the discussion groups was the vision of Coliseum Street Elementary to be a place that has more academic support for all of their students such as more tutoring programs, access to academic tools such as study groups, online info and tools, outside input, more Teacher Assistants, preparation for state exams, prepared teachers and meetings/workshops for student preparedness. The following written comments express in which ways the school can prepare their students to become successful in the continuing levels:

1. I would like for there to be study groups for students.
2. I want my child to have programs available for tutoring.
3. I want students to have access to tools and information to help them with their academics.
4. It would be nice if the school could provide more Teacher Assistants.
5. I want the teacher to be better prepared and make sure that students are ready to take state exams
6. I would like there to be workshops or meetings on how to create an early learning environment for current and future students.



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7. I would like for the school to have a program that encourages students to succeed and reward them for doing so.
8. I want for teachers to have the proper tools for them to be able to conduct class every day.

One other theme that developed out of the discussion groups was the need for there to be more extracurricular activities, more parent and community engagement, improved relations between parent and teachers, and for the school infrastructure to be able to be conducive to the modern rigors of education and career preparation. The following written comments by the participants tell us the areas in which the school can be improved in order for their children to be prepared to succeed:

1. I would like for there to be more activities for kids such as sports, music, art programs and computer/laboratory programs.
2. I would like for the school to have more resources for the teachers, a bigger and up to date library, up to date curriculum and books.
3. I would like for there to be better communication between teacher and parents.
4. I would like for there to be more parent involvement.
5. It would be good for there to be a parent orientation program and readily available information about gifted/honors programs.
6. I would like for there to be more translation for Spanish speaking parents.
7. I would like there to be a program that involves parents and students to the community.

The focus groups during the School vision exercise and the data collected embodies the concerns that the parents, students, and community members that participated have and that they feel should be addressed and focused on in the school plan. The themes and areas focus revolved around creating more Parent and Community Engagement, more accountability by everyone at Coliseum Street Elementary School, an environment for students that is safe, engaging, and one that focuses on their current preparation and future success as well upgrading the school's infrastructure and curriculum.



Session 1 Report – Dialogues with Planning Teams

NAME OF SCHOOL: Coliseum Street Elementary

DATE OF SESSION 1: 9/24/12

NAME OF ORGANIZATION COMPLETING REPORT: Building Skills Partnership (BSP)

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL REPORTING IN BEHALF OF THE ORGANIZATION: JUAN CARLOS VENEGAS

DATE THIS REPORT IS COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED: 10/03/12

There was only one Planning Team for this school. The planning team shared their vision for students and school and subsequently engaged the participants in a dialogue session to answer questions and solicit feedback.

In this dialogue, the session was dominated by the concern that the school needs to focus more attention to engage more parents. The discussion amongst the participants was that they were really concerned about the lack of equal parent representation at the school and during planning meetings. That there are parents that are not being accounted for during the planning meetings due to a language barrier and that it is also reflected on school grounds during other events and not just in the planning committee.

Another concern that was brought up by the participants to the planning committee was the lack of an emphasis of getting kids involved in extracurricular activities after school and the lack of exposure to local colleges and universities.

Another area in which the participants in the meeting felt that the school plan should focus on is in the area of prepared and adequate instructors. They felt that the plan did not have an outlined guideline on how to hold teachers, school staff, parents, and administrators accountable for continued low performance of the school in reading comprehension, math and state test scores.

Additionally, the participants were not clear on how the school plan was going to prepare the students who are behind for the next level. They were concerned that many students are too far behind and many will not be able to succeed at the next level. The concern was that how will this issue be addressed and that the plan was ambiguous in this regard. They felt that by the time this plan would be fully implemented, the students who need help now will not be attended to in time and they will be set up for failure.

To sum up, the parents and community members were really concerned about involving more parents and having the proper staff and resources available for all parents to be able to feel comfortable and to be equally taken into account in the new plan. Furthermore, the concern was that the current issues would continue to persist if the right and adequate staff is not set in place to take the concerns of the parent and community into real consideration.