



2017-8 Academy of Leaders: School Year
Grace Place for Children and Families

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Thursday, January 4, 2018 4:30-5:30pm

Grace Place for Children and Families / 21st Century Community Learning Centers

Advisory Board Meeting

Board Consists of:

Staff: Rebecca Datus, Site Coordinator; Crystal Maldonado, College Access Coordinator; and Tom Powers, Director of School Age Programs

Schools/Teachers: Tobin Walcott, Principal; Scholastica Lee, Assistant Principal; Teacher; Nicholas Martinez, or designees.

Students: Widjinalie P., Daniella N.

Parents: Pedro Sanjuan; Paula Santiago

Community Partners: Corina Rionda and Jane Teszler, David Lawrence Center; Janice Paine, United Arts Council.

Attending: CR, JT, TP, JP, NM, WP, DN, RD, CM

Minutes:

Site Coordinator reviewed 21st CCLC programming for spring semester. Director reviewed the purpose of the meeting and the proposed goals and objectives.

- How we are serving students:

There is a high level of participation of students, learning through activities and games. Community partners gave us kudos for staff participation and engagement. A teacher reported he was happy that students have the opportunity to do homework. It is important that students get extra help, including access to internet and computers. Technology is essential for students to get things done the right way. The coordinator has been helpful in balancing between testing (assessments) and activities for showing results with partners. She cares about the whole student and enrichment—not just data and results.

- How can we improve the program at GGHS:

Students want to be very involved and active in after school programming. They even are curious about fundraising for Grace Place. The students enjoy participating in special events and field trips. Small group work is very important to all; having more than one group together becomes problematic and students' learning is inhibited. Teachers and staff find that there is too much time spent redirecting. Students are often too exhausted upon arrival; there should be lighter activities or ways to energize the students. Students requested more special events during regular programming –including guest speakers, dancing, recreational activities, more life skills training, and increased art opportunities. Mindfulness and relaxation should be integrated into daily activities. Other Grace

Place staff should be consulted for ideas. Students should have a chance for real athletic completion from time to time.

- How to improve Communication:

Send out links to the annual evaluative reports to all participating partners. Increase regular reports through emails or newsletters. Staff enjoys using the app "Class Dojo" during the day and afterschool however it is unlikely students will be downloading it and using it regularly regarding communication. Consider mass texts versus phone calls. Texting helps to keep track of communication. Students prefer snapchat and Instagram. Private group communication such as GroupMe could be an option. The school's Titan News daily morning broadcasts could advertise things we are doing and could help advocating for the program. It could be used in addition to lunch time recruitment events led by Grace Place staff. We might increase enrollment by "advertising" during English classes, JROTC, clubs. The school suggested flyers in mailboxes for every teacher so all students in the school can get program information.

- Who else should be involved in Advisory Board Meetings? How can we make these meetings more useful?

Parent participation and involvement would be welcome. We should consider including more students. We might share information from leadership council to community partners at the advisory council meetings too. KaHoot is a good idea for surveys with students and families to get programming feedback.