



MEETING NOTES

Region 19 Family Council Meeting

Location: Zoom

Date & Time: Tuesday, March 28, 2023, 6:00pm to 8:00pm

6:00pm: Welcome Family Council Members, Review of Family Council Community Agreement (15 minutes)

Notes:

- Welcome to Family Council Members
- Review of Family Council Community Agreement and Courageous Conversations Agreement.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

6:12pm: Ice Breaker (8 minutes)

Notes:

- Family Council members shared their best parenting advice.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

6:20pm: DuPage Early Childhood Education and Care Parent Engagement Opportunities (85 minutes)

Notes:

- Parent Involvement and Family Engagement
 - Parent Involvement occurs when parents participate in activities and take advantage of opportunities in their child's early care and learning setting.
 - Family Engagement is an ongoing collaborative relationship between families, educators, providers, and partners to support and improve the learning development and health of every learner.
- Discussion around the opportunities offered to families to be engaged in their child's program or services.
 - Not many opportunities for parent engagement, usually there is only opportunity for parent involvement.
 - No collaboration, only a one-time thing.



- Home visiting program gave Family Council member the opportunity for family round-ups for parent engagement.
- Family Council members shared they had to find their own parent engagement activities/connections.
- More parent involvement and engagement once children are in school.
 - School districts offer many different parent engagements activities/events.
 - There is Parent Teacher Association (PTA) involvement in school districts but that doesn't apply to parents that have children under the age of five.
- Conversation around the importance of having connections with other parents and the opportunity to share experiences.
 - The need for more programs that don't have fees.
- Conversation around feeling welcome at their child's program and or services.
 - Language is not approachable in written materials and emails.
 - Major barrier for Spanish-speaking families, not understanding the material being sent.
 - Written materials that are sent in Spanish, the translation quality is not considered to be an easy read for parents. Mostly when one does not have an educational background.
 - Programs need to use language that is more approachable.
 - Annual IEP meetings are very overwhelming and language heavy.
 - Emails even for English speakers can be hard to understand, mostly when it comes to acronyms.
 - Family Council members feel uninvited when they come across emails hard to read.
 - How to produce more parental engagement and involvement?
 - Voice messages and videos can be more interactive.
- Conversations around what changes need to be made.
 - Communication needs to be simple and concrete.
- Conversations regarding barriers family council members encounter when getting involved with early childhood programs and services.
 - Groups can be clicky, and it becomes hard to make friends.
 - School districts hold family events, but expectations are not clear.
 - Parent groups in schools are available but their focus is from kindergarten and up.



- Families needing to advocate for their children regarding special education.
- Conversation regarding changes they would like to see to make parent engagement easier.
 - More interactions with staff members.
- Besides surveys, Family Council members have not been asked for feedback or input from any programs or services.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

7:45pm: Questions? (10 minutes)

Notes:

- Week of the Young Child is April 1-7
 - Region 19 will be dropping off celebration bags to each Family Council member. Drop-off will be Friday-Saturday.
- Downers Grove Area Moms (DGAM) and Families on Meetup.com
 - Fees are optional, and new members are always welcome.
 - <https://www.meetup.com/moms-1142/>

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Follow-up/Next Steps:

Next Meeting: April 11, 2023, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm