Community Advisory Councils

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Community Advisory Teams: Engaging with a Purpose

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Learning Objectives

By the end of this session, you will…

• Be able to recall a few key ideas about what good engagement could look like

• Be ready to talk with your leadership teams about a community advisory team at your school

• Believe that a community advisory team can be a beneficial and critical part of school improvement
Today’s plan

1. Why?
2. How?
3. Now What?
To get us started:
How do you feel about **stakeholder engagement**?

1. Open a browser on any laptop, tablet or smartphone

2. Go to [slido.com](http://slido.com)

3. Enter the event code #engagement

4. Type **one word or phrase** to answer the question.
How do we feel about **stakeholder engagement**?
Why?
One Story of Many
Now it’s your turn!

1. **Find someone in the room who:**
   a) you don’t know, and
   b) is wearing the same color as you somewhere in their outfit

2. **Introduce yourself** and share the role you play in schools

3. **Tell your partner about a time that you felt truly engaged.**
   • How did you feel?
   • What did “engagement” look like for you?
What does **good engagement** look or feel like?

1. Open a browser on any laptop, tablet or smartphone

2. Go to **slido.com**

3. Enter the event code **#engagement**

4. Type **one word or phrase** to answer the question.
What does **good engagement** look or feel like?
Discuss at your tables

Why should school leaders make the effort to engage stakeholders?
How?

Recommendations for setting up a Community Advisory Team
Community Advisory Team

Intentional group of diverse stakeholders,
continuously engaged over a period of time,
to advise school leadership on critical issues,
on behalf of the school community
Not Community Advisory Teams

- Parent conferences
- Back to school nights
- Community Partnerships
- Vendors
- Student performances/exhibitions
- Parent Teacher Associations
- Disciplinary hearings/ meetings
- Student council/ government
- Newsletters
- Drop-off/pick-up conversations
- Sports games
- Fundraisers
- Information events
- Robo-calls
- IEP meetings
- Parent calling with complaints
Community Advisory Teams

Intentional group of diverse stakeholders, continuously engaged over a period of time, to advise school leadership on critical issues, on behalf of the community.

*Required by the Every Student Succeeds Act to receive Title funds*
Easy as ABCD?

Ambassadorship

Balance

Clarity

Diversity
Members serve as ambassadors by:

- Liaising with constituents
- Consulting constituents on team issues
- Translating information back to constituents
- Representing ideas and concerns of constituents
- Sharing and championing the team’s vision
Reflect and Connect: Ambassadorship

• How could a structured ambassadorship help constituent groups at my school advocate for what they need?

• How could ambassadors help me communicate and enact the vision for school improvement?
Balance

Keep a balance between:

• Information sharing and discussion
• Participant learning and sharing perspectives
• Agenda items from leaders and members
• Effort of leaders and members
• Talk time of all members and leaders
Reflect and Connect: Balance

• Which issues of school improvement should I bring to stakeholders?
  • What would members need to know in order for that input to be helpful to me?

• What issues of school improvement would stakeholders want to bring to me?
  • How could I show that I am hearing these concerns?
Clarity

Maintain clarity around:

• Purpose and parameters of discussions

• Role and authority of advisory team

• Expectations for active participation on the team

• What question is being asked
Reflect and Connect: Clarity

- Pick an issue from your previous response that you would want to bring to the Community Advisory Team.

- Write a specific and clear question to be presented to the advisory team that would solicit valuable information from members around this issue.

- Then, hone your question by asking yourself – Is this what I really want to know? What specific information would be helpful to me to solve this problem?

- What expectations would you have of the team to ensure you are getting the most useful information?
Ensure diversity of perspectives by:

- Inviting both champions and resistors
- Representing majority and minority groups
- Welcoming talkers and thinkers
- Asking “what else?”
- Including students
Reflect and Connect: Diversity

Brainstorm names or groups that you would want to be represented on the community advisory team at your school.

• Roles
• Racial/ethnic groups
• Geographic groups
• Language groups
• Issue-related groups
• Champions and resistors
Let’s Review

Ambassadorship

Balance

Clarity

Diversity
Now What?
Taking the First Steps
Let’s make a plan

Goal: Have a strong Community Advisory Team in place at your school by October 1

1. What questions do I need to ask and to whom?

2. What tasks need to get done? When and by whom?

3. What ideas do I need to reflect on?
Final Thoughts
How did we do?

It’s the end of the session.

• Are you able to recall a few key ideas about what good engagement could look like?

• Are you ready to talk with your leadership teams about a community advisory team at your school?

• Do you believe that a community advisory team can be a beneficial and critical part of school improvement?
What do you think is the **most** important benefit of a community advisory team for your school?

1. Open a browser on any laptop, tablet or smartphone
2. Go to [slido.com](http://slido.com)
3. Enter the event code **#engagement**
4. Choose one answer that represents the most important benefit for your school.
What do you think is the most important benefit of a community advisory team for your school?
Thank you!

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“NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL COMMITTED CITIZENS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD; INDEED, IT IS THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS.

- Margaret Mead (1901-1978)
Reflections – A Toast

There will be three rounds of toasts. Each person will give a short toast for the following:

• Round 1: A Toast to Us – an appreciation for someone or something that happened here today.
• Round 2: A Toast to This – A new idea learned or a specific ah-ha moment related to the content (equity, change management or community engagement).
• Round 3: Toast to Them – A hope or expectation that you have for the students that you serve.
Feedback Forms

- Complete feedback forms.
- Collected information will help to improve future training sessions.
- Leave feedback forms in the middle of your table.
Coach Consultations

• Logistics review
• Questions
• Team time

Suggested Topics:
• What are your thoughts regarding the two August visits?
• Team building (Two truths and a lie)
• Who is your preferred contact at the school?
• How can we schedule our visits?
Day 3: Preview
Action

Registration: 8:00-9:00am
Session Starts at 9:00am

Thank you for participating today.
We look forward to seeing you tomorrow!