

COMMUNITY SCHOOL COMMUNICATOR

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Countywide Community Schools Newsletter

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Dear Countywide Community Schools Team,

The end of the 2017 school year has given us a chance to reflect on the remarkable community schools headway. In this issue of Community School Communicator, we discuss a recent Great Conversation with partners and stakeholders.

Our Countywide Community School movement is also recruiting steering committee members. Details on joining are in this issue.

What is a Community School?

A community school is a public school that works with parents, educators and the community to increase student opportunities. By making the school the hub of the neighborhood and combining top-quality academics with on-site health and social services, parents work with staff to strengthen the entire community and ensure that children are physically, emotionally and socially prepared to learn. Community schools equip parents with skills, knowledge and confidence to lead not only our families, but also our community and city.

For more information about community schools, visit www.successdac.org

Lynn Parent, Staff and Student Surveys: Crucial Community School Assessment Tool

The first step in the transformation of any school into a community school is a comprehensive community assessment. We have been working on the community assessment at Lynn Middle School for the past year (it is a time-consuming but critical process!). An education research team at New Mexico State University is now analyzing data from 62 staff, 125 parents, and over 450

student surveys! The development of the surveys included a joint effort of Lynn staff, student, and family engagement teams. The survey questions will reveal the top priorities for supporting Lynn, ranging from improving student and staff well-being to increasing the level of parent engagement. The community assessment also included focus groups with staff, students, and community members, and surveys to businesses around the Lynn neighborhood.

Results of the surveys are predicted to be available this summer and will be discussed in a series of meetings on how to best utilize the data for the 2017-2018 academic school year. Meanwhile, we plan to continue gathering data and stakeholder feedback!



The Great Conversation at Lynn Middle School on June 1.

The Great Conversation Ignites Dialogue at Lynn Middle School

Great Conversations Executive Director Randy Harris facilitated an open dialogue discussion at Lynn Middle School library on June 1 including over 20 organizational partners and stakeholders. Great Conversations is an organization that "facilitates safe, respectful and informed community dialogue, recognizing diverse perspectives and encourages collaborative action."

The conversation spawned hope for our work here in Doña Ana County during a time of national uncertainty surrounding public schooling. Participants voiced a need for professional development on how to support a community school and the benefits of the services involved in a collaborative effort. The creation of a countywide steering committee to establish strategic direction and set priorities was the pinnacle of discussion. This committee would be responsible for brainstorming how we scale community schools in Doña Ana County.

Calling for Members: The First Countywide Community School Steering Committee

Lynn Middle School is actively seeking committed individuals for the establishment of the its first community school steering committee. Members will discuss the process for developing additional community schools, improve strategic planning and develop a network of community school coordinators. Members will be recruited on a volunteer basis and will be asked to participate in mandatory monthly meetings.

Interested participants for the steering committee may contact Dave Greenberg at dgreenberg@lcps.net . Please include the following information:

- 1) Full name and contact information
- 2) Why are you interested in Doña Ana County community schools?
- 3) How do you feel you can contribute to the community school movement?

