1. Meeting called to order at: 5:38pm

2. Introductions
   a. Board Members Present: Alison Fuhr, Doug Klof, Bekky Robbins, Dan Hofmann, Ben Dodson, John Frost
   b. Board Members Absent (excused): Diane Fox
   c. Staff Members Present: Kresta Vuolo, Jen Levy (Staff Liaison), Donetta McDonald, Kathy Schoen (math middle) Miranda Anderson, Chris Caruso, Cyndi Vosburgh, Jesse (student success coach)
   d. Guests: Carolina (VP of CSN), Dina (Volunteer coordinator on CSN), Heidi (CSN treasurer), Katy Simms (CSN), Meggin Rutherford (CSN Pres), Alison Milan (CSN), Amber (CSN)

3. Approval of Agenda for current meeting: motion to approve by Doug, second by Dan.
   a. Unanimous approval

4. Public Comment and Celebrations
   a. Ms. Miranda – due at end of October; thanks for everyone who stepped up to serve on the CSN at the end of last year
   b. Chris – successful upper bed plantings, squash, peppers, cucumbers!
   c. Alison – tons of energy in the CSN, carnival coming up, hit the ground running. August 29; thank you to ILT
   d. Doug – celebrate that we’re able to do some planning in-person.
   e. Donetta – have been turning library into digital teacher librarian space, team effort, coming together. If you see Mr. Brandon, say thank you anytime you see him, couldn’t do this without him. He took on projects nobody asked him to do, above and beyond.
   f. Kathy – Middle School got new Mimeo Boards
   g. Cyndi – confirmed we got the Expanding Childcare grant; special shout out to my husband for helping collect the furniture to open the new primary classroom.
   h. Amber – kids going back to in-person really really soon!
   i. Kresta – expecting to be able to have volunteers this year!

5. Leadership Groups Discussion: Plans for 2021-2022 School Year and Beyond
   a. Icebreaker
   b. Why we Gather (based on The Art of Gathering by Priya Parker)
       i. Give your gathering a purpose
          1. Identify your Purpose – explore reason for bringing people together, specific why and how.
ii. Make purpose your bouncer
   1. How will you share with your guests the why of your gathering and how will they be different when they leave? Does everyone need to be there?

iii. Design your invitation to persuade
   1. How can you use storytelling to draw your guests into your gathering?

iv. Ditch etiquette for rules (and create a more playful world)

v. Close with intention
   1. What one thing you can do to close and make it more memorable? How do you want your team to feel when they leave? What do you want them to know better?

c. Our purpose: constructing our “why”
   i. What do you believe is the purpose of this meeting?
      1.
   ii. What is your purpose as a BOD, CSN, or staff member?
   iii. What themes are consistent at your table
   iv. Share and discuss
      1. Common themes
         a. Getting all on the same page, looking at the big picture together
         b. All different cars of a train that we’re all getting on, going to the same place
         c. Determine what is family engagement, what ideal family engagement looks like at FHM

d. What is family engagement (based on the book Engage Every Family by Dr. Steve Constantino)
   i. Big ideas stemming from FE research:
      1. Families are the first and most influential teachers of their children
      2. There is a direct and distinct research correlation between underperforming students and disengaged or disenfranchised families.
         a. Cycle of disengagement – our responsibility, as leaders of this school, is to figure out how to break these cycles of disengagement
            i. Negative Catalyst that causes someone to walk away (you may not be the school that is responsible for this catalyst)
            ii. Self-Preservation
            iii. Isolation
            iv. Stress
            v. Anxiety
            vi. Fear towards the institution
      3. Family engagement is a process, not an event or series of events.
      4. Family engagement is not about doing more, just doing what we do, differently.

   ii. Working definition of family engagement:
1. The degree to which families are empowered to be present in the educational and academic lives of their children and the degree to which schools and school districts support family engagement by sustaining necessary relationships which in turn, promotes the efficacy of families in helping to shape their children’s academic experiences.

iii. How do we measure family engagement?
1. Perception survey, did with the staff last spring, considering doing with families this year
2. School Insights on JPS website, includes school culture tab, three different surveys used:
   a. MYVH Student Survey
   b. Family Partnership Survey
   c. Teaching and Learning in CO – results redacted due to too few responses
   d. May be one of the metrics we can look at over time
3. Current state/baseline: room for growth
   a. Family Engagement Perceptions
   b. CSN Outgoing Board Recommendations
      i. Enhance coordination and communication among stakeholder groups
      ii. Reinstate some events and processes perceived as high value
      iii. Provide opportunities for family voice in decision-making
      iv. Explicit articulate expectations for family engagement and make it easier for families to participate
   c. Dr. C Principles, in Order (3-10 year process to be done in order, one at a time, to build the work upon itself)
      i. Start with cultivating a culture that engages every family
      ii. Communicate effectively and develop relationships
      iii. Build family efficacy
      iv. Engage every family in decision making
      v. Engage the greater community

iv. Gathering Input to Reach Consensus
1. What are the activities at FHM? When purposes align, could we combine events?
2. What activities do we want to keep, adjust, let go?
   a. Musical
      i. Keep
   b. Exposition Montessori/Parent Montessori Night
      i. Maybe incorporate with moving up night
      ii. Schedule – always during bedtime
      iii. Make hands-on
iv. What does it mean at FHM

v. Combining as purpose for every gathering, every gathering, tie into Montessori – anytime we have parents’ attention, this is your kids experience in the classroom at a micro-level

vi.

c. Parent/Teacher Conferences
   i. Keeping remote option, but also offer in-person option for those that may want to meet
   ii. Increasing frequencies with less formal check-ins? Could be perceived as should be on the parent to engage with teacher. 2 per year feels too infrequent, opportunities, maybe less formal, to increase frequencies and build up to the conferences?
   iii. Focus on what’s coming up and have a real conversation between parents and teachers

d. Registration
   i. Some things that are required because we are a licensed childcare facility.
   ii. Tech issues
   iii. More simply, better planned, more personal - understand what’s going on with technical challenges, etc, seem to be behind in terms of school supply lists. Turn-around was really quick, would help parents if they had the background of challenges
   iv. Continuity from year to year
   v. Vehicle for communication may need adjusting
   vi. Sense that are a lot of planners that are parents that are very vocal about wanting to plan (i.e. 3 weeks until school and I haven’t heard anything) – maybe a hi, here’s where we’re at, goal is to by doing it by this date, just a check in so that they know parents exist
   vii. Scheduled Office Hours to get help
   viii. Staff members don’t get the same communications that parents do

e. Musical Concerts
   i. Fall and spring

f. Back to School night
   i. Lots of keeps, use as opportunity to teach about Montessori
   ii. Combine with Carnival
   iii. Make a social event not an informational evening

g. Talent Show
i. Should return to belonging Student Council, now a staff-driven event

h. Choice Enrollment/Moving Up Night
   i. Condense, consider who needs to be there
   ii. Was hot, crowded, hard to focus
   iii. Pair with parent Montessori education
   iv. Having childcare option was great for parents with little kids, makes it easier for parents to real engage (CSN paid the staff to this childcare), potentially have middle schoolers watch younger kiddos (with adult supervision)

i. Cultural Fair
   i. Would need some refinement, would need people with focused attention, lots of work for the staff.
   ii. Could alternate between cultural and science fair – students would present on specific aspects of cultures – maybe would help with student burnout with the science fair
   iii. Involve parents of different backgrounds, families representing the culture – community building.

j. Kids Night Out
   i. Help kids coordinate with kids friends parents (can’t do that, it’s confidential)
   ii. Staff support
   iii. Jen and Miranda show – has to work out financially.
   iv. When we were a charter fund, was making good money for the General Fund, now has to go into a specific fund. Doesn’t fit the mission of the school. Was when it was a fund raiser, that was a good purpose.
   v. Maybe could exist within CSN as a fundraiser.
   vi. Is there a sweet spot where staff can get more money, they are desiring to do that, can we do that? Cyndi – would have to look into it and talk to payroll and HR about implications – likely a way for the CSN to do it disassociated from Jeffco. Example, can’t give gift cards, considered an additional payments.
   vii. Could consider a flat rate instead of based on salary, consider compensatory time? May entice staff
   viii. Depends on staff, some years staff are asking, some years they really need a break.
   ix. Potentially combine with the Montessori Education night (i.e. could do a traditional Halloween party for the kids while parents go to Montessori presentation)

k. Specials Gala
i. Could the CSN coordinate for volunteers to set up for the Gala instead of canceling specials classes for that day?

ii. Do Specials Teachers get room parents? Could they?

iii. Could this and the musical, be some kind of fund-raising event? Can we have a donation box? Transparency, fundraising for x item or event.

iv. For Carnival, we’re doing door prizes that doesn’t require raffle licensing (anyone attending is entered, does not have to buy a ticket)

v. Keep in mind the number of times we ask, balance with giving options for donations, but not asking every time someone walks into the building

vi. Think of the purpose of the activity i.e. purpose of Spring Fling is fundraising, science fair is not really fundraising event even though there’s a lot of parent asks for the science fair.

vii. Just be more thoughtful when we plan the calendar – how can we space out the fundraising, think of times of year.

I. Science Fair

   i. Utilizing parent skills
   
   ii. Student-focused
   
   iii. Equity, not all students have the same resources
   
   iv. Weekend involvement for parents that can’t come during the week? Remote option?

II. Room Parent

   i. Up to the teacher, but older kids tend to not want their parents in the classroom, developmental appropriateness, purpose as the room parent
   
   ii. What happens when nobody volunteers?
   
   iii. How do we up the pool of people who want to volunteer and who actually volunteer. Hopeful we (CSN) become a meta group of housing the volunteers. Maybe you don’t have upper middle parents go, maybe parents from other classrooms could go on field trips for supervision – just volunteering to help the school.
   
   iv. Tickets for Time – everyone would get it, write your name on events, and then person organizing event would get a list of tickets
   
   v. There are families that can’t give money, but they could give time.
   
   vi. What is the purpose of the CSN – support the school, the crux of which is community. Families won’t show up
if they don’t feel like they belong. How can we draw people in to make connections. Room parent helps to create connections within the classroom. Coming up with clear set of expectations for Room Parents for all grades. Would like to run them by the staff for ideas too.

n. Class Breakfast
   i. What might this look like this year? Still some restrictions with eating, masks off, etc., don’t like when we have to schedule it and then have to cancel it.
   ii. Different days for parents with multiple children, spread it out throughout the month
   iii. Hold outside?
   iv. What about district limits on what we can serve kids? Could just do bring your own breakfasts?
   v. Equity piece – what if a parent can’t come, everyone bringing their own, those kids don’t have special breakfast now.
   vi. Appetite for kids and parents to just connect
   vii. Consider schedule for working parents

o. Book Fair
   i. I don’t like my kid going to buy just whatever she wants to buy (because they offer not just books)
   ii. Depends on the vendor and what they bring, tell them what stuff we want at what price point.
   iii. Don’t want to eliminate the low price items because that would exclude some kinds from buying something at book fair.
   iv. CSN considering book vouchers for every kid
   v. Could we combine with another event to make it more convenient?
   vi. Moved potentially to February instead of October – is it easier to spend money earlier in the year?
   vii. Could we scale it down to make it more manageable?
   viii. Think about location and dates (i.e. could it be outside, in the gym – other things going on?)

p. Spring Fling
   i. Some CSN ideas to increase equity and access, bring the cost down, bring the overhead down.
   ii. What is the expectation around when classes have to have a project, need to have some budget for that so that it’s not just on the teacher or parents; room
parents could recruit for other parents to donate supplies

iii. Could CSN budget something for each classroom, 17 plus middle school

iv. Live auction sometimes goes too long, maybe there’s a different way of looking at it – partner classrooms perhaps?

v. Hard on some teachers, creates competition among teachers about who makes the most money off of their project

vi. Could we make it voluntary? Or if you have a good idea you can contribute something?

vii. Be mindful and purposeful about intent and messaging for Spring Fling, don’t want to exclude families and students who aren’t in a position to participate in things like Spring Fling.

viii. What are the percentage who donate just for special asks (get nothing in return) vs. those who donate for a project? Do we make more money off the special asks than the auction items?

ix. Would like to get input from community, volunteer commitment option, pledge hours of volunteer time instead of $$

x. The competition aspect itself can really drive higher bids – the structure is what raises the money, be careful with that.

xi. Could entry cost be eliminated? Do cash bar?

xii. Remember that food cost risk would shift to the CSN if we eliminate ticket costs

q. Spelling Bee

r. Staff Appreciation Week
   i. Make it easier to contribute, options to contribute in different ways
   ii. Maybe one per week for a month instead of everyday in a week

s. Fox Trot

t. Village Night
   i. Miss these, clearer and manageable staff expectations
   ii. Is there a clear owner? Historically CSN ran meal part, school ran the content
   iii. If it’s on staff to plan, would be good to have a very clear purpose

u. Board Coffee
i. Combined effort and marketing with CSN Board and Admin
ii. CSN used to do Bean Fosters mornings,
iii. Discussed doing it in the front lawn right after drop off or before pickup

v. Carnival
   i. Equity – 100% community building, no fundraising at this event, CSN paying it for it.
   ii. Every kid will get either a snow cone or ice cream treat
   iii. Door prizes for showing up
   iv. If you sign up to volunteer at the school, or sign up for contact list, you get an extra door prize ticket
   v. Bring your own picnic dinner

w. Clubs and enrichment
   i. Before school clubs (i.e. gardening)

x. Committees
   i. Hybrid with some remote, some in-person
   ii. Ensure committees are an effective use of volunteers time - when we want parents to join something like the facilities committee, might be good to articulate to the parents what they can contribute to the committee.
   iii. Communication of need AND output, and how much time is expected

y. Word Parade/Mystery History (Oct 31st)
   i. Combine with another event like grandparents day

z. Field Day
   i. Make it on the last day and make it a half day

aa. Grandparents and special friends day
   i. Consider other times of year

bb. Continuation Events
   i. Enjoy individual class events instead of a giant one

c. New ideas
   i. Buddy programs connecting new and incoming families with current families
   ii. Finding ways for FHM to be in the community (volunteering in Pleasantview)

e. Gathering Input from the wider community – how can we better get feedback?
   i. Through the teacher emails? Parents may more often read the teacher emails than the Fox Flash
   ii. Once a month, have parents ask one survey question at drop off or pick up
   iii. In the Fox Flash, have a spotlight on CSN/Board with description to introduce everyone, these are folks they can reach out to if they need something or want to discuss an issue
   iv. Once we have the input, what do we do with it?
1. “This is what we heard, this is what’s coming because of what we heard” – need to say this more often, challenges to systematizing this

6. What’s next?
   a. Can we reconvene ~1x per semester, what’s going well, what’s not working, what’s next, etc.

7. Assignments

8. Adjournment
   a. John motions to adjourn, Doug seconds, unanimous approval, adjourn at 9:03pm

In accordance with the Colorado Open Meetings Law, also known as the Sunshine Law, the Board must give notice to the public anytime they schedule a meeting of more than three (3) board members to discuss business concerning the school. The Colorado Sunshine law does allow for the meetings, or portions of the meetings, to be held privately when the subject matter being discussed must remain confidential so long as no formal action is taken during the private portion of the meeting, called the “executive session”. The Sunshine Law strictly defines eight (8) criteria under which a private executive session can be held, personnel discussion being one of them. The law also states the community must be informed of the meeting and the criteria under which an executive session must be called.

Becky Robbins