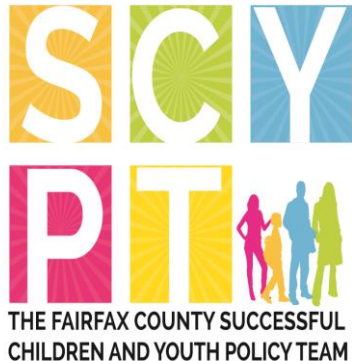


Community Schools Committee Update

Discussion with the SCYPT

April 25, 2018



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Background

- Discussions about community schools began a couple of years ago, but, absent funding opportunities, did not proceed beyond a mutual expression of interest.
- At the 2016 Joint Board Retreat, the BOS and School Board expressed interest in the community schools concept, and the BOS asked SCYPT to examine opportunities.

Committee Progress

- A SCYPT Community Schools Committee was formed and began researching best practices and developing concepts for a pilot program.
- United Way of the National Capital Area and the Coalition for Community Schools were invited, and shared information and resources with the committee, and facilitated visits to community schools in Montgomery County, Alexandria, and DC.

What is a Community School?

A community school is both a place and a set of partnerships between the school and other community resources. Its integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development, and community engagement leads to improved student learning, stronger families, and healthier communities. Community schools offer a curriculum that emphasizes real-world learning and community problem-solving. Schools become centers of the community and are open to everyone – all day, every day, evenings, and weekends.

-Coalition for Community Schools

<http://www.communityschools.org/assets/1/AssetManager/Community%20Schools%20One%20Pager2014.pdf>

Typical Components

- College, career, and citizenship
- Health and social support
- Expanded learning
- Engaging instruction
- Early childhood development
- Community engagement
- Family engagement
- Youth development

CCS, <http://www.communityschools.org/assets/1/AssetManager/Community%20Schools%20One%20Pager2014.pdf>

Key Infrastructure

- **School-site leadership team**, often comprised of educators, parents, community partners, and others, to create a shared vision for the school, identifying desired results and helping align and integrate the work of partners with the school.
- **A community school coordinator**, to work hand-in-hand with a supportive principal, and is a member of the school leadership team. The coordinator is responsible for building relationships with school staff and community partners, for engaging the families and community residents, and coordinating an efficient delivery of supports to students both inside and outside the classroom.
- **Data on academic AND nonacademic factors**, to drive the work for a community school.
- **A lead agency**, often a community-based organization or government agency, that joins the school to manage and lead the work of developing and sustaining the community school. The lead agency comes with a clear set of skills and competencies that enhance, complement, and add value to those of the school.

CCS, <http://www.communityschools.org/assets/1/AssetManager/Community%20Schools%20One%20Pager2014.pdf>

Example: Linkages to Learning



<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/community-engagement/linkages-to-learning/>

Upcoming Opportunities

- United Way of the National Capital Area has offered to fund a community school at a Fairfax County middle school.
- We are exploring opportunities to leverage UWNCA and other existing resources to fund a second site at an elementary school.
- To best leverage other resources and efforts, we plan to connect these pilots with our Opportunity Neighborhood in the Mount Vernon area.

Pilot Sites: Next Steps

- Identified schools are Whitman MS and Mt Vernon Woods ES.
- The anticipated start date is Fall 2018.
- Over the coming months, our committee's efforts will focus on:
 - Expanding to include relevant voices not currently engaged.
 - Creating job descriptions for coordinator positions.
 - Conducting needs assessments to identify potential service arrays.
 - Establishing relationships with external partners to serve in the coordinator roles.

Next Steps

- About 15 members of our committee will be attending next week's Community Schools Forum in Baltimore for additional learning and networking opportunities.
- The Coalition for Community Schools has agreed to facilitate the needs assessment process.
- United Way will be identifying an external partner and establishing a formal agreement to fund and implement the work.

Questions and Discussion

Contact Information

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