

**FAIRFAX COUNTY SUCCESSFUL CHILDREN AND YOUTH POLICY TEAM**

**February 6, 2019, 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Room 9/10**

**Agenda**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Follow-Up from Last Meeting
3. Discussion Item: Community Schools Update and Discussion
4. Recap of New Action Steps or Assignments
5. Items and Announcements Presented by SCYPT Members
6. Public Comment
7. Adjourn

**Next Meeting:**

Wednesday, April 3, 2019  
10 am – 12:30 pm  
Government Center Room 9/10

SCYPT Discussion Item D-1  
February 6, 2019

#### DISCUSSION ITEM D-1

TITLE:

Community Schools Update and Discussion

BACKGROUND:

At the 2016 Joint Board Retreat, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and School Board expressed interest in the community schools concept, and the BOS asked SCYPT to examine opportunities. The SCYPT formed a committee of SCYPT members and additional stakeholders and experts. As the committee was developing recommendations, United Way of the National Capital Area (UWNCA) proposed funding a community school at a middle school in Fairfax County.

Since last year, the SCYPT committee has been working with UWNCA and the Coalition for Community Schools to establish, with UWNCA and Fairfax County funding, community schools at Whitman Middle School and Mount Vernon Woods Elementary School. The sites are managed by a site coordinator at each school, hired and supervised by United Community Ministries. The community school sites are considered part of the Opportunity Neighborhood Mount Vernon initiative.

With the two sites currently up and running, the SCYPT committee has regrouped to focus on establishing a systems approach to community schools, to help facilitate future expansion of the program. Today's discussion will include an overview of the Whitman and Mount Vernon Woods implementations, an overview of the systems approach framework being developed, and discussion on key questions related to expanding the initiative.

Prior to the meeting, SCYPT members are asked to review some basic information on community schools, from the Coalition for Community Schools, available at [http://www.communityschools.org/aboutschools/what\\_is\\_a\\_community\\_school.aspx](http://www.communityschools.org/aboutschools/what_is_a_community_school.aspx).

ATTACHMENT:

None

PRESENTER:

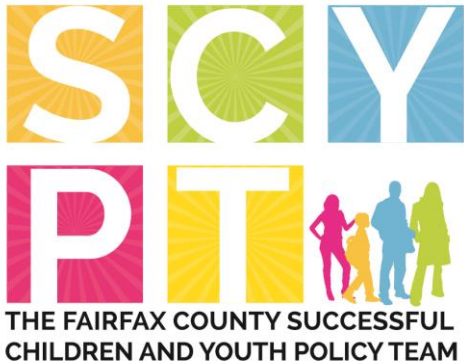
Jesse Ellis, Department of Neighborhood and Community Services

# Community Schools: Updates and Next Steps

Presentation to the SCYPT

February 6, 2019

Community Schools Committee



# Presentation and Discussion Overview

- Community Schools Overview
- What's Happening in Fairfax
- Update from Whitman and Mount Vernon
- Developing a Systems Approach
- Next Steps
- Q&A

# What is a *community school*?

*A community school is both a place and a set of partnerships among the school, county, and 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. Schools become centers of the community with services and activities available during and beyond the school day.*



Conventional School Model



Community Schools

*adapted from the Coalition for Community Schools*

# Community Schools in Fairfax

- 2016 Joint BOS/School Board Meeting and direction to the SCYPT to consider community schools
- SCYPT Community Schools Committee convenes to identify opportunities
- United Way of the National Capital Area proposes funding a community school at a middle school
- Whitman MS and Mt Vernon Woods ES community schools launch, with UWNCA and County funding, in Fall 2018
- SCYPT Committee reconvenes to develop a systems approach

# Updates from Whitman & Mt Vernon Woods

- Whitman MS
  - Principal Craig Herring
  - Site Coordinator Delia Montecinos
  - Funded by UWNCA, through a contract with United Community Ministries
  
- Mount Vernon Woods ES
  - Principal Clint Mitchell
  - Site Coordinator Marcia St. John-Cunning
  - Neighborhood Networks Social Services Specialist Sheila Pou Perez
  - Funded by Fairfax County and UWNCA, through a contract with United Community Ministries

# Developing a Systems Approach

- Discuss the components we're considering
- Share examples
- Discuss highlights from the site-specific MOU we're using
- Discuss the goal of eventually having a centralized coordination function



# Developing a Systems Approach

- Our goal is to have a system in place to promote consistency, replicability, and ease as we expand the initiative and add additional sites.
- We have identified 15 components of the systems approach to begin working on. (We've consolidated them in the following slides.)

# Site-Specific MOU

- MOU between FCPS and the community-based provider (e.g., UCM at WMS and MVWES) includes:
  - Roles and responsibilities for the Community Schools Coordinator and the community-based provider
  - Roles and responsibilities for FCPS
  - Data access and privacy protection

# Systems Component: Purpose and Vision

- Why we want community schools:
  - Improve access, remove barriers
  - Engage and empower families and communities
  - School as hub of community
  - Comprehensive and holistic services
  - More effective and efficient services
  - Whole family approach
- Coalition for Community Schools “elevator speech”:  
*A Community School is a public school – the hub of its neighborhood, uniting families, educators and community partners to provide all students with top-quality academics, enrichment, health and social services, and opportunities to succeed in school and in life.*

# Systems Component: Site Coordinator Job Description & Hiring Process

- Job Description
  - Minimum and preferred requirements
  - Based on Montgomery County's Linkages to Learning JD
  - Developed jointly by UCM, FCPS, Fairfax County
  - Will be revised with final outcomes, program components, etc.
- Hiring Process
  - Modeled on Middle School After-School Coordinators
  - Co-led by hiring agency and principal
  - Includes partners and key stakeholders

# Systems Component: Site Coordinator Training and Access Needs

- Being developed by UCM and FCPS
- Additional needs and challenges identified and addressed in real time

# Systems Component: Program Outcomes and Components

- **United Way Outcomes:**
  - **Attendance**
  - **Behavior**
  - **Classroom Performance**
- **Current Program Components:**
  - Family and student support services
  - Health promotion
  - Enrichment activities
  - Family and community engagement activities
  - Community and volunteer partnerships and infrastructure

# Systems Component: Needs Assessment

- WMS and MVWES have conducted school faculty/staff, parent, and student surveys
- Will also be considering:
  - Data from Youth Survey, school climate surveys, and other sources
  - Needs assessment tools and processes from other jurisdictions and organizations

# Systems Component: Site and Central Budgets

- Developing budget templates:
  - Site-specific
    - Coordinator
    - Outreach and programming
    - Supplies
  - Centralized
    - Training
    - Outreach and programming
    - Central coordination (eventually)



# Systems Components

- Collaborative Management
- Branding
- Start-Up Process

# Systems Component: School Selection Indicators

## Considerations from the preliminary Committee report:

- General need: poverty, health, family self-sufficiency, service utilization, barriers to available services
- Geographic location of the school: access to neighborhoods
- Availability of space within the school
- Community readiness
- School readiness and capacity

# Systems Component: School Selection Indicators

In your groups:

- What should the top 3-5 indicators of need be?
- How should we consider non-need indicators like readiness and location?
- Of the indicators you listed, which are most important?

**\*\*\*Identify a reporter and note-taker\*\*\***

# Next Steps

- Continued implementation and lessons learned from WMS and MVWES
- Continued partnership with UWNCA and Coalition for Community Schools
- Continued work by the Committee to develop a systems approach
- Plan to return to the SCYPT in late 2019 with recommendations and a full systems plan

**Whitman MS  
A Community  
School**

**February 6, 2019**

# Whitman Middle School, A Community School

“The needs are such that the doors need to be opened a little wider.”

-Mary Ann Panarelli



# Challenges and Lessons Learned

- Space
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Location and Transportation





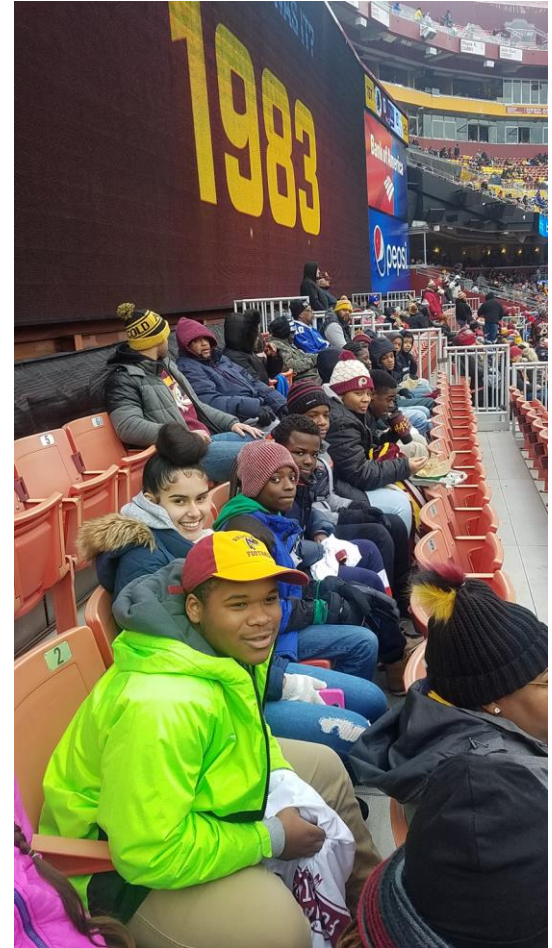
# Getting Started

- Family Market
- Washington Post
- NEA Today Magazine





# Leveraging Partnerships



# Holiday Assistance

- Thanksgiving
- Giving Tree

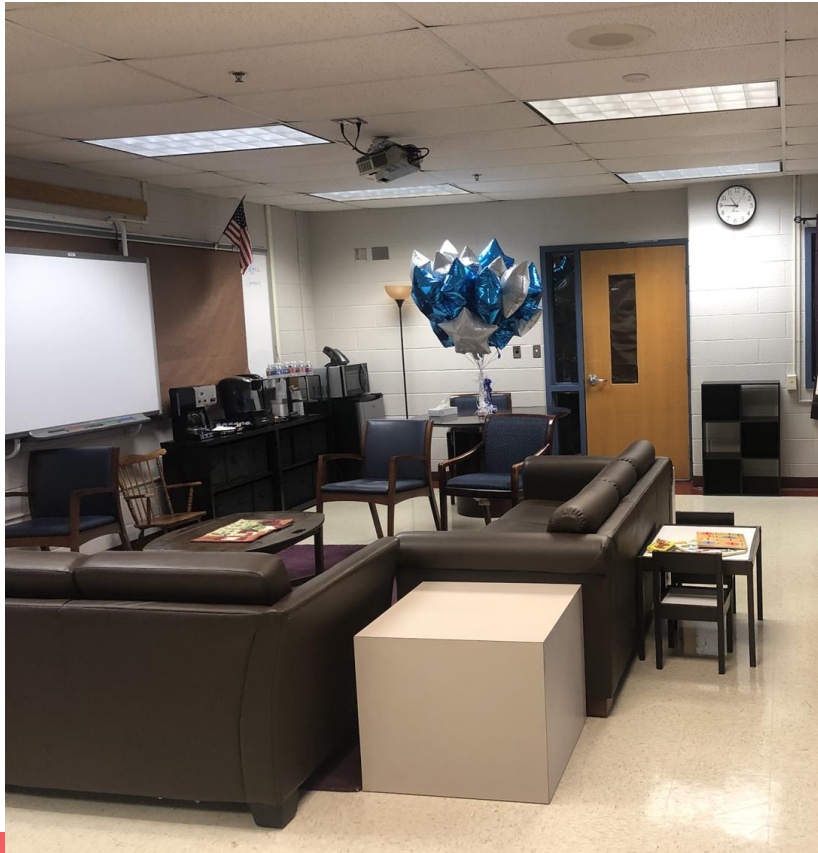




# Partnering with Parents



# Creating a Welcoming Space





# Direct Support



# Mentoring At Whitman



# Walt Whitman MS, A Community School

