ISMS Family Engagement Committee

Monday, March 4th - 10 AM

Initial goal: simply to have a weekly meeting to discuss how to increase family engagement and involvement on our campus and to address the needs we all find most important.

***This second meeting was loosely structured to follow up on our 1st agenda and delve a little deeper.

Planning for Next Meetings
- No meeting next week due to spring break
- Will move 3/18 meeting to 3/19 due to it being a staff workday; we will try to meet in the garden

Facebook Live/Vlogs
- Consensus was “why not give it a try”
  - One suggestion was to simply record small highlights at the beginning or the end of the meeting and have all attendees provide some information so that we are showcasing a variety of voices
  - Travis will follow up with Mr. Alexander regarding logistics and approval

Other Advertising Ideas
- Personalized emails
- Encourage more people to like our Facebook page
- Emphasis still will be to have personal invitations be our primary focus
- April Strickland offered to talk to parents next week during Spring Break Academy to talk about this group

Title I Funds & How to Use Them
- Travis discussed how there are a lot of restrictions for how Title I parent funds can be used, but they are “use it or lose it” so we should prioritize our campus needs
- Suggestions
  - Equipment for our Family Resource area; possibly computers and a printer
  - Snacks for family meetings; possibly partner with outside organizations to do a meal
  - Training for campus staff and/or interested parents

Volunteering Suggestions to Look Into
- Help with breakfasts
- Help during mock testing (but not regular testing due to training)
  - Could help give families a glimpse into the process
- Parent work day to help teachers with tedious tasks
- Handwritten encouragement notes for students
  - Needs to be individually addressed
- *Need activities that allow for different family styles, talents, and gifts

STAAR Tips Planning
- Will be a big focus for our next meeting because we will need to start right away
- Could primarily be focused on email and Facebook
- May be able to delegate to student council
• Possibly do a tip a day

Other Discussions from the Meeting:

• Need to invite parents to the staff vs. students volleyball game on Friday
• Could use “business cards” for the Family Engagement Committee, to hand out to parents

NOTE: we have no set expectations for committee members at this time -- we understand that people may be free one week and busy the next three weeks. You will not be assigned committee duties unless you are willing. Our main goal is to be intentional and consistent in our efforts.

Who is everyone?

• Travis Cheatham- Family Support Specialist for ISMS; co-lead facilitator for the Family Engagement Committee
• Mayela Hernandez-Lora- CYD Parent Engagement Specialist for Communities in Schools (CIS); co-lead facilitator for the Family Engagement Committee
• Morgan Taylor; Site Coordinator- CIS
• Josh Caballero- Community Organizer- Grassroots Community Development Waco
• Joseph Alexander- Principal of ISMS