

RMS (Reimagining Middle Schools) Committee

Steering Meeting Minutes

June 1st

Inclusive Welcome –

- The steering committee members were asked to get some pizza and salad. • The objective of the day was reviewed: "WE Reflect and Celebrate."
- The community agreements were reviewed.
- We thanked everyone who was able to provide feedback on the padlet.
- The timeline was reviewed.

Content-

Where we have been:

- We summarized our journey as the RMS steering community.
- We reviewed our equity-centered design thinking process.
- We reviewed our listening campaign for the 2022-23 period.
- We discussed the book study we conducted and our local and national visits.

Reflection:

- We asked our steering committee members to complete a reflection using this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/vhCdBeG0vy>.
- We had a group debrief about the following questions:

What did you discover about your own motivation for the project?

· Student: I think it was just wanting other middle school students to have a better time in middle school and a more comfortable learning environment.

· Staff: I really love my job and I think I joined wanting to support the kids, but the selfish part of me realized that I...want this (BSD) to be a place that I want to stay. And I've really struggled with that over the years. I want to stay in a place that I know I can do the job well.

· Staff: Middle schoolers are so fun and full of life.

· Parent: I never take part in the PTSA, and my son said that I have to do something, so I thought, OK, I'll do this, go to a few meetings. But as I got more involved, I got more interested. The learning—I wish there were other parents who could come and participate, just to learn. I don't know how this would ever happen...if parents know how schools function, they would better understand the constraints.

What was something that worked well for you during the project?

· Student: I think the incredible environment with everybody jumping in. A creative mindset. It really helped me a lot.

· Parent: I really appreciated the communication for the meetings and everything that went down. I'm a communication person. Having reminders when the meetings were helped make sure I got here every week. I really appreciated the level of communication and detail.

· Staff: I appreciated the process. Having the goals set out and the timeline. It was nice to see where we were and where we were going.

· Staff: It was also flexible—we can't just end it in June and so we extended the timeline. There was countless work done between the meetings that helped us move faster (e.g., analysis of stakeholder feedback data). Otherwise, we would have just slogged through.

· Staff: Working in small groups and letting us work on something we were passionate about helped me feel successful.

· Student: The environment was so good. I enjoyed talking to everyone.

· Staff: I really appreciate the culture we have in the space. It isn't easy to do with staff, students in the same space. Respectful disagreement and debate. I've certainly developed a closeness to people in my small group. And I appreciate that. It could have gone sideways.

· Staff: Coming into the project, I was feeling kind of self-conscious. I am with teachers, admin, central office admin. The advice, going forward to, is adding more voices in and different perspectives. I've felt so welcome. Not felt shut down or shut out. My space and where I'm at everyday is taken in and respected. I think that is imperative to a project like this.

What advice would you give to someone running a project like this?

· Staff: I don't remember the advertising for joining RMS, but I think students and parents needed more advertising to join. I don't know if there was a panel to

choose them, but for parents, throughout the year, I've been talking to parents and telling them, "We need your feedback." Just a suggestion for next time.

· Staff: One of our students who couldn't be here tonight wrote us a nice, reflective email (see email below). They shared that they didn't feel as invited to participate and be heard in the meetings and I'm reflecting on how to encourage that more. It is a little weird. Makes me think of how I can make it more of a safe space.

· Parent: Seeing this group, if you want to run a project, GET MELISA!

Gratitude:

We celebrated the conclusion of the project with cake and certificates.

Nuts and Bolts-

What is coming up-

- Implementation Team Interest for 2023-24 (Staff and one parent per school)
 - Participation in Meetings (2 meetings per month and 4:30 to 6:30 PM)
 - Building Level Stakeholder Engagement
- [RMS Final Proposal and Report](#)
- [RMS Final Presentation](#)

Timeline-

- **June 5-** PTSA update
- **June 6-** BEA update
- **June 8-** Superintendent and Executive Directors Presentation
- **June 13-** Administrators Huddle
- **June 12/22-** Interest Survey