PUZZLE PIECES
LEARNING ACADEMY PCS

Mission Statement:
Our mission is to provide a high-quality, inclusive, and equitable education for *all students from Pre-K (age 4) through 5th grade,* ensuring that every child is supported and challenged to reach their fullest potential. We foster each learner's academic achievement and social-emotional growth through project-based learning (PBL), personalized student learning plans, and culturally sustaining pedagogy. We believe in nurturing every student's sense of belonging and empowerment, building a strong foundation for lifelong learning and success.

Vision Statement:
Our vision is to create a dynamic learning environment where students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. We will achieve this through integrating project-based learning, social-emotional development, and inclusive practices that address each student's unique needs. Using data to drive instruction and partnering with community organizations, we support the whole child, ensuring that students develop the skills they need to become critical thinkers, creative problem solvers, and compassionate leaders. Our emphasis on *culture, community, creativity, and collaboration* ensures that every child prepares to contribute meaningfully to an ever-changing world.

Philosophy Statement:
Every child deserves an education that values unique strengths and nurtures holistic development. Our philosophy centers on developing the whole child—socially, emotionally, and cognitively—through academic success, belonging, a strong sense of identity, emotional well-being, and community support. Our focus on inclusive practices, culturally sustaining pedagogy, and strong partnerships with families and community organizations cultivates resilient, confident, and empathetic learners prepared to face life's challenges. Our commitment to *equity, inclusion, and excellence* guides everything from curriculum to wrap-around services, to teacher training, and much more will ensure our students have the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in an interconnected and diverse society.

PPLA Community Engagement Committee Meeting

Date: March 13, 2025
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Virtual – Zoom

1. Welcome & Purpose of Meeting (5 min)

- Quick check-in
- Overview of today's goals: Align on expectations, discuss key documents, and prepare for the upcoming board meeting

2. Founder's Updates: Application & Contracting Status (10 min)

- Status of the Community Partnership Application and Agreement
- Timeline for contract finalization and next steps

3. Review of Provided Documents (15 min)

Community Engagement Tracker

- Purpose: To track all interactions with stakeholders, including partners and parents
- Events included:
    - **April 5, 2025** (POV: Ashley)
    - Logistics agenda forthcoming
- Chizarra will share the information received via email for future use.
- Community resources and sponsors can be found on the following sites:
    - **Website:** Rise Arts Center
    - **Eventbrite:** Rise for Acceptance Tickets

Fundraising Initiatives

- T-shirts
- Mascot art drawing
- Donation levels for the puzzle wall
- Sneaker ball
- Specific holidays or awareness days

Volunteer Outreach & Committee Mapping

- Social media/communications intern: Chizarra will draft and circulate this for review.
    - Shannon has expertise in this area and can help shape the experience for the intern.
- Volunteer form (Simona)

Board and Committee Agenda Template

- Structure and participation in meetings
- Share an agenda version a day before for review/comments
- Use of nomenclature: WIP (Work in Progress) and final documents in PDF format

Fundraising Brainstorming Plan

- Opportunities for the Chair of Community Engagement, PPLA PCS to support and integrate fundraising efforts
- Chizarra will share an updated document.
- At the next meeting, we will finalize key fundraising events for 2026-27, structured thematically by quarter.

4. Committee Leadership & Role of the Chair of Community Engagement, PPLA, PCS(10 min)

- Clarifying our leadership position within the committee
- Expectations for decision-making and collaboration with school leadership
    - Committee proposals, especially those with financial implications, should be presented to the board for final approval.
    - On an ad-hoc basis, strategic planning and facilities management will be reviewed in June.
    - During the summer, school staff will be present, allowing for in-person visits.

5. Preparing for the Board Meeting (10 min)

- **Key messages and value proposition for the Puzzle Initiative**
    - Use of puzzle-themed backgrounds during Zoom meetings
    - Destiny, VP, will serve as the interim lead
    - Allotted time for the board meeting with an expectation to share key decisions
- **Anticipated questions from the board and how to address them**
    - The board consists of committed community members.
    - Justification for initiatives, including financial considerations.
    - “Answer a question before it becomes a question.”
- **Materials or presentations needed**

6. Next Steps & Action Items (5 min)

- Recap of meeting notes
- Calendar reminders for upcoming meetings

- Confirm any outstanding items before the board meeting (None)
- Set expectations for ongoing communication and meetings (Once a month)
- Schedule any necessary follow-ups

7. Closing & Final Thoughts (5 min)

- Open floor for any final questions or concerns
- **Public Meeting Proposal**:
    - Simona suggests making the last hour of the meeting public and offering an option for participants to sign up in advance.
    - Chizarra will draft and circulate a communication plan for public comments.
- **Reaffirming mutual goals for the committee:**
    - Building community together

APPENDIX

Meeting transcript can be found here