



# Family & Community Engagement Committee Report

Spring 2017

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Madeleine Villalobos (Elgin High School) – Co-Chairperson  
Matt Hovey (Hanover Countryside Elementary) – Co-Chairperson  
Larry Bury (Sycamore Trails Elementary) – Co-Chairperson  
Phil Novello (Oakhill Elementary)  
Vanessa Castelan (Oakhill Elementary)  
Jeff Book (Canton Middle School)  
Tammy Book (Canton Middle School)  
Heather Mathews (Centennial Elementary)  
Vivienne Bailey (Hillcrest Elementary)



(Missing from the FACE Committee photo are Matt Hovey and Larry Bury)

## DISTRICT LIAISON

Mary Fergus – Director of School and Community Relations  
Karla Jimenez – Coordinator of Family and Community Engagement

*Approved by CAC Executive Committee – 4/27/2017*

*Approved by CAC General Council – 5/4/2017*

*Presented to the Board of Education – 6/5/2017*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Citizens' Advisory Council (CAC) Family & Community Engagement Committee would like to thank Mary Fergus, Director of School and Community Relations and Karla Jimenez, Coordinator of Family and Community Engagement for their ongoing support and encouragement of the committee's work. We would also like to thank Judy Davenport and Jeanne Gockenbach for their administrative support with the PTO/PTA network initiative.

## COMMITTEE MISSION & INITIATIVES FOR 2016-17

**The CAC Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Committee is to take on challenging initiatives throughout the school year that help improve parent and community involvement at the school and district levels.**

Our 2016-2017 Initiatives:

- Expand the parent group (PTO/PTA, Boosters, etc.) network to include middle and high school parent groups. Continue developing a network of support to our parent group organizations across the District. Identify contacts, assess needs, and determine potential support opportunities to strengthen and encourage family engagement and partnerships.
- Plan, organize and host a U-46 Citizens' Advisory Council Board of Education Candidate forum.

## OVERVIEW

For its ninth year of work, the committee determined to explore two initiatives to address various avenues of family and community engagement in U-46. We reviewed information provided from our Board of Education (BOE), our most highly engaged and successful school leaders and our invaluable parent volunteers throughout the District for direction. Our goal is to align our work with the goals and objective of the BOE, staff and the 2016 Strategic Plan in order to produce useful, effective results. Ultimately, our focus is driven by factors that impact family and community engagement within our District.

The FACE committee aligned its initiatives this year to Priorities 5 and 6 of the [Strategic Plan](#) page 19-20 (APPENDIX A-B) presented to the School Board on March 7, 2016:

*Thematic Category: Community Engagement*

*Aspiration: We will engage in meaningful and effective relationships with all families and the greater community.*

*Priority 5 We will partner with families and the greater community to foster shared ownership and aligned support for our priorities.*

*Priority 6 We will support and empower schools to be welcoming centers of family and community engagement.*

## PTO/PTA Network

*Priority 5.4 Increase family and community member participation and volunteerism in school and district sponsored activities and events.*

*Priority 6.2 Increase parent's satisfaction rates on how welcome and respected they feel within the district.*

The 2016-2017 school year marked the third year of the Parent Group (PTO/PTA, Boosters, etc.) Network initiative developed by the CAC FACE Committee. This initiative was started in an effort to help School District U-46 better assist all school parent groups. At these network events, parent groups obtain useful information in an open and candid discussion amongst one another. The goal is to better equip all schools in the District to improve the quality of education for our students and to increase opportunities for parent groups to meet their individual school goals. These goals include fundraising, volunteer recruitment, and general support of the school.

The first meeting in November 2016 was an open forum presentation to the parent groups. The meeting was held at Poplar Creek Public Library (APPENDIX C) and was an orientation to the Network with existing and new parent group leadership in attendance and an idea sharing session discussing what topics should be presented and expanded upon in future meetings of the network. We had 25 attendees representing 17 schools.

Our second meeting in January was held in the Bartlett High School Library (APPENDIX D). We had a Technology presentation from Laura Macias, Director of Information Services, who helped answer many questions about the District's Technology Department and the services and support they offer to our schools. We then went into our open forum where our Parent Group attendees shared their ideas and concerns with each other. We had 20 attendees from 15 different schools represented.

We plan to continue supporting parent groups by having one meeting at the beginning of the school year as an orientation to new parent group members and a refresher to existing members on basic rules and regulations that a parent group should know and follow. We will also have a second meeting towards the end of the year to focus on any questions parent groups may have during the year. We would like to extend an open communication channel to the groups so they can ask us questions during the school year and we can try to help them get the answers they need through our parent group email.

### Recommendation

Continue to support the goals and progress of the Parent Group Network by providing complete transparency on U-46 guidelines and policies as they apply to the parent groups. Show Board support from FACE aligned board members by attending one or more Parent Group Network meetings during the course of the school year.



PTO Network Meeting at Poplar Creek Public Library and Bartlett High School

## **U-46 Board of Education Candidate Forum**

*Priority 5.1 Increase the number of opportunities for community members to interact with board members outside of the board meetings and provide feedback. Increase participation of community members.*

*Priority 5.3 Increase awareness through social media and district communication resources and tools.*

The FACE Committee successfully assumed a new role for this year – hosting the CAC U-46 Board of Education (BOE) candidate forum. The candidate forum was previously the responsibility of the Legislative Committee, which was put on hiatus last year.

As part of the forum planning process, the FACE Committee wanted to ensure the event maximized participation from the U-46 community. An outreach effort was launched in December to solicit potential questions (APPENDIX E). A total of 42 questions were submitted for consideration, including several (thanks to the assistance of student Board member Eric Loera) from U-46 students. All 42 questions were submitted to forum moderator Kerry Lester (Daily Herald) for consideration.

The candidate forum was held on March 9 at the DREAM Academy auditorium. All five candidates – Enoch Essendrop, Cody Holt, Veronica Noland, Melissa Owens and Donna Smith – participated in the event. Questions covered a wide variety of topics and provided potential voters with a better understanding as to where the candidates stood on the issues.

While the FACE Committee was pleased to see that approximately 150 people attended the candidate forum in person, that number was eclipsed by the 437 people who viewed the forum on the district's YouTube channel either live or after the event. Voter turnout on April 4 ran a bit higher than previous elections with a turnout of 15.7% in the Kane County portion of the district, 13.1% in the DuPage County portion and 8.4% in the Cook County portion.

Recommendation

The FACE Committee recommends that the Citizens' Advisory Council Executive Committee decide what group will be facilitating the U-46 Board of Education Candidate Forum. Explore the possibility of making it an Adhoc Committee when there is an election year. This includes the upcoming races in 2018 for seats in the General Assembly and in 2019 for U-46 Board of Education. The FACE Committee further recommends that the U-46 BOE Candidate Forum Sub-Committee do a similar outreach to obtain questions and encourage participation be continued for future events.



U-46 Board of Education Candidate Forum

## Measurable Goals

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Thematic Category: Community Engagement

Aspiration: We will engage in meaningful and effective relationships with all families and the greater community.

### Priority 5

We will partner with families and the greater community to foster shared ownership and aligned support for our priorities.

1. Increase the number of opportunities for community members to interact with board members outside of the board meetings and provide feedback.
  - Increase participation of community members.
2. Increase the number of opportunities for community members to interact with U-46 staff and provide feedback.
3. Increase awareness through social media and district communication resources and tools.
4. Increase family and community member participation and volunteerism in school and district sponsored activities and events.
5. Increase targeted collaboration and tools for community organizations to work with U-46.

## Measurable Goals

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Thematic Category: Community Engagement

Aspiration: We will engage in meaningful and effective relationships with all families and the greater community.

### Priority 6

We will support and empower schools to be welcoming centers of family and community engagement.

1. Increase diverse parent representation and satisfaction on school and district committees.
2. Increase parents' satisfaction rates on how welcome and respected they feel within the district.
3. Increase number and types of community events and services hosted at schools.
4. Increase opportunities for families to learn about navigating the school system.



## Join us for a Parent Group Gathering!

Calling all U-46 School PTO/PTA & Booster parent groups! Let's get together to share ideas, network with neighboring schools, and talk FACE

to FACE! ☺

***TOPICS:*** *Increasing Volunteers/Parent Participation, Fundraising ideas, Parent Group Checklist and much more!*

***WHO:*** PTO/PTA/BOOSTER Parents who can bring back information back to their school *(Please only two parents from each school)*

**DATE:** Thursday, November 3, 2016      **TIME:** 7pm

**PLACE:** Poplar Creek Public Library

1405 S. Park Ave., Streamwood



**Please RSVP by Nov. 1st so we can plan accordingly!**

**KINDLY RSVP TO:** Parentnet46@gmail.com

**HOSTED BY:** Parents of the U-46 CAC Family & Community Engagement Committee

If needed, Complimentary childcare will be provided! Please indicate how many children.



# **Parent Group Gathering**

## ***BARTLETT HIGH SCHOOL***

DATE: Tuesday, January 17, 2017  
TIME: 7:00 pm  
LOCATION: Bartlett High School Library  
701 W Schick Rd., Bartlett

***MEMBERS OF ALL PARENT GROUPS ARE INVITED TO COME  
NETWORK WITH OTHER SCHOOL PARENT GROUPS, LEARN ABOUT  
U-46 TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT AND SHARE FUNDRAISING IDEAS!***

***KINDLY RSVP BY JAN. 13 TO [PARENTNET46@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PARENTNET46@GMAIL.COM)  
CHILDCARE WILL BE AVAILABLE***

HOSTED BY: Parents of the U-46 CAC Family & Community  
Engagement Committee



TO: Members of the U-46 advisory councils, community groups and interested parties  
FROM: U-46 Citizens' Advisory Council Family and Community Engagement Committee  
RE: Board of Education Candidate Questions  
DATE: December 16, 2016

The U-46 Citizens' Advisory Council (CAC) will be hosting a forum for candidates for the U-46 Board of Education on Thursday, March 9, 2017. The CAC Family and Community Engagement Committee (FACE) is responsible for planning the forum and we are seeking your input into the process.

We are inviting all U-46 advisory councils, community groups and other interested parties to submit potential questions that you would like the Board of Education candidates to answer during the forum. These questions are intended to provide insights to voters and the public as to their positions on issues that impact our schools and our students and how each of the candidates will approach their responsibilities as a member of the Board. Questions that are reflective of the interests of your advisory council, community group or other perspective are especially welcome.

We ask that you or a representative of your council or group submit your questions via email to [U46CACForum@gmail.com](mailto:U46CACForum@gmail.com) by Monday, January 16.

The FACE Committee will review the submittals and prepare a list of potential questions for the forum moderator to choose from. In order to maintain the integrity of the process, the list of potential questions will not be made public or available to the candidates themselves until they are asked during the forum.

We thank you in advance for your questions and your support as we begin the process of helping voters evaluate the potential membership of the U-46 Board of Education.