

FAR NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COMMITTEE UPDATE

“All Means All”

www.FNECCschools.org

Thank you for the your presence and work at the 5/25 meeting. Your work to bring people to the meeting is to be applauded, and you all did a wonderful job facilitating discussions at your tables.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, June 8, at Rachel B Noel at 6:00p.m. Please be sure to arrive early for dinner.

This is our final meeting for the spring. The committee will finalize the principles and get a preview of the material and choices on which we will be working in the August-October meeting series. The work at the 6/8 meeting will give you a sense of the questions we will be tackling in the fall.

If you have questions about the 5/25 meeting results or about the upcoming meeting, please email Makisha Boothe at mb@aplusdenver.org.

Minutes from 5/25:

The May 25 meeting opened at 5:00 p.m. with new school applicants showcasing their schools at individual tables in the main foyer. FNECC Co-chair Stacie Gilmore welcomed the committee and community members in attendance. She discussed the purpose of the meeting and the intended outcomes for the meeting and reviewed all the prepared handouts and items on the tables such as the color-coded “help flags” and the voting remotes. *(If you were not able to attend the 5/18 or 5/25 meetings, your binder can be picked up at the registration desk on 6/8.)*

Stacie Gilmore reviewed the agenda and ground rules. She discussed the purpose of the committee and reviewed the work and process of the committee to date.

Superintendent Tom Boasberg, reviewed school and student achievement statistics and the charges to the committee. He discussed the short and long-term decisions that the principles will inform.

Ken Snyder of Placematters asked tables mixed with community members and committee members to review the 38 principles. He gave the table teams 30 minutes to discuss the principles and prepare a table group report on the principles. The questions were:

- What do you like best about these?
- Are there any principles you would add to these?
- Are there concerns or hopes for FNE schools these principles don't address
- Are there any principles you do not support?

The table teams voted with their touchpads and reviewed the results. After answering a few demographic questions using the keypad polling, and then the group used the touch pads to rate the top suggestions and comments on the principles.

Feedback from the group revealed a general sense that 38 principles were accurate but that there were too many principles, and that they were vague and repetitive and needed to be condensed.

Other feed back included:

- It was noted that the use of the word diversity was used frequently. Defining this term to be inclusive of special need students and other populations was also identified.
- The principles were accurate and greatly appreciated but could not be implemented or sustained without the right leadership.
- Counseling for kids in crisis is a consideration to keep at the table during these discussions.

Carol Mehesy of Denver Public Schools' Office of School Reform and Innovation went over the application and approval process for new schools in DPS. New schools that have applied to be placed in FNE Denver gave brief descriptions of their schools and school concepts. Among the presenters were KIPP, DCIS, SOAR and Independence High School.

The final spring meeting of the FNECC on June 8th will allow the committee members to finalize its principles document for presentation to the Superintendent and the Board of Education. Committee table work will address examples of applying the principles to actual questions the Board of Education will be addressing, and provide information on planning for the fall 2010 meetings of FNECC.

