



## **Best Practice: Creating a Collaborative Vision**

The Parent Coordinator role varies widely from school to school. Each school administrator views their PC differently and may not realize how important they are to the successful implementation of their school's vision. Because of these discrepancies, it is important that the PC clarify and solidify their position as being aligned with the vision of the school and administrator, but also reflective of the PC and their role as a parent engagement collaborator.

Developing a **collaborative mission statement** with program objectives requires knowledge of the **Comprehensive Education Plan** and the vision that the administrator has for the school. It also requires a personal vision for parent engagement that the PC holds sacred and carries into their professional role. The interconnection of these elements helps the PC create a document that is reflective, relevant and progressive. Additional elements of the mission statement and target programs include the goal of each and identification of team members that will work with the PC in achievement of the mission.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. In developing a vision statement and programmatic mission, are there specific areas to be covered?**

The P.C. collaborative vision statement and programmatic mission document should contain:

- a) Either the school's vision statement or a blend of the PCs personal statement on parent engagement and the school's vision.
- b) The programmatic mission statement attached to the vision that outlines the PCs target programs to be implemented or expanded. These should also note the outcomes for each of these programs.

**2. Can the PC collaborative vision statement be shared with parents?**

Absolutely! This is an opportunity to educate parents on the role of the PC and set expectations for what is coming during the year. Ideally, this document should be shared at the beginning of the year along with a parent survey that gathers their feedback and ideas.

**3. Does the vision statement have to be given to the principal, school staff and educators in the school community?**

Yes! Sharing the PC vision & programmatic mission with the internal school community and PTA does a number of things:



- a) It indicates proactive leadership and reinforces the image of your role in the school community.
- b) It gains buy in from those in the community and provides direction.
- c) May inspire interest and participation from school staff which eases team development for projects.

## **Leadership Institute Shared Best Practices**

### **Collaborative Vision Sample 1**

*Courtesy of Mrs. Wonda Williams-Alston, PC at P.S. 44 The Thomas Brown School*

#### **Vision & Mission Statement**

All students will be supported in the acquisition of requisite skills necessary for continued social, emotional and academic success. The students of Public School 44 will complete their formative years with an understanding, tolerance and appreciation for socially and academically diverse people. The school intends to create a safe, inclusive and academically challenging environment. Our school family (parents, teachers and staff) will help to develop literate and socially responsible young people while respecting every child's right to be educated in their community school regardless of their social needs.

Because 1 in every 3 students has an IEP, we adhere to Special Education Reform and have systems in place to meet their needs. We have expectations for all of our students and it is important that my parents and community know that we be a 'One Stop Shop' by offering various services to accommodate our students and parents.

#### **Target Programs**

**P.S. 44 Eaglet's Mentoring Program:** extension of PBIS program in collaboration with the Dean of Students to improve behavioral outcomes for at risk students while addressing social/emotional concerns.

**Total Wellness Family Night:** parent conference event with workshops ranging from financial to physical wellness including provided in collaboration with CBO partners, staff partners, and the PTA.

**Anti-Bullying Campaign:** school wide initiative with weekly events for parents, students and staff emphasizing anti-bullying practices, strategies and information. Team members include Dean of Students, teachers (art/literacy, phys.ed), PTA Executive Board, & Asst. Principal.



## **Collaborative Vision Sample 2**

*Courtesy of Mrs. Brenda Soto, PC at P.S. 164*

### **Vision & Mission Statement**

To build capacity and create tools to foster partnerships among families, schools and communities that result in shared responsibilities for student, school and community success.

### **Beliefs**

- Parents and schools have a shared responsibility for the academic achievement of their children.
- Parents, regardless of educational level, socio-economic status, ethnicity or culture, will be empowered to support their children's education.
- Parents and families benefit when schools serve as a resource for the entire community and the community serves as a resource for the schools.

### **Target Programs**

**Free Parent/Adult ESL Program:** A year round program to improve parent communication overall and increase the bond between the school community and parents. The team is made up of Principal, PC & Office of Adult Continuing Education.

**Transitioning to Pre- K Workshops & Events:** A series of workshops held monthly for Pre-Kindergarten Parents to introduce families to the new school environment, increase comfort ability and prepare for the transition to public school expectations. Team includes Pre- K Social Worker, family worker & PC.

**Housing & Tenant Rights for Immigrants:** Educating parents on the rights of minority, elderly, low-income and immigrant tenants with a focus on housing changes, eliminating unfair, unsafe and inhuman housing. Collaborative effort with the Brooklyn Housing Services & Family Development Office.