



HOS Report
8.20.14

BOARD DISCUSSION

Monthly Highlight

Full-Day Learning Extension Camp (October 17th)

- Recap
 - We moved away from the ½ day early release professional development model in favor of 4 full day professional development sessions this year. We felt the instructional time lost from early release and the short professional development time was not conducive for either activity.
 - When considering our calendar, we made the decision to place these days on a Friday or Monday to enable families to take a three day week, should their schedule allow. We also recognized this was a “lost” learning day for students and that some families would struggle to find care for their children. In order to provide a space for Summit children to continue learning and to enable families to have access to high-quality educational experiences for their kids, we have worked very hard this summer and during the beginning of the school year to form partnerships with various community organizations in order to provide a “Learning Extension Session” for Summit children.
- Our team recently met with several community partners to brainstorm and solidify the details of the Full Day Learning Extension Session. Our first session will take place on Friday, October 17th. Our partners include: (1) Cedar Rapids Public Library, (2) Ceramics Center, (3) Theatre Cedar Rapids, (4) LD Kidd, (5) Carol Maxwell Rezabek. The session will be held at the CRPL and TCR.
- After much discussion, we have decided to center all four Full Day Learning Extension Sessions around the theme “Happiness.” This theme is inspired by Amie Olhmann (U of I PhD Candidate in Language, Literacy, & Culture) and her work with the poet Mary Szybist and her poem *Happy Ideas*. Szybist is a graduate of the U of I’s Writers’ Workshop and an award-winning poet. She will be working with Amie this year to recreate her work through art. We hope to include Szybist in our later sessions and after-school programming.
- During the October session, children will explore ideas about what makes people (themselves and their friends) happy. They will begin their day with a reading of the poem and a large group yoga class. They will then be split into groups and rotate through 4 different experiences with our partner-artists. Activities will include: (1) a session with the CRPL where they will create posters about what makes them happy, (2) A improvisation/spoken word poetry class at TCR, (2) create a treasure box with the Ceramics Center, (3 & 4) to different dance sessions based on the images conjured in the poem. The day will culminate at CRPL with a sharing/performance session in Beams Auditorium.
- Future sessions will explore family happiness, community happiness, and global happiness.
- Logistics:
 - Full day sessions will cost \$40/child and run from 8:30 – 3:30.
 - No before or after care will be offered.
 - Several of our staff members will be on hand to help kids travel from class to class and to assist partner-artists with instruction.

- Children will be picked up and dropped off at the CRPL
- Children will need to pack a nonperishable lunch, bring a water bottle, and wear comfortable clothes to allow for movement.
- Children will have a 1 hour lunch/recess break at the CRPL (weather permitting – they will eat on the roof and then play games in Green Square Park)
- Parents are welcome to chaperon this event.

Reading Assignment & Discussion

It was requested the board & Summit community read the article, “The Kind of Schools We Need” (Eisner, 2002). This article is based on Eisner’s earlier book, *The Kind of Schools We Need: Personal Essays* (1998).

[Access the article HERE.](#)

Discussion suggestions:

- How does Summit address Eisner’s vision of the “kind of schools we need?”
- What are our aims of education (a “Summit education”)? What do we consider important? What kind of educational culture do we want our children to experience?
- How do we imagine Summit’s future?

BOARD UPDATES

Enrollment Update:

Data reporting will look a little bit different this year. Based on review and reflection of past HOS reports, and discussions at board meetings, updating the “enrollment table” each month provides little new data or discussion points as our enrollment does not change dramatically after the school year begins. Rather, changes to our student body will be reported as bullet points and summary points will be offered as necessary. Once enough data is amassed, consideration for presentation and data comparison will occur.

- During the 2013/14 school year, 6 preschool spots were added between the months of August and September. Comparatively, in the 2014/15 school year we have lost one PS MWF spot due to the family’s Visa expiring and their need to return to India for several months as they await the renewal process. This family will most likely return.
- Inquiries to date:
 - We have had 3 families call to inquire about our PS program.
 - Two tours were given the week of September 8th. One tour was cancelled (although it does not appear we will be able to meet the needs of this child). Follow up with these families will take place the week of September 15th.
 - One phone call was received regarding our Kindergarten program. The family has not followed up nor responded to a follow up phone call.
 - Chris received an email September 8th from a past PS family inquiring about open spots. Both Chris and I have followed up with the family.

Summary:

- 112 spots filled PS thru 5th grade (down 1 spot from last month)
- 101 students enrolled (down 1 spot from last month)

General School Updates

- Literacy and math assessments are wrapping up this week. Teachers are in the process of review material in order to form learning groups.
- Goal setting conferences will take place next week.
- State reports (the “C-Plan” – aka: the Consolidated Plan – which consists of the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan, the Annual Progress Report, & Iowa Core Implementation Plan) were submitted on September 15th.
- The Administrative Team met to plan the first of four newsletters. Tonya will be leading the charge in material collection, writing “articles,” etc. Micah will be creating the newsletter. We have set a “publishing” goal of mid-October.
- Molli, Rick, and I have created a document to address/streamline tech requests in the building. An email has been distributed to staff to provide guidance for requests/concerns.
- We have received two additional application materials for our open music educator position. Faculty will be conducting interviews on Tuesday and Thursday this week. It is hoped that we will have a recommendation for hire sometime Friday or early next week.

Development Updates:

- We have been in contact with CSPA to develop an ongoing partnership with this community-based group. CSPA hosts artists and musicians from around the world. They cooperate with schools – offering performances and workshops with these artists. We are currently looking for donors to fund the nominal fee (approximately \$200/session) so our students have an opportunity to participate in this amazing experience.
- Kaitlin and community are busy with the planning our Adult Social & Auction (scheduled for November 7th). Save-the-date cards are scheduled to be mailed this week.
- Kaitlin continues to work on our Blue Zone designation.
- Partnership discussions continue with many local community groups.

Social Media Updates:

- Plans for the first session of after school Learning Extension Sessions have been finalized. Tonya is busy writing up the content/explanation of these opportunities and is working closely with Micah to create a brochure. Tonya is also working on a Google Form for parents to sign up for the sessions. (FYI: sessions will cost \$9/each and run from 5 to 8 weeks depending on the class).
- Tonya is also working on an informational letter to be sent to parents later in the week explaining all the different ways to find out about the happenings at Summit and stay involved/connected to the community. This letter will include instructions to (1) check that you are receiving emails from our mass distro list, (2) connect to Facebook, (3) connect to the blog, etc.
- Tonya is also working to increase our Facebook exposure. She would like to remind our community to log on to their personal account and “like” the Summit page. She would also like to remind us to invite our friends to “like” the Summit page as well.

Happenings at Summit:

- September 18th: YALE begins for our PS Enrichment class, PK, & Kinder
- September 19th: School “Sock Hop” Dance
- Week of September 22nd: Goal Setting Conferences
- September 29th: Summit Pride Day & Assembly

- September 30th: Family Literacy Night
- Week of September 30th: After School Learning Extension Sessions begin
- October 2nd & 3rd: School Pictures
- October 6th: Halloween Costume Drive begins
- October 6th: (Tentative) Summit Community Book Study Group