

## **Exemplary Project Meeting Notes**

**May 4, 2023 at 7pm**

**In-person at Innovation Library and via Teams (Virtual)**

- **Welcome**
- **Presentation**
  - What is an exemplary project?
  - How we got here
  - Project proposal
  - Summary of group questions and discussion:
    - CARES was added to the proposal when the proposal went to the school staff.
    - The current proposal was updated since it was presented in April. It clarifies that the core of this program is service learning.
- **Breakout Groups, summary of feedback:**
  - Like the concept of giving students ownership of their projects, and helping them to become better people
  - Appreciation for the service component
  - This is a unique opportunity to create a culture of academic excellence
  - Sense that the community was not heard in the current proposal
  - Project should fulfill the “Innovation” concept using academic and STEAM components
  - In contrast to the current proposal, the project should have a stronger organizing theme for the school (e.g., systems thinking; citizen advocates)
  - Community partnerships should be forged in the first year and beyond
  - Consider leveraging an “off the shelf” program already designed for educational settings
  - Should enhance the school’s innovation curriculum and STEAM academics
  - STEM should be incorporated as a guiding component
  - Name should be changed from CARES and the project should be separate from the CARES initiative

- Project should utilize science and technology building blocks to solve a community problem
- Project should design innovations that create connections with the community
- It is important to have a dedicated space and a dedicated staff member
- Keep the service-based component but add science and tech
- Could use an “investigation station” model
- **Next Steps**
  - Summary of discussion about next steps:
    - Eagerness to get started as soon as possible. One parent volunteered to help form a Steering committee to speed up and formalize the process, and others expressed interest.
    - Discussed the potential for staff to be paid to work additional hours on this project.
    - Concern that Option 3 could delay starting the project for a year
    - Could take advantage of an existing research-backed model for the exemplary project
    - Some staff expressed commitment to the current proposal and relished the opportunity to focus on making students better people
    - Parents clarified that service learning concept can co-exist with other ideas presented, e.g., more academics/tech/innovation to aid the community and a more cohesive organizing theme
    - Consider hiring an APS staff member to help facilitate the process of identifying a project and getting it off the ground
    - Idea that it is important to take the time to do this right
    - Idea of starting with pilot projects next year or by mirroring an “prepackaged” exemplary project
    - Desire to continue high engagement in this process, potentially by creating a revised proposal incorporating tonight’s feedback via Option 2, and then presenting it again for additional feedback and to continue this process
- **Vote (each participant got one vote):**
  - Option 1 (keep current proposal): 2 votes (0 in person and 2 online)

- Option 2 (revise proposal to incorporate feedback and receive feedback on updated proposal): 34 votes (16 in person and 18 online)
- Option 3 (scrap the current proposal and restart the process in the fall): 12 votes (9 in person and 3 online)