



Saskatchewan Learning &
Lloydminster Catholic
Schools:
*Working Together with our
School Community Councils*

[enter school name]
School Community Council Workshop
November 2007

Welcome



Welcome!!

- ✓ Purpose and Intent
- ✓ Presentation Overview
 - ✓ Beliefs
 - ✓ Information
 - ✓ Involvement
 - ✓ Engagement
 - ✓ Leadership
- ✓ Planning and Implementation

Beliefs



What might be the beliefs and assumptions of parents being involved in schools in relation to the community?

Person A - Old Belief	Person B - New Belief
Parents are too busy to be involved	Parents are reading one on one with students
Parents don't know what is right for their children	Parents want to be a part of their child's education

Beliefs



"You may be disappointed if you fail, but you are doomed if you don't try."

- Beverly Sills, American opera singer



Beliefs



Moving from old to new ...

“Interrupt” old beliefs with new ones, ones that reflect a collaborative approach between Saskatchewan Learning, Lloydminster Catholic Schools, and our school’s community council.

We Believe



We Believe ...

- ✓ All parents care about their children.
- ✓ All parents hold knowledge of children, teaching and learning.
- ✓ Parent engagement happens in multiple ways and in multiple places.
- ✓ Children, parents, families, schools and communities should all be strengthened through parent and community engagement.

(Pushor, 2001/2006)

We Believe



We Believe ...

- ✓ Communities are capable of positive change.
- ✓ There are solutions to all challenges facing our children's ability to learn.
- ✓ One of the strongest forces for making change is community empowerment.
- ✓ Community members are desirous of improving their communities and are willing to contribute their energies toward such ends.

Information



What it looks like ...

Students, parents, and community members are informed of decisions made by school staff.

Examples of Information:

This information may be shared in forms such as a newsletter, letter, handbook, a meeting or through personal contact.

Involvement



Defining “involvement” ...

The word involvement comes from the Latin word “involvere” which means “to roll into.” Students, parents, and community members are “co-opted”; “brought into the act by another party.”

Involvement may include activities such as having parents work at and support school sponsored events, arrange fundraising activities, be audience members or support classroom activities.

Engagement



Defining “engagement” ...

The word ‘engagement’ comes from ‘en’ meaning *make* and ‘gage’ meaning *pledge*:

- ✓ to make a pledge to; to make a moral commitment. Students, parents, and community members who are engaged are “brought into the act” because of care and commitment.

(Pushor, 2005)

Engagement



Together, staff, students, parents, and community members work collaboratively to create a SCC action plan to support student learning.

Children, families, the school and the community **all** benefit from this engagement.

(Amendt, 2004; Pushor, 2005)

Engagement



Examples of “engagement” ...

- ✓ A preschool teacher is interested in developing a transition strategy from preschool to Kindergarten.
- ✓ The teacher begins seeking information from former and current preschool parents as to what worked best for their child(ren) and what they believe would help with the transition.
- ✓ The teacher invites parents and school staff to a meeting to dialogue about this issue and to work together to develop a transition strategy.

(Amendt, 2004)

Engagement



Examples of “engagement” ...

- ✓ A school wants to work toward improving student academic performance.
- ✓ Through personal contact, all staff invite students, parents and community members to a forum to discuss what they could do together to positively impact achievement.
- ✓ Together, they actualize the plan and integrate the learning community’s suggestions into the school. They review their progress by measuring and sharing outcomes with all involved. (Amendt, 2004)

Leadership



"Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing."



- *Albert Schweitzer, German medical missionary*

Leadership



Defining “leadership” ...

“Leadership” falls to the person best able to take the lead at a particular point in time. In this conceptualization, leadership is an act, not a position.

Every student, parent or community member has the potential to be a *leader*.

Leadership



Examples of “leadership” ...

This act of leadership may include such things as:

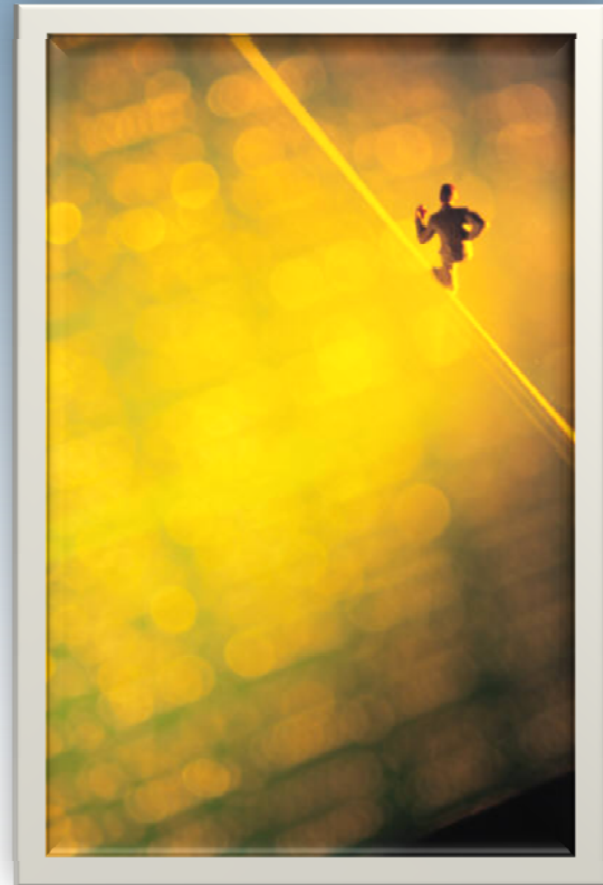
- ✓ parents collaborate with teachers to organize family literacy events to support children and their families based upon a defined need;
- ✓ Parents, staff concerned with rise in bullying organize a guest speaker for parents to come in and talk about bullying in our community; along with a professional presentation for teachers.

Leadership



To get what
we've never had,
we must do what
we've never
done.

- Anonymous



Practices



For Quiet Reflection ...

Question:

As a School Community Council ...

How do we do our work in a way that engages children, youth, families, and community?

Practices



Below are four examples that schools may be **involved** in as part of their regular practices.

Pick one and discuss how you would approach that activity in a way that **engages** children, youth, families, and community.

1. Increasing physical activities
2. Promoting early literacy
3. Bridging Faith formation between students, families and our church
4. Supporting the enhancement of second language programming
5. Promoting healthy food and nutrition.

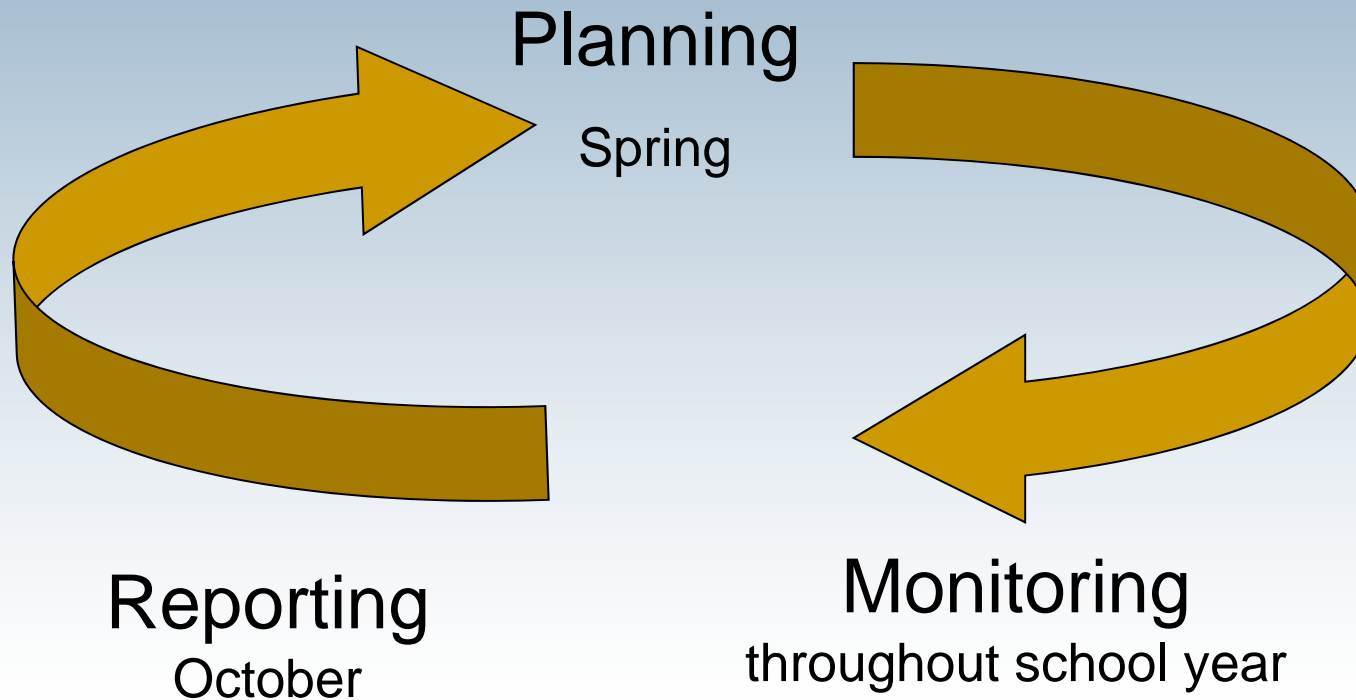


The Saskatchewan Learning’s “Continuous Improvement Framework” (CIF) advances both provincial and local Priorities:

- **Four provincial priorities**
 1. High levels of literacy and achievement
 2. Equitable opportunities to learn and succeed
 3. Smooth transitions into and through the system
 4. Strong system-wide accountability and governance
- **Division priorities**
- **School and Community priorities**



Continuous Improvement Framework Annual Cycle: Aligned with school fiscal year





School Level–Learning Improvement Plan

Context

- School Mission / Vision Statement
- School Community Council Structure
- Student Profile – Number of students, staff, and programming
- School Programs and Services

School / School Division Priorities and Strategies

- Core Beliefs
- Division Priorities
- School Priorities and Strategies



School Community Councils

Principles and Vision:

School Community Council responsibilities address key matters that make a difference in student learning and well-being.

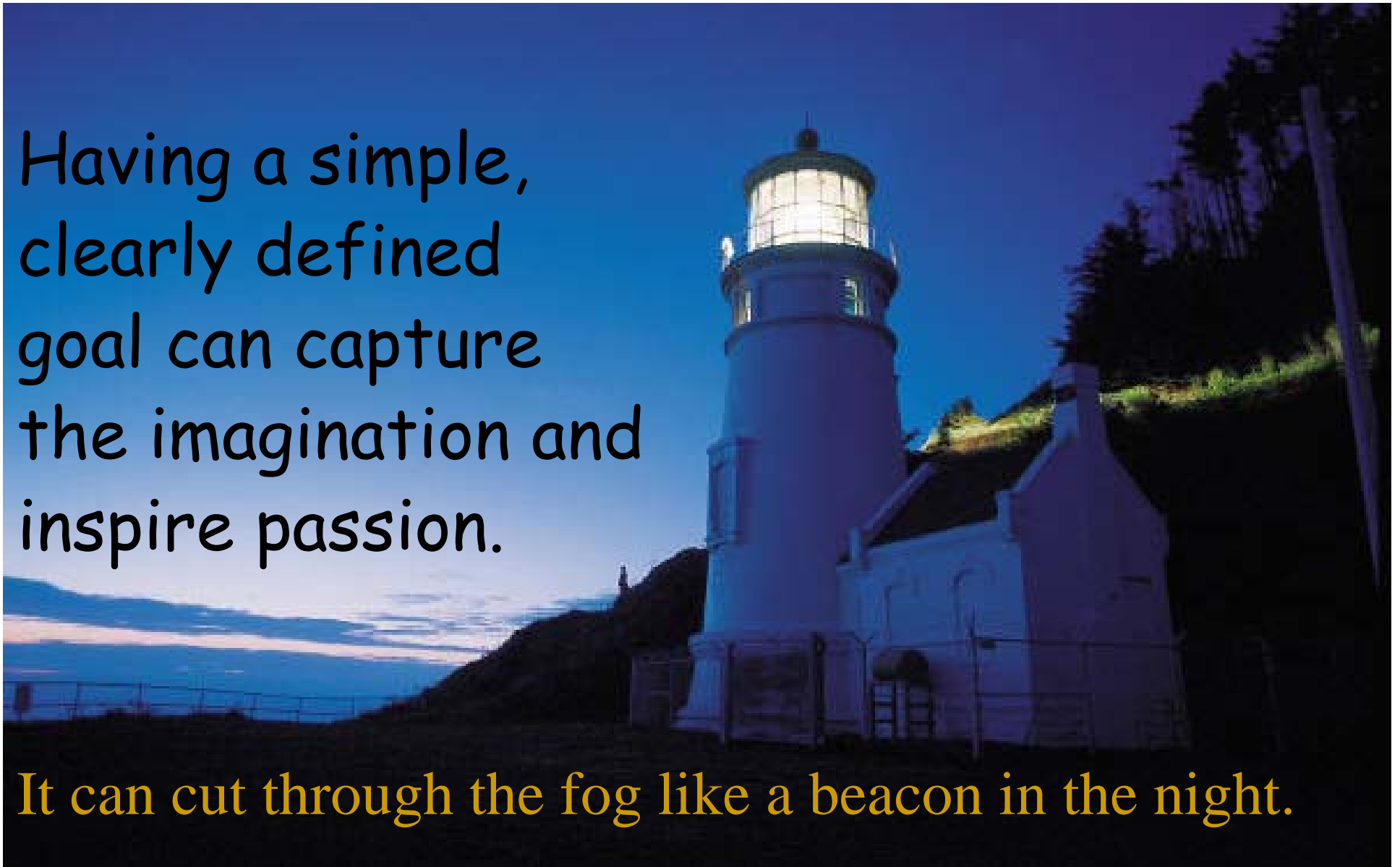
- focus attention on the areas of the school's Learning Improvement Plan where the parent/community perspective and efforts are most appropriate and needed; and,
- monitors its activities to support continuous improvement in the areas of student learning and well-being

Leadership



Having a simple,
clearly defined
goal can capture
the imagination and
inspire passion.

It can cut through the fog like a beacon in the night.



CIF



Provincial Priority

1. Higher Levels of Literacy and Achievement

(INSERT YOUR SCHOOL GOALS HERE)

CIF



Provincial Priority

2. Equitable Opportunities

(Insert Your School Goals Here)

CIF



Provincial Priority

3. Smooth Transitions

(INSERT YOUR SCHOOLS GOALS HERE)

CIF



Provincial Priority

4. Accountability and Governance

(INSERT YOUR SCHOOLS GOALS HERE)

Initiatives



**School Community
Councils**

Goals

Student Well

Being

**LCSD
Initiatives**

SMART Goals

Student Learning

Local Assessment

Vision

**Assessment for
Learning**

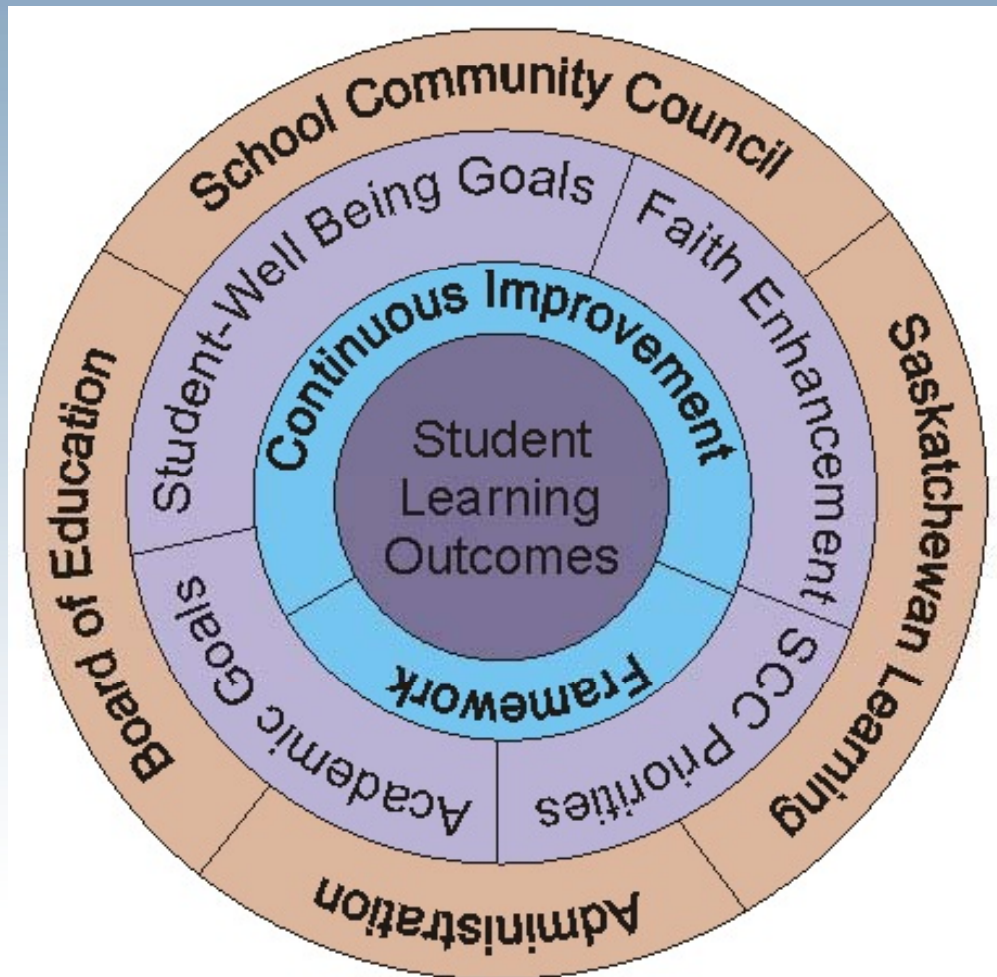
**Department of Learning
Priorities**

Alignment



Alignment / Coherency of School Goals

Pattern of parent, educational, school division input into “student learning outcomes”





School Community Councils

- Council initiatives must support the school's Continuous Improvement Framework and must focus on improving student learning
- Council must plan, organize and carry out initiatives with parents and the community
- Schools will inevitably take a lead role in academic goals that will need to be supported by the council
- Councils could take a lead role in student well being with the school playing a more supportive role
- Student well being goals must be supported by the community and should be based upon research and deliberation



Alignment

Saskatchewan Learning Priorities

**Higher Achievement
Accountability**

Equitable Opportunities

Smooth Transitions



Lloydminster Catholic School Division Initiatives

ELA

Second Language

Math

Assessment

Faith Formation



Your School

Learning Improvement Plan



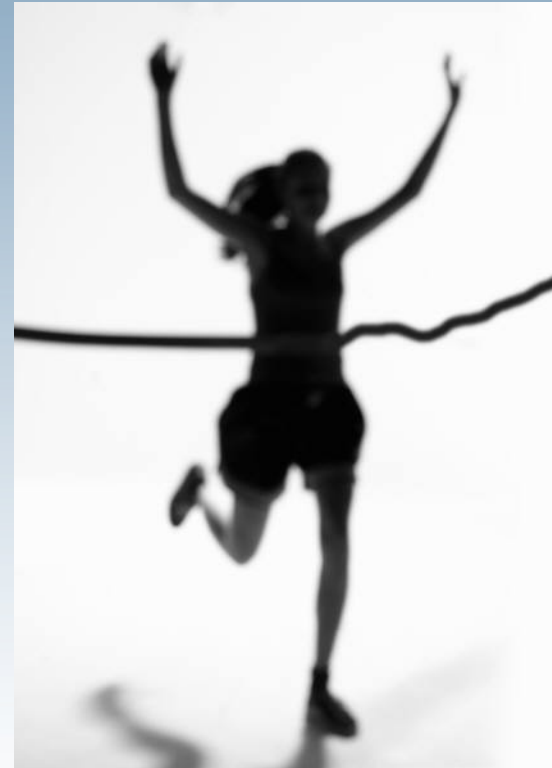
Parent and Community

- ✓ Engage in projects to support identified goals from the Continuous Improvement Framework Plan.
- ✓ Plan educational events to inform the parents and community about new school initiatives.
- ✓ Spread the word in the community about the work and efforts of the council.
- ✓ Identify resources already available in the community that could support the school plan.
- ✓ Raising or accessing funds to purchase supports needed for projects undertaken.

Actions



With
Awareness
comes
responsibility
... responsibility
to **ACT**.





Examples ... SCC Actions and Supports for Student Learning Goal

Early Literacy

- ✓ Educational presentations for parents about programs like guided reading, family literacy, speech and language concerns, etc.
- ✓ Initiate a reading incentive reward program
- ✓ Literacy backpack lending program
- ✓ Compiling schedule of seniors to read or be read to by students
- ✓ Creating literacy packages including books for new families
- ✓ Family events like books and bagels, Robert Munsch Night, literacy bingo, Story Night, etc.
- ✓ Working with regional or community libraries



Examples ... SCC Actions / Supports for Student Well Being Goal

Physical Activity & Nutrition:

- ✓ Provide facts and information to parents and community
- ✓ Develop ways for families to be more active outside school
- ✓ Participate in “In Motion” programs
- ✓ Phase out all junk food from school concessions
- ✓ Create community events, information sessions on nutrition
- ✓ Develop a committee with parents, staff, division to create school nutrition guidelines



Reference

See handout for ...starting ideas and discussion ...

“School Community Councils Learning Improvement Plan ...Community Involvement Examples.”



Perseverance is
not a long race;
It is many short
races,
one after
another.

- *Walter Elliot*



SCC Planning

Identifying Specific Actions and Supports

- ✓ Learning Improvement Plan—(min.1 and max. 3)
 - ✓
 - ✓
- ✓ Student Well-being – (min.1 and max. 3)
 - ✓
 - ✓
- ✓ Faith based Initiatives/Outcomes (min.1 and max. 3)
 - ✓
 - ✓
- ✓ SCC Priorities- (min.1 and max. 3)
 - ✓
 - ✓

SCC Action Plan



Student Learning: (School Goal)				
SCC Action:				
Desired Outcome:				
Current State:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment on areas that you will change as a result of your team's actions this year. • What is the current status of student learning in this area? 				
Desired State:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How might things change? What would improvement in this area look, feel, or sound like? • What would be an achievable result of your actions? 				
Action for Change	Who is Responsible	Target Dates and Cost	Measure of Success	Reflection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will the team do to try to reach the SMART goal? • What methods will be used? • What events, lessons, activities etc. will the students, teachers and parents employ to reach the goal? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If an administrator has a question, comment or support in this area who should be contacted? • Be specific!! If every member has a responsibility, list the specific responsibility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within what time frame will the activity be completed? • How often will the activity be done? • Is there a cost and where will the money come from? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What would indicate that students are moving towards meeting the SMART goal? • Is activity successfully completed? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you meet your measure of success? • What impact has been made on student learning?



Summary of Task:

- ✓ Preparation of a SCC Action Plan
- ✓ Preparation of the annual budget to support action plan
- ✓ Determination of a communication plan for parents and community
- ✓ Invitation: SCC Table Officer Christmas “*Networking*” meeting on December 14 12:00 pm at Division office.



SCC Presentation Wrap-up

- ✓ Final questions
- ✓ Many thanks