

LMSD STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #2
MAY 15, 2014 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
LMHS GYM
AGENDA DRAFT v1

MEETING INTENT

1. Continue to crystallize the most important **questions** critical to LMSD’s future.
2. **Gain insight** into core questions facing LMSD through a series of **Learning Journeys** to places outside LMSD..
3. **Continue to build relationships** and our collective capacity to see the emerging future of LMSD, our children and our community.
4. **Capture clues about the emerging future of LMSD** and begin to synthesize learnings on key areas that will be the focus of our “Bold Statements.”

BEFORE THE MEETING

- Prepare workbook/ Sheets to capture learnings on LJs
- Send note to Steering Committee members which:
 - Indicates Thursday time frame 8:00am- 5:00pm
 - Shares their specific LJ/ asks for choice if needed
 - Reminds people to bring their Strategic Planning Binders
- Assign “Learning Journey Lead” for each LJ
- Gift for each site host
- Copies:
 - Workbook
 - Notes from last meeting—a few per table

AGENDA

7:30 FINAL ROOM SET-UP

- Circle for Check-In
- Tables for Learning Journey Teams/lunch
- Mind map hung with chairs facing
- Registration Table

8:00 GATHER, BREAKFAST AND REGISTRATION

- Steering Committee members greet everyone
- Continental breakfast
- Registration

8:30 CHECK IN AND ORIENTATION TO THE DAY– (20 mins) Wagner/Insyte

Purpose: Welcome people back, connect to our work in the last session and ground the team in the purpose and stance of Learning Journeys.

(Seating: In large circle)

- Wagner opens the meeting. (5 mins)
 - Today is a day set aside to explore some of the most critical questions facing LMSD

- Share excitement about the 9 journeys and what we hope to accomplish
- Liz/Marie ask the group to share any thoughts, aha's or learnings since last we met (20-30 mins)
- Bring in questions that were crystallizing from first Steering Committee meeting from notes.
- Drill down so the inquiry is operational and not just thematic.
- Liz/Marie prep the groups for the LJs. Review overview of LJ's with particular emphasis on (10):
 - Review list of LJ's – explain that a few LJ opportunities will be available after today including Workshop School, Cristo Rey etc.
 - Review the list of Learning Journeys (Doug)
 - Orient to the mindset of Learning Journeys—(10)
 - Experience of sensing vs. judging
 - Emphasize need to focus on the question(s) we are exploring – not get mesmerized by the “coolness” of the place
 - Adopting a stance of openness and curiosity
- LJ teams work in small groups to refine the draft questions that they will explore on their LJ. Work can continue on the bus. (20 mins)
- Transition to buses (10 mins)

9:00 LEARNING JOURNEYS (4 hours including transportation to and from)

Purpose: Have an opportunity to get out of the LMSD world and explore creative/innovative possibilities for meeting some of the critical questions that LMSD faces.

1. **Next Fab.** How do we create an environment that promotes and values innovation and new ways of organizing work? Leader:
2. **Indy Hall.** How do we create more frequent and productive opportunities for collaboration (staff/administration, teachers/parents, school/community)? Leader:
3. **Comcast.** How does an established organization plan for transformational change and growth (staffing, culture, etc.)? How will changes in communications technology impact the way we deliver curriculum and content? **RJ Metrics:** How do we account for **learning**? How do we translate authentic learning into metrics and “accounting?” What defines “student success? How do we develop assessment tools that are specific to/meet the unique needs of Lower Merion? Leader:
4. **Children’s Village.** What would the impact on the achievement gap be if we ensured high quality pre-k education to all students in the District? Leader:
5. **Penn Netter Center for Community Partnerships.** How do we identify and create community partnerships that will enable the District to create a more sustainable, successful, real-world experience for students? Leader:
6. **Science Leadership Academy:** What could integrated learning look like in a project-based environment where the core values of inquiry, research, collaboration, presentation and reflection are emphasized in all classes? How might we integrate theme-based learning throughout the education experience? How do we address the holistic needs of our children—academic, social, emotional and physical? Leader:
7. **Delaware Valley Friends School:** What is the role of the school community for student success—academically and in relation to social, emotional and physical health? How do we address the

specialized learning needs of children with special needs?

8. **Drexel University:** What are organizations of higher education looking for in terms of skills, competencies, and attitudes of high school graduates? How might we be creative in how we analyze and share information to define our success? Leader:

CORE QUESTIONS

After taking a first look at the large volume of data (surveys, focus groups, community forums)— the Steering Committee named some “core questions” that we are obliged to answer in the course of our strategic planning work. LJ groups should use this list to help refine the questions they want to explore on their learning journey? Which ones apply to each journey?

Essential questions:

1. **How do we account for learning?** How do we translate authentic learning into metrics and “accounting?” What defines “student success?”
2. What is the **role of the school community for student success**—academically and in relation to social, emotional and physical health?
3. How do we factor in the **political climate** in public education?
4. What does it mean to be a **LMSD graduate**? What is the LMSD “brand promise?”
5. How can we **customize academic experiences for each child**?
6. How can we **redesign the curriculum** so all values are addressed?
7. Once solutions are developed, how can we be sure everyone is doing their part, and how can we **measure the success**?
8. What will the district **sacrifice** (ex. achievement on paper) to address other student needs?
9. Can the district put emphasis on **authentic learning vs. preparation for tests**?
10. How do we define **time** with reference to learning? How do we make strategic use of the **clock and calendar**?
11. How do we **balance individual requirements vs. requirements for all students**?
12. How do we get **students to buy** into the ideas?
13. How do we **anticipate change** rather than reacting on our heels?
14. How do we best **integrate technology** and how can we help teachers use technology most effectively? How do we think about time for teachers to meet to learn technology integration through professional development?

1:00 LUNCH & PREPPING FOR WHOLE GROUP SHARING (60 mins)

2:00 SHARING WHAT WE LEARNED (90 mins)

Purpose: To share and mine observations and insights from the various Learning Journeys.

(Note: The Comcast LJ team will be returning around 2 or 2:15pm. Therefore, when they enter, the rest of the group will have to briefly catch them up on what they have missed.)

- Each group briefly shares the following (7 mins each – total approximately 60 - 70 mins including bringing Comcast group into the conversation)
 - Journey Destination
 - People on the Journey
 - Why this destination? ---The question(s) you were seeking to explore
 - Who you met? What you saw?
 - What touched you emotionally?
 - The 3-5 observations, learnings or aha’s that must be shared with the Steering Committee
 - Implications for LMSD
 - Brief Q&A following each
- Allow time for people who were on Immersion Experiences to share their observations/learnings
- Small group conversation (Find 3 others near you): What are the messages that we as the stewards LMSD Steering Committee need to hear from these Learning Journeys? (10)

3:30 INDIVIDUAL REFLECTIONS (10 mins)

Purpose: To give individual time for each person to make sense of what is coming into focus for him or her about the emerging future of LMSD.

- Individual journaling.

3:45 MAKING SENSE OF WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED (60 mins)

Purpose: Identify what is coming into focus for LMSD, in as much detail as possible.

- Group develops a mind map around the topic “Clues about the future of LMSD” (40 mins)
 - Be sure to include clues from Learning Journeys and Immersion Experiences as well as clues uncovered during the Vision Team Launch from the Community Forums, Focus Groups, surveys and other observations
 - Drill down to the operational not just thematic.
 - Keep in mind: teachers, students, content
- Dot vote on most important/impactful clues that we need to continue to explore (10)
- Full group dialogue (10)

4:45 NEXT STEPS

- Liz/Marie share a high level overview of 5/22 meeting and desired outcomes as well as what will happen between 5/22 and the fall session
- Plus/delta and check out
- Wagner thanks the group and shares closing remarks

5:00 ADJOURN