



Session 1 Report – Student Vision

NAME OF SCHOOL: PANORAMA HIGH SCHOOL

DATE OF SESSION 1: 9/22/12

NAME OF ORGANIZATION REPORTING: Padres Activos SFV

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL REPORTING IN BEHALF OF THE ORGANIZATION: PATTY LOPEZ

DATE THIS REPORT IS COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED: 9/30/12

The participants at this session came up with recommendations for the student vision at Panorama High School. They accomplished these through work and discussions in small groups and by providing their ideas and recommendations on paper. The participants' vision that was documented throughout the discussions of the workshop included several subjects which include the vision where students are prepared to go to university as proven by the following comment from a parent who wishes **"they were prepared to take the proper exams to go to a university"**. The parents said that in order for the students to go to a university they need the support from programs that are specific and flexible.

Another main subject was the need for the teachers to be trained to offer the necessary support to students to guide them towards higher education. For example, the parents made a comment that they want the programs that are developed for students to be based on student performance data. A father gave the following example: **"if student performance is low then we need to develop a program for students to learn to read and comprehend according to their school grade"**. A mother said that she **"would like to see before and after school programs and Saturday programs"**. The last component for this vision was the need to have better communication between schools, parents and students. Several examples were brought up about the need for this communication as proven by the following comment: **"As a parent I want to be notified when a student misses a class"**.

Prepared for a university education

The following comments fall under the student vision that pushes the school towards preparing students to move on to a university.

- That the school offers them classes that are needed for university level, Geometry, Algebra2, Biology, English
- When my son graduates I want him to choose to have a career as an attorney and I'm sure he will be ready
- Study to go to college and have a Bachelors in Dentistry
- I would like for him/her to graduate from a university so he/she can have a better job than mine
- I am a parent and what I want is for my daughter is for her to speak perfect English when she gets out and to be very prepared to go to a university and take classes
- To graduate and be their own boss university
- When a student graduates, what he needs to know? To be able to read, write, comprehend what they do and read; to know the proper mathematics; and to know what they want to become for when they go to a university; that they are successful in everything
- For my son to go to Saturday school (to improve or reach his educational goal)
- When my son graduates I want him to get ahead and know what he wants and needs to learn every day more and this way he will be better every day; and for him to feel more confident about who he is; be respectful; and most important of all, to go to a university.
- That the programs help all children finish their university education



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- The road from A-G to achieve going to a university; that they have values, a good job, a better future for him and his family

Teacher's performance and the support they offer

The next component for the vision was the need for teachers to offer the right support to students. The parents expressed their concern about the attention that teachers, counselors, and administrative staff provide. The participants suggested that these should be better trained and informed about the resources that are available in order to give students more options for when they need help, be it academic or social. The following comments and notes express this part of the vision in depth:

- It is essential that they (the teachers) motivate students and then there's trust for when they need assistance, then they can share that need
- The staff should be knowledgeable about supporting students in any issue related to their education or maybe in reference to the services that the student needs
- To have teachers who are capable and trained at the students' level and support them 100%.
- That the students feel they had the support from their teacher to further their goals and not give up
- That the student feels proud of him/herself to continue living by the values and principles that his/her parents taught him
- That the teachers give students and parents more attention
- Teachers who are better trained to help other teachers; and training for counselors and aids, and this way all students can move forward equally
- Mathematics, Spanish, English, Algebra and all the other subjects that can help him (the student)
- That they don't get suspended; that he learns more English, Spanish and Algebra
- That the students can read and understand what they are doing; that they graduate so they can have a better future; that they are responsible; that they are given good incentives so that studying draws them in and that they graduate
- Better academic work because this way it is difficult for them to join gangs

Communication

The parents, students and members of the community made comments about the different needs that they see at this time and would like for there to be more communication between the school and them, especially when for some reason their children miss class or are tardy, they will be notified immediately for the safety of the students. The participants expressed that they are aware of the importance that their children graduate on time. Some of these parents that participated shared that they are willing to support their children so that their children see that education is important for the whole family.

- That they are responsible citizens, amicable, trustworthy and that they fight for what they want
- I will work hard to achieve that my children have a better future and help them with school
- That they become important so they can help others
- I want my children to graduate and be the best kind of people, with values; and that they can look after themselves
- That they treat themselves with respect and dignity; that they make responsible decisions
- The programs, the support from parents and teachers will make of our children great Professionals
- That he/she has a university education in mind; that the counselors give parents more attention, to talk about the student's classes and their academic development



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Other comments

The following comments did not fall within the main subjects that built the student vision. These comments and notes were the following:

- I would be the happiest mother ever if my two children graduated
- I wish for my son to graduate and I feel in his heart that he has gone one step further and I think that whatever is coming up will make it easier for him to get to where he wants to be: a career
- To go down the right path; that he/she is a responsible individual
- I have two children at this school and I want them to have a better future
- That they are proud of their parents; that he is a respectful man
- That he is respectful and that he has an excellent teacher; and that he knows that we are here to support him and to learn more, because he is very intelligent



Session 1 Report – School Vision

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NAME OF INDIVIDUAL REPORTING IN BEHALF OF THE ORGANIZATION: Patty Lopez
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The participants constructed recommendations for the Panorama High School Vision through working in small groups and then sharing their individual recommendations towards the creation of a unified vision. During this exercise many parents stated agreeing that their vision includes several changes in the school culture particularly changes in the relationship between the school and parents. One parent's comments encapsulated this theme when she stated **"There is a problem in the counseling office. There's this one lady that was extremely rude to me while I was asking for assistance."** Participants also want for their vision a cadre of teachers that are able to support the various academic and discipline needs for the students. A comment referred to this part of the vision as such **"Teachers need to build that confidence in the student so that they feel comfortable enough to ask the right questions. Also counselors need to have a better connection with the students. I am going to personally come to the school more and get involved."** Finally as part of their recommendations for the school vision the participants continued to state the need to ensure that children are adequately prepared and grouped within their proper class grades. One mom shared that in special education classrooms, students from multiple grade levels are assigned to one instructor. For example 3rd graders share a classroom and the teacher with 4th and 5th graders. She expressed her disapproval on what was happening in the classroom for special education students. She stated wanting for children to be surrounded by students performing at their corresponding grade and performance levels and to see that special education students are provided differentiated support to reach their full potential. The comments that follow provide ample feedback to their themes for the school vision:

Improved relationship between school staff, students and parents

- More discipline, counselors should make phone calls, maintain more personal communication, get more involved.
- They blame the parents but we are trying our best to get involved with our children's education.
- "I think it's not only the parents and teachers that have to get involved but also the student must put in the effort as well".
- The preparation starts at home. The Mind is healthy, the mind is ready

Academic improvement through the efforts of counselors, teachers and administration.

- "I think teachers need to assist students that are falling behind more and get them back on track."
- The counselors should set up meeting to discuss the child's academics and progress.
- I believe that teachers should develop better teaching strategies for students. And do to the lack of communication you see the results in the students grades, where's the assistance for that child?
- The school is not organized. My son was changed from one classroom to the next in matters of weeks. This has made it a difficult learning environment for my child.
- She's heard of the school's reputation but now she's happy that they have changes in the school. More verifications so there's less mistakes in the system.



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- They need to give classes on different cultural backgrounds to educate students and become for understanding of others.

During the small group dialogues amongst the session participants, the parents stated that they are currently content with the direction of the school. Some parents agreed that they see small changes have begun to turn around the reputation of the school which had been tagged as a “bad” school.



Session 1 Report – Dialogues with Planning Team

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DATE OF SESSION 1: 9/22/12

NAME OF ORGANIZATION REPORTING: Boys and Girls Club/Padres Activos SFV

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL REPORTING IN BEHALF OF THE ORGANIZATION: PATTY LOPEZ

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The team led by the High School Principal was present at the first workshop for Panorama High School. The school Principal began the dialogue and in the conversation he shared his vision for the students and the school. The Principal shared with participants that he joined the school as Principal not long ago, but he acknowledged that the school needs to improve in certain areas. He asked the parents to collaborate with the school so that together they could achieve the planned goals. The Principal invited all participants to visit him if they have any concerns. He also stressed that all the school parents should feel free to share any comments or to contact him in case of a problem. He mentioned that he has an open door policy, and he confirmed it, by asking the parents in the audience, and they agreed that they were able to talk to him.

There were several comments and a few questions about the presentation and about other issues which are reflected as follows:

Comments:

1. A parent made a comment about the need for students to have good habits and support in order to be successful in school. A parent stated the following about his child's needs: **"I want my child to be respectful and to have excellent teachers. As parents, we are here to support you and for you to know that education is very important to our family."**
2. Another student shared his thoughts about his vision of what a student needs from the school: **"When the student graduates, what does he need to know? He needs to know how to read, write, and comprehend what he is doing."**
3. One of the participants made a comment about what the school plan should provide for students: **"Proper knowledge in mathematics, and to know what they want to be by the time they get to college."**
4. One of the parents made the following comment to the Principal: **"I have two children here at school, and I want them to have a better future."**
5. One of the mothers made the following comment regarding to what kind of support she wants the plan to provide for her student: **"I want her to do what she likes and to be prepared. I want my daughter to be responsible, hardworking, and to get good grades and to feel motivated to come to school."**
6. It is extremely important for students to take all the courses that will help them to graduate.
7. There were a couple of comments about the need for the school to communicate more with them, to inform them about what is happening with their sons / daughters and for them to be able to help the school as partners. Here is one of such comments: **"As a parent I would like the school to communicate better with us and to send the information on time to attend meetings and school events."**
8. Another comment from a participant was: **"For the administration not to suspend students from classes as this greatly affects the students."**



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Questions

There were some questions that the workshop participants asked the team:

1. Do you have any plans to provide more resources for the parents and support for the students that are a little behind?
2. The Principal's response was that they are working on it.
3. How is the plan going to help students that need help in Mathematics, English and Algebra?
4. One of the teachers said that they will do their best to provide these classes.
5. Another participant asked about the support for special education students. He also said "I would like to see that they get more attention, because these students need more attention and resources for them and their families".
6. The Principal said that he is aware of the need and that he will do his best to offer more services and attention to the students.
7. There was a question about how will the school provide more advanced English classes and algebra, and more support for the English Learners.
8. The coordinator and the team said that they are thinking about offering those classes but they also said that there is not enough money.