COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS: A TOOLKIT FOR A STUDENT-LED EVENT

OUR EXPERIENCE AND THE LESSONS LEARNED ALONG THE WAY

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FLIPPING THE MODEL: STUDENT-LED EVENT

“I’ve learned that it’s not about telling kids what to do, it’s about knowing what’s going on in their lives. It’s about bonding with them and having fun.”

-4th Grade Peer
WHAT DID PEER-TO-PEER LOOK LIKE IN BERRIEN COUNTY BEFORE THE COMMUNITY CONVERSATION?

- 10 = Number of years P2P in Berrien!
- 650+ = Number of students in P2P in 17-18
- 12 = Number of districts running P2P programs
- 7 = Number of High Schools offering P2P for credit elective
- 1 = Number of student-led Community Conversations in the state of Michigan

OUR CONVERSATION

Video:
https://youtu.be/d5JsBuJXP5c
TOOLKIT

- Guide for your success.
- Full of ideas and tips (linked to more materials)
- Suggested timelines
- Erik Carter approved!

STEP 1: GETTING STARTED
8-9 MONTHS PRIOR TO EVENT

- Secure initial funding.
- Form a committee.
- Focus on students’ ideas/perspectives.
- Assign roles/responsibilities.
- Craft questions(s).
STEP 2: ORGANIZING THE EVENT
6 MONTHS PRIOR TO EVENT

- Establish a budget.
- Details (date/time/location)
- Seating chart
- Inclusion of all P2P programs in region
- Helpful tools

**Cost Budget**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food (event and planning meetings)</td>
<td>$312.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invitations</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decorations</td>
<td>$142.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venue rental</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing</td>
<td>$25 (in-kind)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEA mileage reimbursement</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$480.29</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STEP 3: MARKETING AND INVITATIONS
3 MONTHS PRIOR TO EVENT

- Create invitation/marketing materials.
- Distribute flyers/invitations.
- Fill-in seating chart based on RSVPs.
- Start printing materials.
- Begin purchasing/collecting decorations.
- Order food.
STEP 4: WORKING WITH MEDIA
2 MONTHS PRIOR TO THE EVENT

- Contact district PR or communication officer.
  - Help is available.
  - Know and follow rules: District policy and student privacy rights (FERPA)
- Create a media plan for the event (social and traditional outlets):
  - Your district should write the story.
  - #BerrienConversations
- Let the students shine!
- Use tools to prepare for media interviews.

STEP 5: ROLES DURING THE EVENT
2 MONTHS PRIOR AND DURING CONVERSATION

- Identify and train facilitators.
- Remind students of jobs during conversation (including participation).
- Outline each committee’s responsibilities (including careful clean-up of materials).
AFTER THE EVENT
ONE WEEK AFTER (AND BEYOND)

• Follow-up survey
• Community report to share what was learned via email

WHY DATA MATTERS?

“It (the Community Conversation) was one of the most powerful events that I have attended at Berrien RESA.”
- Berrien RESA Superintendent Dr. Kevin M. Ivers
WHY DATA MATTERS?

Prior to April 25, my knowledge of Peer-to-Peer programming was:

(44 responses)

- 34% - Developing
- 32% - Extensive
- 23% - Limited
- 11% - Non-existent

WHY DATA MATTERS?

Since the event, I have:

(44 responses)

- 43% - Not thought about the event nor anything I might do in response to the experience.
- 39% - Thought more about what I can do to increase social, recreational, and employment opportunities for all.
- 14% - Talked to others in my family, neighborhood or workplace about Peer-to-Peer.
- 5% - Taken specific steps to fulfill the commitment I made on my Ideas Card.
WHY DATA MATTERS?

Going forward, in what capacity would you like to be involved in our Action Plan? Check all that apply.
42 responses

- Planning committee: 12 (28.6%)
- Volunteer at events: 15 (35.7%)
- Organizational Support: 10 (23.8%)
- Behind the scenes: 9 (21.4%)
- Talk to others...inform: 15 (35.7%)
- No active involvement but still want information: 8 (14.3%)
- No longer interested: 2 (4.8%)

OUR NEXT STEPS

1. Continue building a website focusing on Peer-to-Peer programs in Berrien County.
2. Host Action Team committee meetings to work on ideas generated during the Community Conversation.
3. Begin planning our next Community Conversation!
WHAT DOES PEER-TO-PEER LOOK LIKE IN BERRIEN COUNTY AFTER THE COMMUNITY CONVERSATION?

WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

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QUESTIONS

We welcome your thoughts!