

Española/Los Alamos Joint Youth Leadership Initiative

Second Meeting, Monday, May 7, 2007, UNM-LA Student Center, 8:30-10:30 AM

Minutes

Attendees: Sean Hall, Marcia Brenden, Paul Romero, Ron Martinez, Sandra Roney, Bruce Hopmeier, Alan Kirk, Wayne Torpy, Jim Anderson, Bob Scott, Robert Gibson, Lori Heimdahl Gibson, Diana Martinez, Janelle Vigil-Maestas, Cedric Page, Donna Schroeder, Frank Orona, Maurice de Segovia, Erwin Rivera, John Pawlak, Joy Freymiller, and EVHS students: Jeremy Maestas, Ivy Romero, Maria Tapia, Chris Shamy, Marcos Archuleta.

Sean Hall of *On the Edge Productions* again served as facilitator. Our ice breaking activities demonstrated "physic connections" with a partner using dramatic actions from some well-known movies. We reviewed our last meeting and made introductions. Bruce Hopmeier and Sandra Roney brought five students from EVHS.

The big picture from the April 16th meeting included an over-all agreement for the need for the following:

- Relationship-building between Española and Los Alamos
- A vision and a strategic plan
- Choosing a name for the initiative
- To revisit the myths, legends and stereotypes of each community

Lori and Janelle reported on the media. Carol Clark from the LA Monitor is very interested in covering our meetings. Kevin Bersett from The Rio Grande SUN will be at our next meeting on June 4th at Northern New Mexico College. Diana Martinez will write a press release after this meeting and send it out to all the local press in Northern New Mexico. (Completed 5-8-07)

Discussion of Outcomes for this meeting: (I didn't get "who said what" on some items.)

- We need a strategic plan; next action steps.
- We need to hear student voices.
- What is the "buy in," commitment from youth? Social justice? Do they need to be paid?

Marcia Brenden posed the possibility of having a Youth Summit this summer.

Alan Kirk said that we will need a youth planning committee. Whatever we do, we should keep it simple.

Maurice de Segovia said that we will need to ensure that we have diverse representation from the youth, not just the top performing students.

Erwin Rivera suggested that we include a historical view of this unique area of NM in whatever we do. He also posed the question of what defines "youth," just high school or college.

EVHS Student Council (SC) President Marcos Archuleta said that student leaders at SC state meetings get along fine with each other, but not everyone else does. In fact, the majority are closed-minded about other communities. He feels that the student leaders can help set an example. Maybe SC students could comprise the initial planning group of 7-10 students from each school.

Jeremy Maestas suggested a "buddy system" of students from each community working together.

Marcos suggested getting students together before the end of the school year. There was a discussion of whether students would want to start a project now at the end of the school year. Marcos feels that having adults' support is very important.

Sean asked us to think about what can be created that is new and not associated with either community.

Ron Martinez said that Española doesn't have the infrastructure to support youth groups yet. That will take some time. He asked if there could be leadership classes at the high schools. There was a discussion of creating more leadership opportunities for youth, as concurrent classes at both NNMC and UNM-LA, etc.

Wayne Torpy said that the youth need to take ownership and the adults need to get out of their way. Let the youth decide on activities, and the adults find the resources from both communities. The adults will find the funding and create the organizational structures to support students' efforts.

Bruce Hopmeier said that we need to have strong buy-in and support from the adult representatives over time.

John Pawlak said that he believes that patience is NOT a virtue. We need to do something now.

Next Action Steps:

- First youth planning meeting will be held at CESDP in Española on May 29th from 11AM-2PM. ENLACE/Gear up will provide lunch for students. Ron Martinez, Marcia Brenden, Paul Romero, and Lori Heimdahl Gibson will be the adult leaders. Any other adult volunteers? Lori will recruit LA students with help from LAYL and LAHS SC.
- Work on a "charter."
- Youth fund raising?
- Contact LANL Foundation

Adult Committees Formed with Volunteers:

1. Logistics - Diana Martinez, Lori Heimdahl Gibson, Alan Kirk
2. Funding/Money - Ron Martinez, Jim Anderson, Wayne Torpy, Robert Gibson, and Joe Maestas? (Robert will contact Joe to see if he will help with funding.)
3. Educational Leadership - Long Range Plan - Marcia Brenden, Sandra Roney, Cedric Page, Frank Orona, Erwin Rivera.
4. Coaching Committee - Joy Freymiller
5. Students eventually will be invited to participate in the above committees.

Short Term, Specific Outcomes:

- Next meetings:
 1. **Student Planning Meeting, May 29th at CESDP in Española on La Joya, 11AM-2PM**
 2. **Adult Planning Meeting, June 4th at NNMC, Board Room, 8:30-10:30 AM.**
Hosted by NNMC ENLACE/Gear-up, Paul Romero.) Students will report on their May 29th meeting.
- Members are charged with considering a vision statement and name for our initiative.
- Diana will get a press release out to NNM media about this meeting asap.
- Sean challenged each of us to examine what paradigms, stereotypes, etc. that we are "bringing to the table" with this effort.

Recorder - Lori Heimdahl Gibson, lorihg@swcp.com
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