

Summer Leadership Institute agenda sample -- UIN

This is a sample of a small portion of Days 2 and 3 of a 3 day agenda for school based teams in a UIN leadership program. Each school was required to come to the Summer Leadership Institute with a team which included the principal, the head of curriculum, the head of the Parent-Teacher group, the librarian, and at least one school board member. Museum partners were also present and working with their partner school. Objectives of the time included creating the UIN plan for the coming year as well as sharing best practices across schools.

Appreciative Inquiry was embedded throughout the 3 day event which focused attention on each priority focus area for strategic school development that had been earlier identified by the network (like effective staff development). An understand-imagine-create sequence prevailed throughout. A series of questions first elicited stories in pairs (which brought everyone to voice) (understand); next those insights were brought into a plenary conversation that identified themes and the positive core of that issue. Next participants set strategic goals in light of their expanded understanding of how to build on what was happening well.

After each section of the work, energizers were introduced to stimulate creative thinking and raise energy levels in the room.

Day 2

1:30 pm Effective staff development.

Developing imaginative students and enthusiastic and inspiring teachers. What does it take?

15 minutes In pairs: please share a high point story of a time you learned something especially interesting that improved your teaching and rekindled your passion for learning. What happened? What made it so engaging and effective in developing your capacity as a learner/as a teacher?

15 minutes As a plenary group: Identify key elements in effective staff development. Facilitators collect this information in a flip chart.

30 minutes Participants share best practices around teacher development *by or with community partners*

- What has been most helpful?
- Why?

Record on a flip chart.

45 minutes Reconvene to original school team groups. Working with your museum partner for next year, discuss

- What did you hear from others that you found especially interesting/compelling?
- What could happen in your school that would increase your own enthusiasm and interest in school community partnerships?

3:30 PM Tea break

3:45 PM “Thinking Out of the Box” brain-storming exercise.

- brainstorm teacher development content that would
20 minutes ENGAGE and inspire teachers (*facilitators take notes*)
- brainstorm teacher development course *structure* that would make learning fun and accessible (*facilitators take notes*)

10 minutes Full group de-brief (Award given to the most creative team ideas)

Round 2: Individual teacher learning fund +\$30,000
(100 teachers can earn scholarships up to \$300 each to pursue an individual learning plan that will renew and develop their teaching capacity)

30 minutes Teams determine:

- What should the application process require?
- How should awards for this program be decided?
- How should awards be allocated among schools?
- What accountability should be required for participating teachers to share with other teachers what they have learned? (*facilitators take notes*)

Summarize your recommendations for “inspired teaching” workshops and use of individual teacher learning fund in Part 2C of your school UIN plan for next year

15 minutes Teams de-brief in plenary ; see if consensus exists re procedures and policies governing this program

Each participant memorializes things I learned/ noticed/take away from this afternoon in their conference journals

Preview next day Handout: A Simpler Way

Day 3 Connecting all the components into a coherent educational vision

Creating an atmosphere of inquiry with meaningful school-community partnerships

7:45-8:30AM Full breakfast in hotel

8:45 AM Focus Area #8 : An Atmosphere of Inquiry

“Experiencing Creativity: Lessons from Science” (*Resource: A Simpler Way*)

45 minutes Small Group Activity: In groups of 3.

Look at each of the lessons from science about how life comes into being. Examples:

- “Everything is in a constant process of discovery and creating”
- “Life uses messes to get to well-ordered solutions”
- “Life is intent on finding what works, not what’s “right” (no permanently right answers)”
- “Life creates more possibilities as it engages with opportunities”
- “Life is attracted to order”
- “Life organizes around identity”
- “Everything participates in the creation and evolution of its neighbors”

1. *Pick several of the themes. How are these lessons manifest in your school?*
2. *Name 3 elements you consider essential to creating an atmosphere of inquiry in your school. How can these be further developed?*
3. *Each team writes their discussion notes into a brief summary.*

30 minutes In plenary

Group de-brief. Gather themes. Comments on generative edge of chaos.

Some structure is necessary for freedom to flourish. Creativity also works in a context.

Examples? Types mental structures and bureaucratic structures. Problem-solving vs. AI

10:15 AM Coffee Break

10:30 AM Focus Area #10 : Parents as Active Educational Partners

10 minutes Review of Urban Imagination Network parent programs for next year

- Reading in content areas tied to CUE (Center for Urban Education) core curriculum
- Citizen Leaders
- Support for parents as classroom aides
- Parent resource rooms

In each case, focus is on increasing parent involvement by providing meaningful opportunities for parent development and contribution

15 minutes In small groups of 2: Why is parental involvement essential... What can parents uniquely do as educators? If you are a parent, share something especially wonderful you have taught your child and how.

30 minutes In cross-school teams, discuss:

Best practices in your school now around parent involvement

- How are parents equipped and encouraged to support creative student work?
- How are parents developing their own skills and creativity with school support?
- What parent education is actively linked to reading in the content areas?
- Are there common elements in successful parent programs?

Record on a flip chart and jot notes in your conference journals to share.

15 minutes In plenary: Identify key elements or program ideas in effective parent involvement and development.

45 minutes Reconvene in original school team groups. Discuss

- What did you hear from others that you found compelling?
- What would you like to see happen in your school ?

As a team: Outline a plan for parent involvement next year which includes

- How will you create a hospitable environment at the school for parent-led projects?
- What training is necessary for parents to serve as effective classroom aides and support creative student work?
- What activities will connect parents to their children's learning in ways that build family education?
- What school-community events will you do that include parents and showcase what children are learning?
- Capture your parent involvement plan as Part 3 of your school plan for next year

12:30-1:15 PM Lunch

1:30 PM Group sharing of parent involvement plans

15 minutes Common elements?

1:45 PM Each school team reviews their plan.

Revisit your foundation stones .

- Are they central to your plan and your chosen activities?
- Have they changed?

For each part of your plan, team should decide:

- Who needs to be involved to make each part happen
- Who will take leadership responsibility?
- What will each team member's role be?
- What outside help/resources do you need?
- What funds you will allocate to each activity
- UIN funds

- School funds

2:30 PM Closing Circle

Celebrate the Team's Accomplishments/Weaving the Gifts

Whole group is gathered into a large circle (if space permits)

Each person names

- a decision or direction their school has committed to that especially excites them about next year
- a gift another has brought to the group's work over the three days

Everyone invited to comment on ways in which the conference has been helpful to them.