

4/19/23

3:30-3:50: Ice Breakers

- Name, organization, & passion or interest

3:50-3:55: Introduction to the Meeting, Youth Panel, and Breakout Groups

- Bruce: At our last session, we had a panel of high school students where they gave us a lot of info about the kinds of programming they would like to see in Long Branch. We have developed 3 Priority goals: 1. College & career readiness 2. Build youth leadership 3. Expand the amount of resources & activities and programs to youth in Long Branch. One of our goals is to initiate and build initiatives based on what the youth say, need, and want for programs. One breakout group is for youth entrepreneurship. The other is for the discovery club based on what the youth wanted in our last meeting.

4:00-4:20: Youth Panel (Led by Vanesa Pinto)

Vanesa-We are curious to know the things you are not telling us like the things we can improve. This is your opportunity. Please tell us how you feel about these questions because you know we are working on initiatives that we think are going to be interesting to you. This is why we appreciate your input.

MSG=Middle School Girl

MSB=Middle School Boy

HSG=High School Girl

HSB=High School Boy

1. What out of school programs have been helpful to you?-Vanesa

P1: MSG-Does not go to them currently. Went to Ace academy. Would help with homework. They were exposed to other languages and cultural dances there.

P2: MSG-Community Bridges. It is an all girls group that meets every Thursday.

One thing you really like?-Vanesa

The people and that it's an all girls group because it is nice being surrounded by people that get you.

P3: MSB-Ace Academy. It exposed them to a part of the world they've never seen before.

P4: MSB-Chorus program

P5: MSG-Flow-Gave them hw help & SSL hours

P6: MSG-Ace Academy- It exposed them to different cultures and this was the main thing they liked

P7: HSB-Flow-Teach us how to be future leaders in the world. Helped us a lot.

P8: HSB-Never really was in any program. Did YMCA activities though and this helped build better habits for school in MS.

P9: HSB-Dedicated time for makeup work and work at school. No program

P10: HSG-Ace academy-Helped with hw. They would go outside and help with the community too. Liked the culture part as well because a lot of cultures came together.

P11: HSG-Ace academy- HW help, english skills, diversity and learning about other cultures. Have not been there since MS because they aged out.

2. What programs do you wish were available in middle school?-Vanesa

P1: Still in middle school. Something like Ace Academy. It was a nice experience. I miss it.

P2: More language opportunities.Only have Spanish and French at their school. Would like more opportunities to learn more languages. More SSL hour opportunities. Hard to find places to do SSL hours.

P3: Expand opportunities for afterschool sports. Only really have basketball and soccer. Would like to learn football. Also, expand electives. There isn't something he is really interested in currently, but he would like to see more options.

P4:Nothing in mind. Like soccer. They already practice soccer.

P5: More afterschool sports like swimming only have soccer and the basics. People can get SSL hours from that and help stay fit. This would also help their health.

P6: More sport options. Would like to see basketball. Only 7-8th graders have it. 6th graders do not have it.

P7:

P8:

P9:

P10:

P11:

3a. What do you wish you would have known to make the transition to high school easier?- For high school youth-Vanesa

P1:

P2:

P3:

P4:

P5:

P6:

P7: Still a freshman in HS. Some teachers do not help out because that is just how they are.

P8: Did not really struggle with the transition because it was virtual. Does not really feel like anything has changed. It was not really hard. Obviously, I had more classes that were harder and closer. However, if you are on top of it, it's pretty easy.

P9: A lot of schools have strict teachers that do not care. You can find about 5 teachers that will care and always want to help you though.

P10: They wish they knew to be more independent and with their school work as well. They give you a lot of schoolwork. Also, they would have liked to be more aware of the grading. You also have to go somewhere else to get SSL hours. There is no help to get them.

P11: Learn to be more independent. Work by yourself. In middle school, your teacher tells you when you are missing things and help you. In HS, it is not the same. Some teachers will just give you work and expect you to know what you are supposed to do.

P12 (JUST CAME INTO THE MEETING): The schoolwork. It was easier in Middle School. Teachers would help more. In high school, it is more on your own and it is difficult to talk to teachers.

3b. What kinds of support or help do you feel like you need now? (in general) -For middle school youth-Vanesa

P1: Goes to Eastern and is part of the humanities program. We kinda have to find our own way through the program. Would like more guidance.

P2: More counselors. Counselors do not really talk to students. Would like counselor check ups on every student. Less workload too because teachers can overload work and we can have too many classes. Also, more college help even though they are not in HS right now. Would like to figure out what major to pursue. Also, would like to know the college options we should go to to pursue our major.

P3: This participant is also part of the Eastern humanities program. They give you hard work and a lot of it. So, you kinda have to suck it up. Also, because the work is so hard, your grade can go down. Would like a source of help to keep grades up.

P4: More help understanding HW

P5: Counselor check ins

P6: More opportunities to find SSL hours

P7:..

P8: Understand how credits work. Next year is their last year of High school.

P9: Can't think of anything

P10: SSL hours she needs help with right now. You have to find your own SSL. Would also like more info on credits to take.

P11: Would like to see teachers have more time to help out with stuff you do not understand. Help with college. For example, the classes we should take. Counselors do not talk to kids they don't know. So, they also agree with more counseling help.

P12: Would like to see teachers have more time to help out with stuff you do not understand.

4:20-4:30: Q & A with Partners

- Someone said they would want more sports, what kinds of sports are you looking for? Answers: Swimming , basketball, football, track, and lacrosse
- Do you look for programs in the school building or outside the building? What do you prefer?
P10: depends
Downtown silver spring? The group said no
P2:Inside. It is easier to just stay in school
- What times are good times to do the programs?
10-3:30-5 PM.
- Are you aware we do extended programs every Friday at the Long Branch Community Center? If you guys have ideas, you can give ideas to Vanesa or to the Long Branch Community Center.-Caty Angel
LBCC is working to get a musical program between 3:30 and 5. Last time, we heard the want for this.-Caty Angel
The group recommends after 3:40 because some buses come late and people still need to get ready. So, the group recommends 4-6 being better for the program.
- Caty- We are listening to what you guys are saying. Vanesa points out that we are also capturing what you guys are saying.
- Ameha Dessie (Tess Center)-There is a volleyball shortage in this area. Has to drive his kid 2 times a week to Gaithersburg. This rec was supposed to have a volleyball thing going on. Caty clarifies that they have volleyball, but they are not doing it as often right now. This is for HS drop in volleyball. It is weekly. They can make a MS one too. They just had a volleyball tournament a month ago. They are trying to offer more opportunities for volleyball.
- Vanesa brings up how students need to make teams to play sports in HS. Kids need to learn first and those are expensive. Ameha said it is difficult to make HS teams because there are so many people trying to make limited spaces.

4:30-5:15: Breakout Groups 1. Entrepreneurship Program 2. Exploration Club

- Entrepreneurship Program will help with the employment prospects of youth. CHEER sponsored a program in the past. We are thinking about resurrecting it. We are thinking about how we can support youth in other ways too through the program. For example, in the area of college and career readiness. Cynthia is leading the other breakout session.This will be about getting ideas for an exploration club. We will be getting the: 1. who?, 2. when?,and 3. what would it look like?We are thinking about starting next fall. It is not limited to just after school. It could be a field trip, weekend activity, etc...

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5:15-5:30: Closing and Next Steps

Discovery Club:

- Sports opportunities

- More SSL hours

They want financial literacy & resume building

- public speaking

- Coding/gaming

- Engineering

- Travel

- Field trips

- Photography

- Mixing HS and MS together is a good idea. They would want to see a mentorship component. -

- Introductory family night w/ dinner to parents and students. They can learn about the program and start it up. Caty- Has offered to host

- Oct 2023 -Mon, Wed, Thurs are the best days for it

Entrepreneurship Program:

- Expanded the scope.

- Felt it was important to build a resume first.

- They also talked about learning how to do taxes and financial literacy.

- Networking

- Doing elevator pitches

- They want to do this as an afterschool program

- They want successful business owners to come in and learn skills

- Starting Oct 2023

- M & F are difficult. And Tu Wed Thurs are better

- Watch MCPS calendar

The steering committee will be working to develop the program. Youth agreed to help develop the program. You can put the development committee on your resume. Vanesa mentions that we will also be wanting to hear from parents at our next parent session.