

SANB FSC Moves Ahead on Focus Group Recommendations

By Shelley Freeman

Last spring, the St. Anthony-New Brighton Family Service Collaborative completed a series of parent and student focus groups designed to give the Collaborative direction for the future in providing programs and activities for youth and families in our community.

Below is a summary of these recommendations. Those already in progress are marked with a **.

Focus Group Recommendations for Ways to Reduce Risk Factors & Increase Support for Students and Parents

What could the school do to help?

1. Restore access to open gym use for students. **
2. Support intramural sports and enable all students to participate.
3. Support a wide range of after school activities and interest clubs. **
4. Ask teachers to help monitor the hallways between classes. **
5. Increase the frequency of communication with parents, especially about any situation or issues that affect student safety. **
6. Distribute more information to parents about community resources. **
7. Assist parents in organizing parent information, education, and support networks. **
8. Maintain or expand student support staff.
9. Block student access to potentially dangerous internet sites. **

What could the community do to help?

1. Expand open gym opportunities. **
2. Create safe places for teens to congregate after school or on weekends.
3. Expand access to park & recreation programs and facilities. **
4. Organize a community summer camp for teens.

What do students suggest that parents do to help?

1. Improve communication skills.
2. Allow teens to build problem solving skills.
3. Avoid making assumptions.
4. Monitor activities, enforce consequences, and set good examples.

What do parents suggest that parents or guardians could do to help?

1. Connect and communicate with each other wherever and whenever you can.
2. Help organize and participate in parent discussion groups.

3. Restore the 6th & 9th grade parent meetings to help parents cope with the transition into middle and high school. **
4. Restore the Husky Connections Program which paired new parents with existing volunteer parents to help integrate new people and/or open enrollment students and parents into the community.
5. Volunteer to help create and maintain an electronic and paper parent newsletter. (Husky Parent) **
6. Provide the Parent Communication Directory to help parents connect with each other. **

For questions or to volunteer your assistance for making one of these recommendations possible, contact:

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