A Strong Parent Voice + New Engagement Ideas = Student Success

Susan Hans, President of Ohio PTA
Ann Bohman, President of Families Are Important LLC
Amy Weinberg, Manager, Programs and Partnerships, National PTA
Session Objectives

• Define transformative family engagement and see PTA’s new initiatives in the field

• Discover Ohio PTA’s model for developing more effective parent representation and participation

• Discuss what those empowered parents can do to foster student success
Family Engagement Matters

Students whose parents are involved are more likely to...

- Earn higher grades and test scores
- Pass their classes
- Attend school regularly
- Have better social skills
- Graduate and go on to postsecondary education

See: USDOE Partners in Education: Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family–School Partnerships
PTA Framework

National Standards for Family-School Partnerships

- Welcoming All Families (Standard 1)
- Communicating Effectively (Standard 2)
- Supporting Student Success (Standard 3)
- Speaking Up for Every Child (Standard 4)
- Sharing Power (Standard 5)
- Collaborating with Community (Standard 6)

PTA.org/excellence
We aim to increase demand for transformative family engagement among PTA members and leaders, policymakers, and educators by building and supporting grassroots parent leaders to champion transformative family engagement practices and policies.
Current Focus

- Research/Best Practices
- Statewide Leadership Pilot
- National Fellows
- ESSA
- Family Engagement Centers/Funding
A Shared Effort

When parents and education officials are equally respected partners in facilitating student success…

The result is community and culturally appropriate family engagement programs that meet the needs of every student.
Why Professional Development for Parent Leaders?

As the state level parent voice, we wanted more effective participation through

• Increased respect for parent leaders

• Broader representation

• Access to our members’ expertise
Ohio PTA System

A model featuring...

• Preparation and education
• Ongoing support
• Evaluation

that is evolving and adaptable for multiple levels and situations.
Preparation

- Issue education
- Committee/governance structure
- Challenges
- Meeting Protocol
Issue Education

• Resolutions and position statements
• Background information
• Past materials from the committee
• Materials from related committees
• Survey members/parents
Committee/Governance Structure

- Purpose
- Scope
- Other stakeholders/participants
- Use of output
Challenges for Parent Leaders

• Location
• Meeting schedule
• Education jargon
• Cost reimbursement
Meeting Protocol

Format

• Formal parliamentary procedure
• Agenda, minutes
• Informal discussions
• Internet use/availability
Ongoing Support

- Post-Meeting updates
- Lifeline(s)
- Additional resources/input
- Manage expectations
- Post-committee debrief
Education Organizations
Takeaways

Are you providing parents...

• A welcoming environment?

• Background information/resources?

• A meeting schedule inclusive of all committee members?
Education Organization
Takeaways

Are you providing parents…

• Equitable cost reimbursement?
• Feedback to members on use of output?
• Feedback to parent group leader?
Empowered parent leaders who are ready to be an effective voice...How can you involve them in your family engagement efforts?
Contact Us

Ohio PTA
president@ohiopta.org

National PTA
familyengagement@pta.org