

Suggested Supports for Creating Intentional Partnerships

Presented to the OUSD school board on 2.22.12

A framing principle of OUSD's strategic plan:
"We need to actively foster engagement, alignment and collaboration among diverse partners."

Some concrete suggestions from your collaborative partners:

- Develop a "welcome packet" for new partners, explaining the strategic plan and the goals of partnerships within Oakland schools.
 - *Many district partners don't understand the strategic plan, or their role in helping to improve outcomes for Oakland students. Sharing this information will help partners fine-tune their work towards achieving a set of commonly held goals.*
- Create a guidance document that partners and principals can use to establish clear expectations and desired outcomes at the onset of a new relationship.
 - *Many partners express that they experience a lack of clarity about what, exactly, their partnership with a school is intended to accomplish, and struggle with shifting expectations throughout the duration of their programming. A scaffold for defining expectations would support further clarity around and efficacy of support services.*
- Build an informative database directory of existing (possibly vetted) OUSD partners across a variety of issue areas.
 - *Many principals don't have the time to research the "right" programs and supports for their students, and are only aware of a limited percentage of available partner services. A partner directory, like the one maintained by SFUSD on their website, would give principals immediate access to a wide range of partners, so they can choose the programs that best meet their school community's needs.*

- Create regular time and space for partner collaboration.
 - *Hosting quarterly town-hall type meetings for OUSD partners would provide space for partners to hear about news regarding the strategic plan, allow partners to share their on-the-ground feedback about their experiences partnering with the district, and facilitate partners working together more closely.*
- Make the contracting process transparent, releasing contracting documents and offering guidance resources on this process.
 - *OUSD sees the contracting process as the responsibility of the principal, but in reality, most partners complete contracting documents themselves, as principals are overburdened. Release the professional services contract document directly to partners, and offer samples of properly completed documents to support their efforts.*
- Open a non-profit service center in an underutilized OUSD school facility.
 - *Almost all OUSD partners pay rent for their office space, and would gladly contribute this back towards the district if an OUSD facility was converted to a partner center. Many OUSD partners would love the opportunity to work in a space with other service providers, both to create community with like-minded educators and to share resources that are expensive to maintain individually: a conference room, large spaces for staff training, copiers, etc.*