

PEIHSF Semi-Annual Meeting
October 15, 2013
“Parent Engagement” Discussion Summary

1. It was explored what “parent engagement” means. Some felt the label of volunteer might intimidate some and talked about how else to approach parents so they didn’t feel like recruits.
2. Many felt that involving children with their parents would increase the likelihood of parents coming out to events. Making events fun for the children and educational like math help nights where parents learn how to help their children and kids are engaged in a fun way, games, etc.
3. PEIHSF grant money was said to be a great incentive for home and schools to get creative and think of ways to engage parents and use the grant money.
4. Ideas of how to engage parents included:
 - a. Schools hold an open house during the day and have a “bring your parent to school day”,
 - b. Speak specifically on how home and school makes a difference in your school during meet the teacher night,
 - c. Host “family fun night” with all the teaching staff involved for parents to get to know them better in a less intimidating way,
 - d. Have parents come in to read during lunch time or do an activity with the children that they enjoy and can share their different strengths and talents,
 - e. Send home a brief survey for parents to give feedback on what they would like to see discussed at meetings, guest speakers, etc.
5. In discussing the junior high schools, it was mentioned that parents could help tutor with reading, math, cooking, sewing, science, etc.
6. We felt that having teachers clearly outline at the beginning of the year how to contact and communicate with them and making good use of the technology available would be very useful to parents.

Respectfully Submitted by:
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