



Board Agenda Item #	IV A: Information/Discussion Item
Date:	June 23, 2022
To:	Magnolia Public Schools - Board of Directors
From:	Amanecer Consulting, Iris Zuniga and Karina Favela-Barreras
Staff Lead:	Dr. Brenda D. Lopez, Chief External Officer (CXO)
RE:	Community Schools Planning Update

Proposed Board Recommendation

No action is needed. This is an information item to report out on the work that started to build the framework for the implementation of the community school model

Introduction

Magnolia Charter Schools strives to create community schools across its network to improve school responsiveness to student and family needs, and to organize school and community resources to address barriers to learning. By partnering with Amanecer Consulting to convene community, cross-sector partners, and use data to transform practices and inform strategies.

Amanecer Consulting works with public sector, philanthropic, and nonprofit clients in exploring and identifying new approaches to their work and its impact through organizational development, strategic planning, capacity building and coaching, program development and systems for successful implementation, and preparing for funding opportunities. The team is skilled in responding to information needs at program, collaborative, and systems levels. The team approaches the work in partnership and collaborative decisions with the client and key educational partners, uplifting the expertise and knowledge of those community members who are most impacted by the work.

Background

In March 2022, the CDE announced the release of RFA for the California Community Schools Partnership Program - Planning Grant (CCSPP-PG) to which Magnolia Charter Schools submitted applications for 9 school sites. The CCSPP-PG is an initiative which supports the planning of a community school framework. A community school is a “whole-child” school improvement strategy where the school(s) work closely with teachers, students, and families. Community schools partner with community agencies and local governments to align community resources to improve student outcomes. These partnerships “provide an integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development, and community engagement.” Many community schools operate year-round, morning to evening, and serve children and adults. Community schools often serve neighborhoods where economic and social barriers to learning are prevalent.

Analysis

Prior to the announcement in March and already understanding that this opportunity would be open to our community, Magnolia partnered with Amanecer Consulting to support the application process as a thought partner and already started to identify areas of strengths and needs that would align Magnolia closer to the community schools model. We started the work by identifying three schools to work directly with Amanecer over the course of the application process and until the end of the 2021-22 school year. The three schools identified were Magnolia Science Academy 1, 3, and 7. MSA 1 serves as our flagship school and has the highest enrollment across all our schools, MSA 3 has diverse demographic needs and has established connections with the community including from local elected officials and MSA 7 is our stand alone elementary school offering grades TK-5.

Budget Implications

\$200, 000 was awarded to each school for the planning grant period. A significant portion of the funds will pay for the cost of a Community Schools Coordinator for each school site. We are currently in the candidate search phase.

How Does This Action Relate/Affect/Benefit All MSAs?

The CCSPP-PG is a one-year initiative to support planning activities to further develop and integrate strong strategies to address the four evidence-informed programmatic features, which are aligned and integrated into high-quality, rigorous teaching and learning practices and environments. The work coordinated during the planning grant year will support development of structures and systems to increase high-action / high-alignment across strategies and support for students and family members. By developing and implementing strong systems which can be outlined in the implementation application to CDE during the next round of funding.

Exhibits (Attachments):

- Slide Deck



Magnolia Public Schools Community School Model

With Amanecer Consulting

Introductions

Over the past **20 years**, Co-founding Partners, **Iris and Karina** have served as **results-driven leaders** in the education and human service sectors. **Committed to increasing support** and access for families in communities of opportunities with an emphasis on community improvement.

Possess extensive experience in **place-based and collective impact strategies**; ability to scale impact and leverage resources to increase investments.



Background

Preparation for Planning Grant

- Meet w/ Executive Leadership
- Focus Group Protocol
- Review and support with State Grant Application
- Inventory of existing services

Research + Focus Groups

- Conduct Focus Group
- Compile notes and recommendations
- Draft Logic Model
- Program Inventory

Planning Grant Awarded (\$1.8Million)

- Finalize logic model
- Tools to hire CS Coordinators
- Professional Development Roadmap
- Planning Grant Implementation Timeline

TBD

*Implementation Grants-
Summer 2023*



Scope of Work



Timeline



Discovery & Diagnostics

- Strategy & Next Steps Meetings
- CCSPP RFA –planning & review Meetings.
- Support with Grant Abstract & Budget - Finalize and submit



Model Development

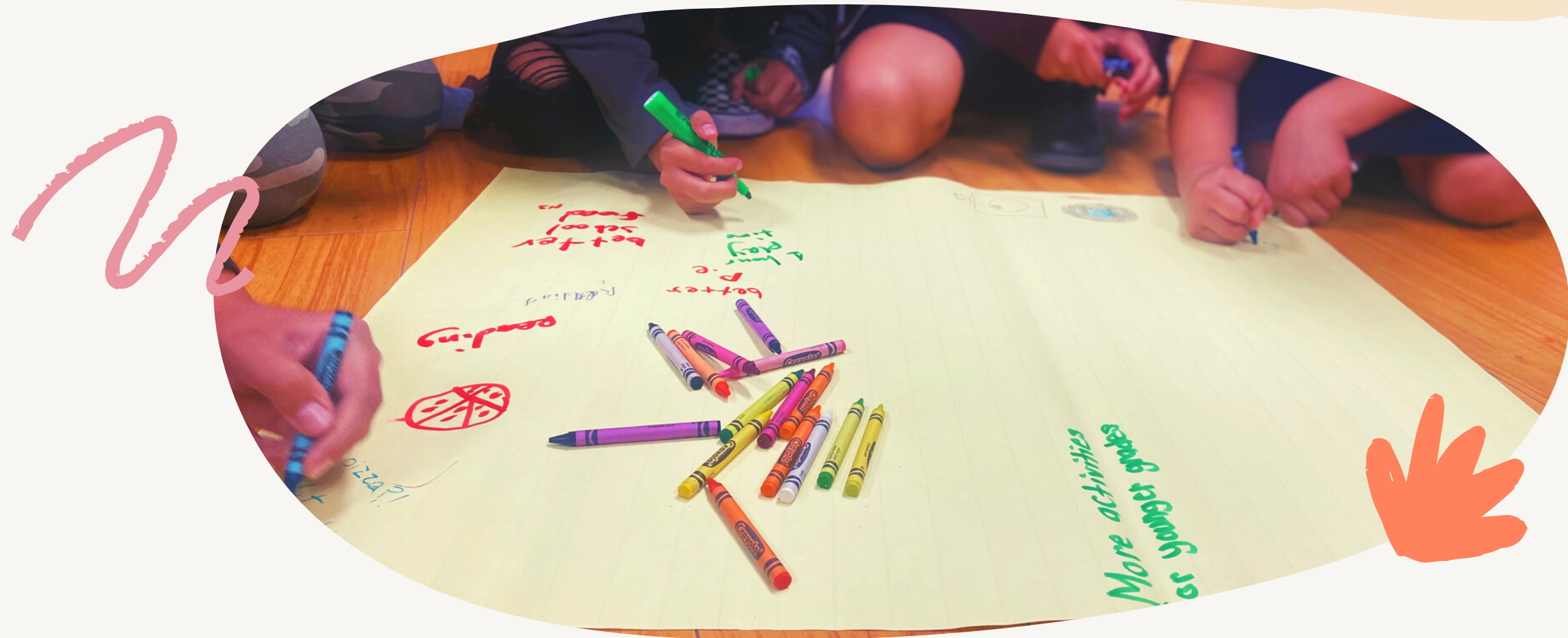
- School Site Meetings: School Administrators & PACE Coordinators
- Facilitate Focus Groups
- Attend Anchor Meetings
- Tools: Logic Model, Job Description, Community Engagement Plan



Model Refinement + Implementation

- Expanding Across Magnolias Network
- Coaching & Development
- Grant Management
- Implementation Guidance
- Support with Funding Opportunities

Today's Discussion



We will provide an overview of the focus group findings and recommended logic model influenced by the Profile of a Graduate + Community School four Pillars + Community Input

Focus Groups

Students

- Students feel engaged, respected and welcomed
- Enjoy small school site
- Feel part of the school community
- Would like: Additional Academic Programs & Supports

Parents

- Feel welcomed & supported
- School is accessible and engaging with parents
- Would like: Strategies to support students at home,

Portrait of a Graduate



Six Competencies

- Literacy with a Learner's Mindset
- Critical Thinking
- Creativity
- Effective Communication
- Adaptability
- Global Citizenship




Community School Model Four-Pillars



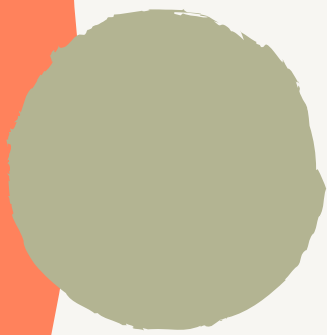
Integrated Support Services



Family and Community
Engagement



Collaborative leadership and
shared decision making



Extended/expanded learning time
and opportunities.

Logic Model



Community Schools Logic Model

Goal: All Students are ready for success: College, career, and life; and are healthy and secure in their identity
Theory of Action: If school/community partners meet the needs of the whole child, then transformational changes will occur that result in healthy, secure students ready for college, career and life.

Resources / Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Short-term Outcomes	Intermediate Outcomes	Long-term Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community School Coordinator W/ Site-based and Community based leadership teams The Four Pillars of CS Sufficient Staff (expertise + availability) – School Leaders, District/Home Office Leaders, Additional CS Staff Sufficient resources (e.g., funding, facilities, leverage other funds) Available/relevant partners – community supports Leadership & Initiative level infrastructure Resources & Evidence-based practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family and Community engagement (e.g. adult education) Extended Learning Opportunities/Youth Development Health, mental health, and social services; family support Social and Emotional Learning Early Childhood Development Professional development (school staff and community) Linkages between schools and partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported Families Communication Strategies (e.g., newsletters, web-based information, parent/community meetings, open houses, school/district documents) Comprehensive learning supports Integrated and improved academic enrichment and social services to support children’s intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development High-quality, engaging, instructional programs Partner integration into the school day (partnership agreements) Number and quality of supportive services programs Data dashboards – reports of progress and outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children are ready to enter school Students attend school consistently Students are actively involved in learning and their community Families are increasingly involved in their children’s education Schools are partnering with families, communities, organizations, and businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students succeed academically Students are healthy: physically, socially, and emotionally Students live & learn in a safe, supportive, and stable environment Communities are desirable places to live 	<p>Students graduate ready for college, careers, and citizenship</p>

Let's Discuss Next Steps

Finalize Logic Model, Community Engagement Plan
Advisory Board Structures
Launch Official Planning Process July 1st for 9 sites

Build the Community School's Coordinator Team
Map out training track for new and existing team
Coaching and Development
Communications strategy for all parties involved



Q and A



Thank You

