

## **Feb. 6 Council of School Councils Meeting**

### ***Tips on Rallying People***

At the Feb. 6, 2019 Council of School Councils meeting, participants shared their best ideas for how to rally volunteers at their school. Sheena Swierenga from Propellus gathered up all the ideas to share with all school councils. The ideas have been organized into key themes below.

#### **School Council Culture**

- Invite people to meetings
- create space for flexibility and creativity
- go for drinks or wings after the meeting
- get the business done and then have fun at meetings
- make sure everyone can articulate their role and the impact it has on the school community
- put yourself out there to talk to more people in the school
- flip the conversation, school council doesn't "do things" it "empowers those who show up to do the things that they want"
- have a team mindset
- chat with people on the playground

#### **Technology**

- Use Sign Up Genius ([signupgenius.org](http://signupgenius.org))
- Use Google form to have a detailed form (abilities and availabilities)

#### **The Meeting**

- tack on speakers, teachers, special guests to the meeting
- have free childcare for the duration of the meeting
- hold meetings around key topics
- provide food

#### **Communication**

- remind people of how casino money directly benefits students
- connect the work to impact
- Facebook or skype meetings
- communicate early with people give them lots of notice
- impact led asks (photo galleries, fun draw...bring attention to what has been paid for by the work of school council)
- repetition and continuous messaging
- emphasis on communication with families on the VALUE School Council provides
- take the emphasis off physical meetings, 2019 means we can engage differently
- use notes from teachers on blog, in agendas, school wide emails, newsletters

### **Other**

- be flexible
- be clear about commitment
- hold events where people want to volunteer for
- have the “volunteer chair or coordinator” as a position
- let things fail
- have a presence at key events; BBQ, kindergarten night, teacher interviews, game night
- host a coffee and donut night to bring people in
- survey parents about what they want to see
- have a classroom rep

### **Engaging Individuals**

- Match skills with opportunities
- build in enough lead time and follow up
- have apprentice roles where people can learn, train and/or job share
- personalize the experience
- offered preferred seating at school events (concerts or assemblies)
- network with other parents
- make the impact clear (fun lunches for your child= support from you of time/energy)