



Becoming One Community

Developed by faculty at Denver Center for International Studies and Marjorie Larner

Purpose

1. Share roots of the school: shared historical view from faculty who were there from the beginning
2. Share Perspectives of teachers who came to the from other schools and programs
3. Coming together as one group developing a common identity and foundation

Framing Question: "What do we have to have to be 'us'?"

Process (total time 70-80 minutes)

1. Fishbowl: Original teachers discuss the story of the origins of the school with each other while the rest of the group listens and perhaps takes notes on what is significant to discuss in small group. (10-15 minutes) *Note: ask people and only limited time, everyone will have to monitor him/herself to make sure everyone has a chance to talk. They could choose to do this in round robin or popcorn style.*
Possible talking points:
 - How and why you made the decision to become a school
 - Your hopes for what can be carried on with this school.
 - What is started with the school that you see as integral to the identity.
2. Clarifying questions from listeners (5 minutes)
3. Small group discussions: small groups of 4-8 discuss what they heard and how they think about it. Each group will be joined by an original teacher who will listen silently and take notes on that small group's discussion, listening most for new perspectives or perceptions or differing points of view. (15 minutes)
4. Fishbowl: Original teachers gather again to discuss what they heard and share new thoughts and insights. (10 minutes)
5. Small group discussions: What this means in terms of action/practice and next steps. This time original teachers join the discussion of their small group so everyone is participating. Record on index cards to be compiled and decide what you will report out to the larger group. (15 minutes)
6. Small groups report out to whole group. (10 minutes)
7. Whole group debriefs the process. (5-10 minutes)
8. Follow-up: PD committee, in particular, but all committees in general, will use the information on the cards and from discussions to inform long and short term planning to support concrete next steps.