

ROCHESTER BEACON

**SOLUTIONS FORUM:
THE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Chris Cerf
May 13, 2019

**BEST
INTEREST OF
CHILDREN:
CHILDREN
FIRST**

1

**SHARED SET OF
VALUES**

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VALUES**

- ❑ **PURPOSE:** To Give Every Child an Equal Chance at Success
- ❑ **EXPECTATIONS:** High and Equal Expectations for All
- ❑ **EVALUATING SUCCESS:** Accountability
- ❑ **EFFECTIVE TEACHING:** The Most Critical Variable
- ❑ **THE ROLE OF POVERTY AND DISADVANTAGE**
- ❑ **EMPOWERING PARENTS:** Zip Code Should Not Be Destiny

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SHARED SET OF VALUES:

PURPOSE



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- The central purpose of public education is to assure every child a fair opportunity for success.

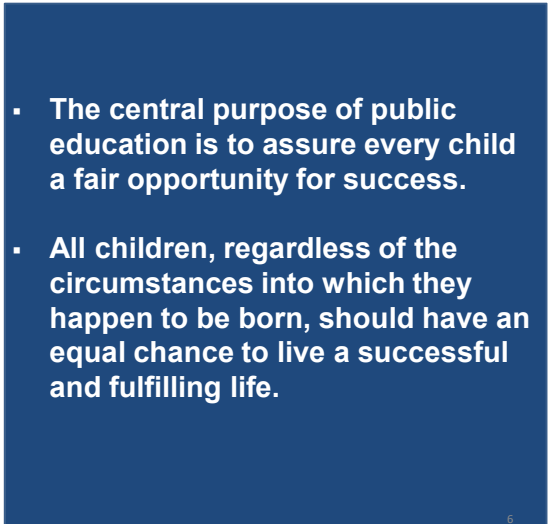


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SHARED SET OF VALUES:

PURPOSE

- The central purpose of public education is to assure every child a fair opportunity for success.
- All children, regardless of the circumstances into which they happen to be born, should have an equal chance to live a successful and fulfilling life.

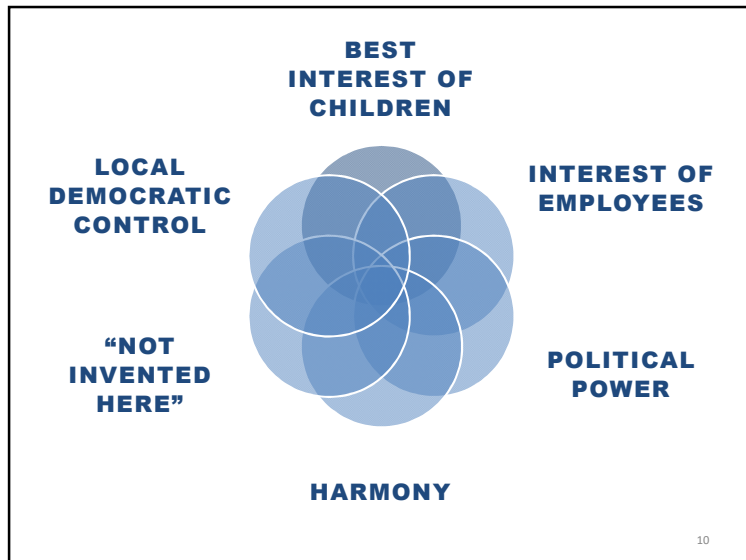
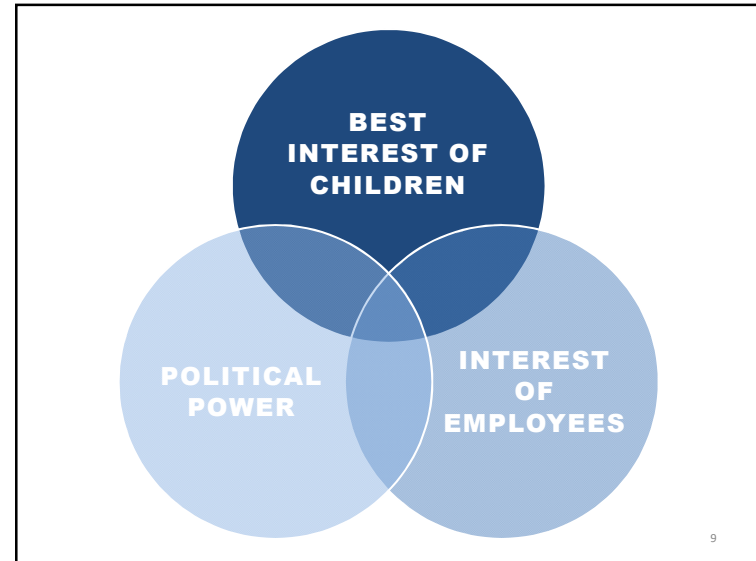
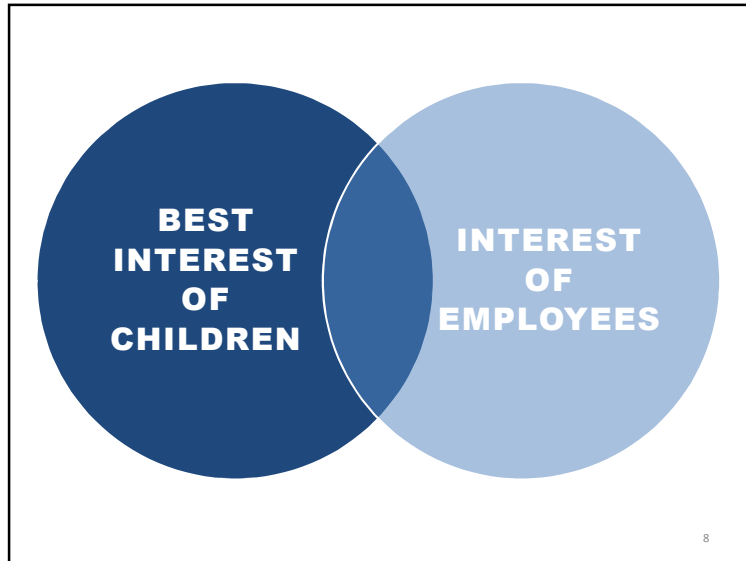


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BEST INTEREST OF CHILDREN

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SHARED SET OF VALUES:

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- This definition of success should be a floor, not a ceiling.
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- As a nation, we have consistently failed at this. Often, immorally, on the basis of race and poverty.

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SHARED SET OF VALUES:

EVALUATING SUCCESS



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- Setting high standards has little meaning unless you assess whether children are meeting those standards.

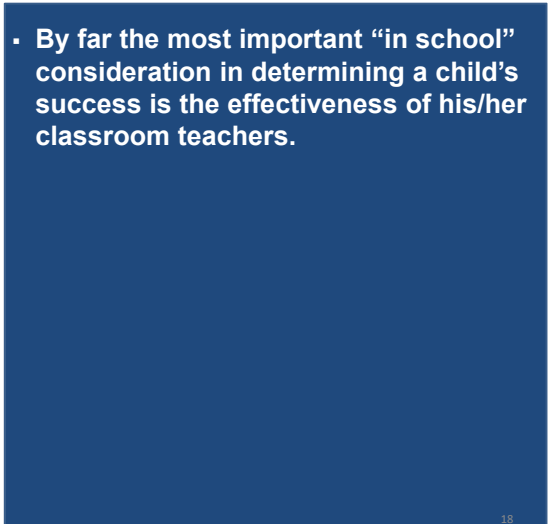


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- The great majority of teachers work hard, care deeply about their students, and are good at what they do.



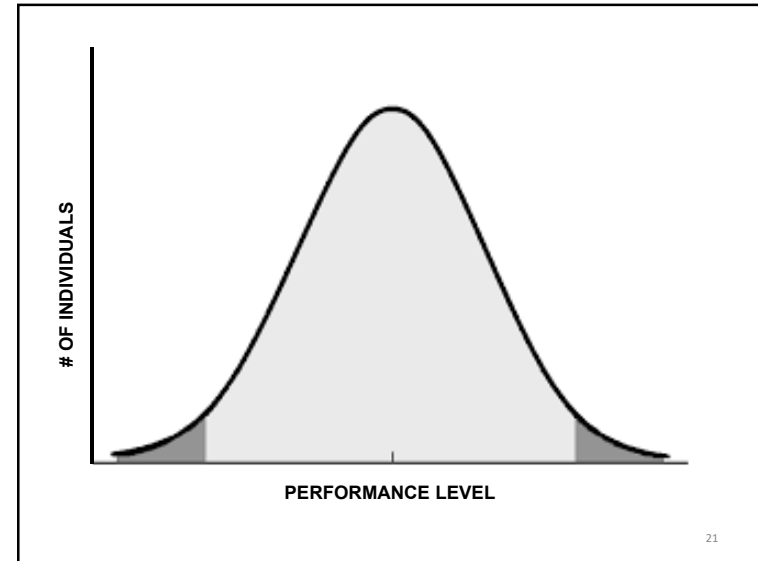
19

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- The great majority of teachers work hard, care deeply about their students, and are good at what they do.
- There is a natural distribution of efficacy in any profession
- There is no reason to think the same is not true for teachers.

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SHARED SET OF VALUES:

POVERTY AND DISADVANTAGE

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- But poverty is not and certainly need not be destiny.
- School matters.

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- By far the most common mechanism for exercising “choice” in this country is to move to a community with “better” schools.
- A child’s educational options should not be limited to the school that happens to be located in the neighborhood where s/he happens to live.
- It is unfair to underfund schools in low-income neighborhoods.

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SEVEN ESSENTIAL PILLARS OF REFORM

1. A Shared Sense of Urgency and Commitment
2. Continuity of Leadership
3. Rigorous Adherence to Three Foundational Principles
 - Relentless Focus on Talent
 - Clear Goals and Accountability
 - Research-Tested Curriculum and Aligned Training
4. Community Engagement
5. Abandon “Not Invented Here” Mentality
6. Early Childhood / Case Management
7. Acknowledge that the System is Organized to Thwart True Change

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Pillar #1

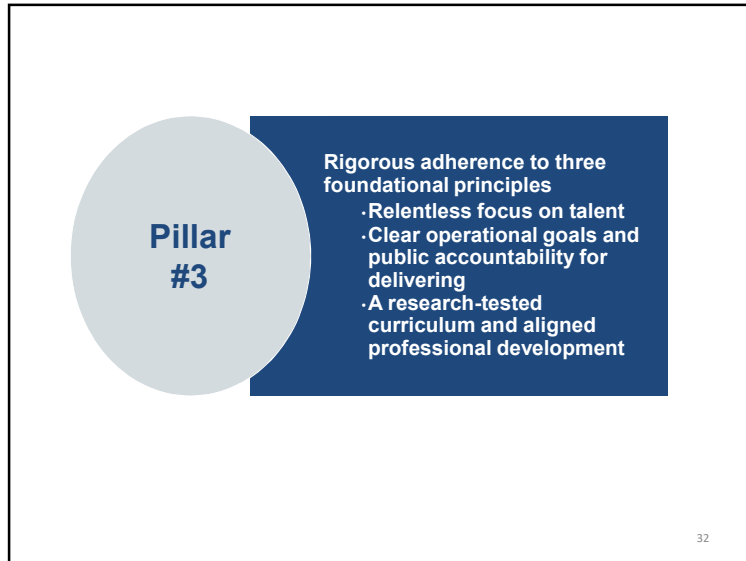
A shared sense of urgency and and a community-wide commitment to address the crisis as a moral imperative

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Pillar #2

Continuity of leadership

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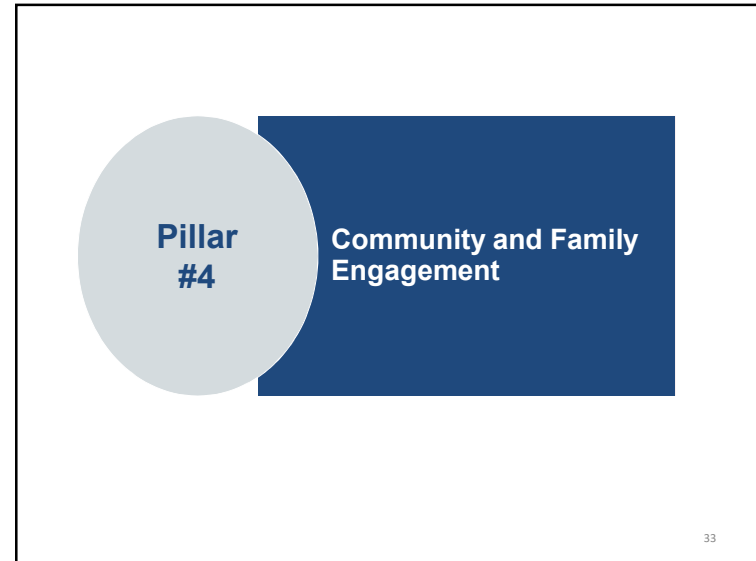


Pillar #3

Rigorous adherence to three foundational principles

- Relentless focus on talent
- Clear operational goals and public accountability for delivering
- A research-tested curriculum and aligned professional development

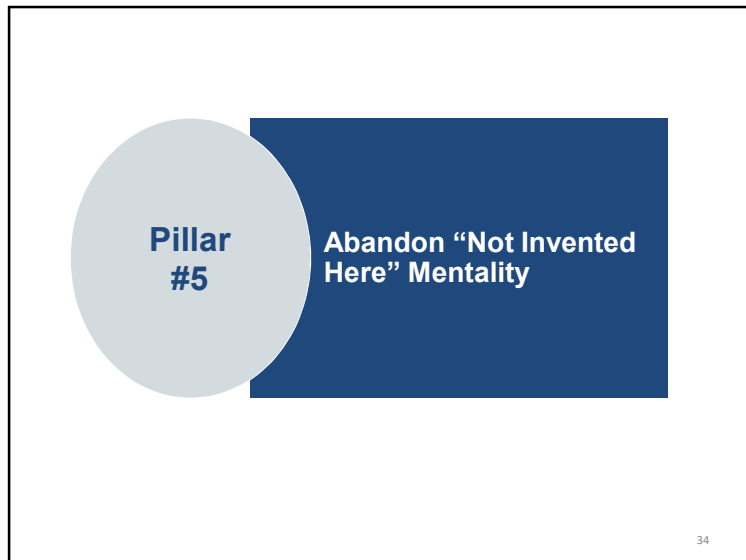
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Pillar #4

Community and Family Engagement

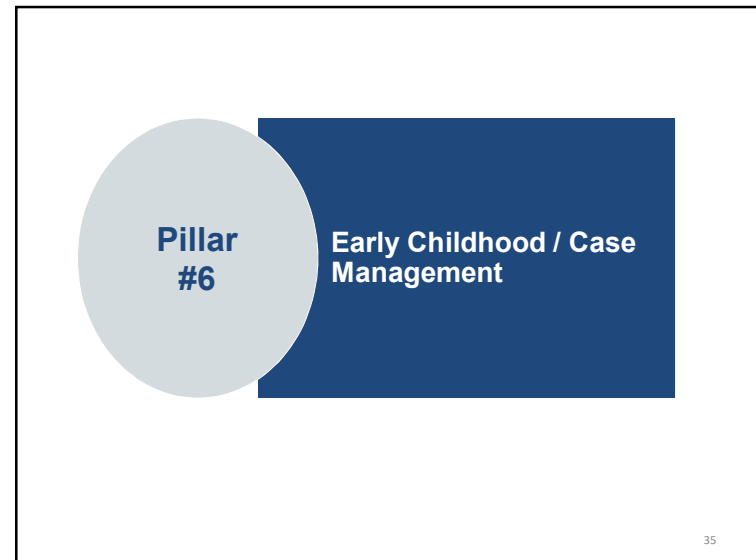
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Pillar #5

Abandon “Not Invented Here” Mentality

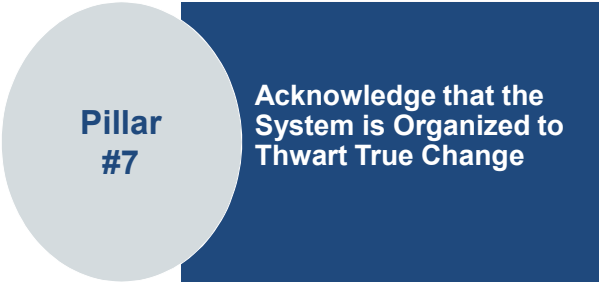
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Pillar #6

Early Childhood / Case Management

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Pillar #7

Acknowledge that the System is Organized to Thwart True Change

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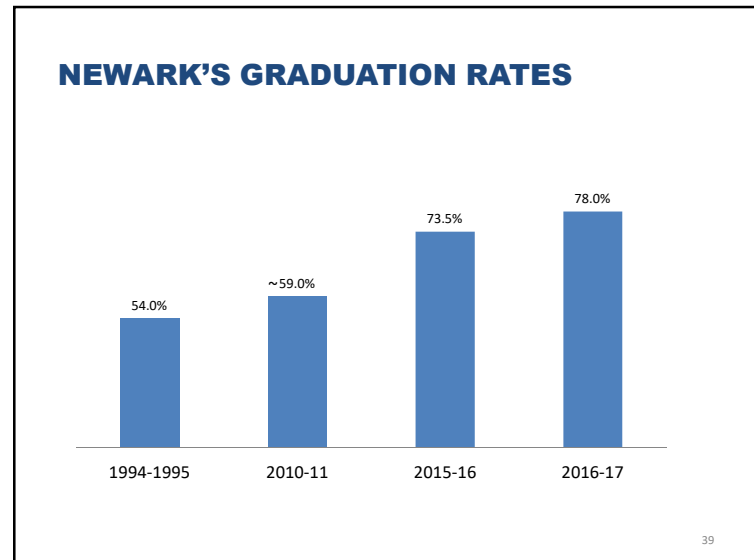


PROGRESS IS POSSIBLE!

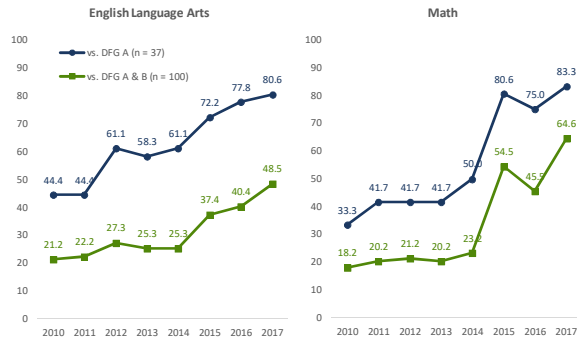
NEWARK: A CASE STUDY

- Between 2010 and 2017, graduation rate rose from ~59% to 78% – the highest # in district history!
- African-American students are 300% more likely to attend a school that exceeds the state average
- Four-year college matriculation is at all-time high
- Test scores in reading and math up for three consecutive years exceeding EVERY comparable city and some entire states

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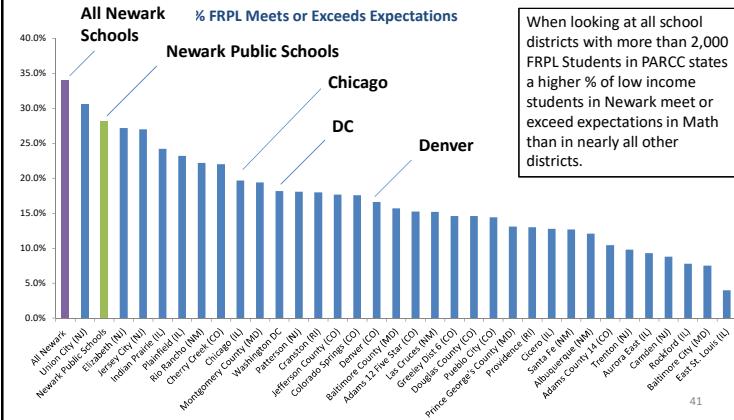


NEWARK HAS SOARED RELATIVE TO OTHER COMPARABLE DISTRICTS



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NEWARK OUTPERFORMS ALL OTHER DISTRICTS AND SEVERAL STATES



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THE CENTRAL QUESTION OF GOVERNANCE?

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