Leadership Project-Elevator Speech

You are making a formal speech to a group of people who you want to support your project. Use this worksheet to identify the important information to include in a 1-2 minute presentation (“elevator speech”) about your leadership project. This project may be changing over time. That is ok! Develop this presentation based on what you currently imagine your project.

What is the problem your project will try to solve?

- Our school district does not have an organized way for families to provide input to the school district on issues that concern children other than their own
- There are issues that affect children in several school buildings; district policies need to be changed to make things better for kids and families

Share one family experience that illustrates this problem.

I belong to a special needs support group and was talking with other parents there about my son’s recent IEP meeting. We all have had different stories about how our kid’s teachers included us in IEP meetings and even how they invited us to the meetings. Also, some families have better experiences than others about getting information on different community resources for their children. After hearing about each other’s experiences, we thought that there needs to be consistency across schools in the same district for parent involvement in IEPs, as well as other practices that affect kids who receive special education programming at school.

What action are you going to take? (Describe the current version of your project)

- Form a group for families who have children in special education in our school district. We will call ourselves Partners in Education (PIE).
- This group will have a steering committee to lead the project and will meet monthly at a local library or coffee shop to plan work that will improve the experiences of children in special education based on actual family experiences.
- The steering committee will try to meet regularly with the District Superintendent and the district Director of Special Education to talk about concerns and identify ways that the group of families can work with school administration to get consistent procedures in place across schools.
- The steering committee will develop an electronic listserv and/or Facebook page to get information out to families throughout the district.
How does your action impact the problem?

- By gathering many families together who have the same message, we can have a greater impact on working toward changing policies and procedures to get consistent practices implemented across all the schools in our district.
- We can support one another in trying to make changes to school district policies
- We can bring the concerns to many families directly to decision makers in the school district in a coordinated way
- We can raise concerns from families who might not feel comfortable raising concerns or might not have the time or energy to do so

Write out your 1-minute elevator speech in paragraph form: 1/2 page (small handwriting or typed double-spaced)

AUDIENCE FOR THIS ELEVATOR SPEECH: to tell another parent about what I am doing and to see if they are interested in becoming part of the group.

I just joined the steering committee of a group that is trying to improve the ways that children and families experience special education programming in our district. We call ourselves Partners in Education, or PIE for short. We plan to meet with the Superintendent and the Director of Special Education in our district to bring the concerns of multiple families to them. One of the first things that we want to do is to inform them of inconsistencies that families experience from one school to another. I am wondering if this something that you would be interested in joining.