At first if you don’t succeed.....

What did I sign us up for?

- Talked about it for a year
- Committed...started the ball rolling
- New administrator and staff
- Dropped the ball....
- Picked the ball back up
- Failed...at our first attempt to have a planning meeting
- Second attempt....success....
- Failed....some parents did not want to be involved
- Kept going....

Advice.....

- Commit
- Be the cheerleader
- When there are setbacks be able to encourage your team
Planning Team

School staff

Emily Westfall- Transitions Coordinator, Daily Grind Manager
Courtney Redmond - MOCI Teacher
Jen Amorose - ASD Teacher Consultant
Parents (Transition, HS, Former parents)

Advice

Pay attention to what people are saying
Think outside of the box
Tell everybody
Timeframe

What we did...

We had our first planning meeting March 4th and held our event May 5th

Advice.....

Don’t do that.
Brainstorm, Invites, RSVP

What we did:

- Huge list
- Provide a signup sheet for parents to commit to inviting
- Had another meeting and handed them out

Advice

- Create that huge wishlist
- Narrow it down at the same meeting
- Have people to commit at the same meeting or commit to finding out who to contact
“I want my child to live, work and worship in the same community”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
<th>Team Member making contact</th>
<th>RSVP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bill Doran</td>
<td>Sent</td>
<td>Jen Amorose</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mari Price</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jen Amorose</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megan Hojanacki</td>
<td>Sent</td>
<td>Jen Amorose</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Lienisch</td>
<td>Sent</td>
<td>Jen Amorose</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryann Timmer</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jen Amorose</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peg Mulherin</td>
<td>Sent</td>
<td>Courtney Redmond</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Huene</td>
<td>Sent</td>
<td>Courtney Redmond</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie Asper</td>
<td>Sent</td>
<td>Courtney Redmond</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audrey Vandokkenburg</td>
<td>Sent</td>
<td>Courtney Redmond</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINKS Students</td>
<td></td>
<td>Courtney Redmond</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don Raymakers</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jen Amorose</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Green</td>
<td>Sent</td>
<td>Jen Amorose</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pam Liggett</td>
<td>Sent</td>
<td>Jen Amorose</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bev Blaser</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jen Amorose</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Todd Dejong</td>
<td>Sent</td>
<td>Jen Amorose</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randy Rodriguez</td>
<td>Sent</td>
<td>Jen Amorose/Courtney</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Invite you to attend a Community Conversation!

What Is a Community Conversation?
Informal and engaging discussion about how our community can increase employment and other opportunities for young adults with disabilities. Join us as we explore together ways to create new opportunities for young adults in our community.

Why Attend Community Conversation?
- Businesses need good employees
- Young adults with disabilities are looking for meaningful work experiences
- Our community is stronger when “our children are able to work, worship, and live in the same community”

Who Should Attend?
Employers, community leaders, teachers, school staff, organizations and agencies serving youth, family members of individuals with disabilities, high school students and any other stakeholder in the Caledonia Community. Everyone is welcome!

WHEN: May 4, 2017 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm
WHERE: Davenport University, 6191 Kraft Ave SE
          Sneden Meeting Rooms: Sneden Center
RSVP: Jen Amorose: amorosej@calschools.org
RSVP
Community Conversations Event

**What we did:**

- Davenport University 6-8:00 pm
- Parents and staff set-up
- RSVP ....had to organize groupings on the fly

**Advice:**

- Have a buffing time for socializing
- Limit the powerpoint
- Plan longer for transitions between groups

**Attendance:**

- 4 students
- 6 parents
- 3 LINKS
- 9 school staff
- 7 employers/community
Questions

Question 1: What actions can we take within our community to increase the employment and social/recreation opportunities for youth and young adults with disabilities?

Question 2: What specific steps can I take in the next 6 months to facilitate an opportunity for a young adult with a disability in my community?
Light Bulb Moment

Name: ______________________
Email: ______________________
Affiliation/Company: ________
Commitment: ________________

Future Conversations

Would you be interested in attending a follow up conversation to further develop/brainstorm opportunities for individuals in our community with disabilities?

☐ Yes!    ☐ No

Do you have a contact that you think we should invite to future conversations?

☐ Yes!    ☐ No

If yes, please provide this individual’s Contact information
Name: ______________________
Email: ______________________
Affiliation: __________________
Event

"We are all born included. Inclusion is the natural state, everything else is an artificial environment."

Katie Siewe

Statistically, employers have reported that their production numbers increase by an average of 10%, depending on the department, after hiring employees with disabilities.
Q1: WHAT ACTIONS CAN WE TAKE WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY TO INCREASE THE EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL/RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES?

"Every single person has capabilities, abilities, and gifts. Living the good life depends on whether these capabilities can be used, abilities expressed and gifts given. If they are, the person will be valued for powerful and well-connected to the people around them. And the community around the person will be more powerful because of the contribution the person is making."

Common Concerns: Myth vs. Fact

- Myth: Employees with disabilities are more likely to have accidents on the job than employees without disabilities
- Fact: In a DuPont study, the safety records of both groups were identical.
Afterthoughts

What do we do now?

Gathering information (planned date)

Follow up event in the fall

New team members