

Board
Report

Collaborative School Governance (CSG)

Wednesday, Oct 11, 2023



Living Our Vision

Developing Leaders for the Renaissance of New York

The 2022-23 CSG's purpose was to reexamine the school's founding mission through the lens of TRCS as it currently stands in our post-epidemic environment.

The goal was to engage families, teachers, community members, and staff in critical discussions about how we live our mission in everyday ways, in everyday spaces.

Gatherings were small, but discussions were thoughtful and constructive.

Renaissance is based on the conviction that a change in the destiny of a single individual can lead to a change in the destiny of a community, nation, and ultimately humankind.

Our mission as a PK-12 school is to foster educated, responsible, humanistic young leaders who will through their own personal growth spark a renaissance in New York.

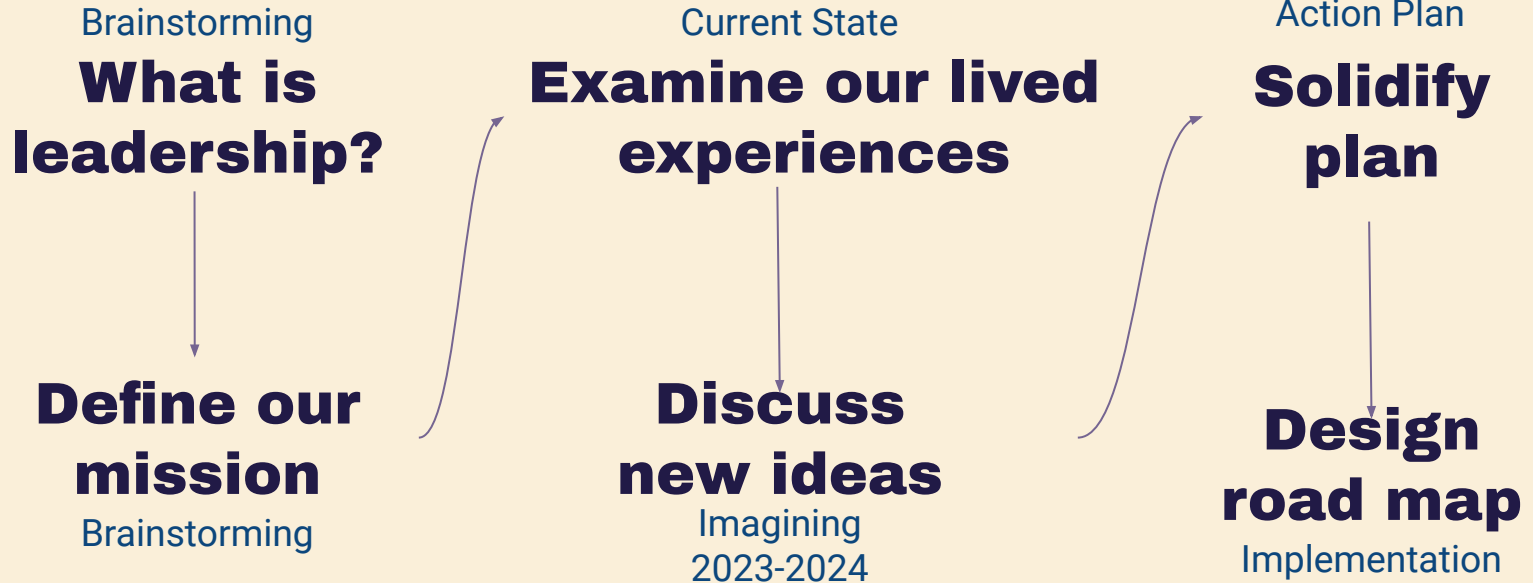
Our graduates will be global citizens with an abiding respect for peace, human rights, the environment, and sustainable development.

Renaissance is committed to graduating competent individuals who are powerful thinkers, engaged citizens, and life-long learners who will create the renaissance of New York.

Community Norms

- Listen deeply and learn from others. Challenge yourself. Allow others to learn what you already know.
- Accept one another's reality. Ask compassionate questions and practice empathy.
- Speak from the "I" perspective/from your own reality.
- Expect and accept non-closure. This is a work in progress; expect to experience discomfort. Take care of yourself .
- Respond with an "ouch" or an equivalent if something said offends or upsets you.
- Respect confidentiality—take the stories, leave the names.
- Build from where we are from a foundation of trust from one another.

2022-2023 CSG Roadmap



School is a journey and students are the heroes of their own story. Their lived experiences along the way matter!

Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school.

Albert Einstein

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed **citizens** can **change** the **world**; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

— Margaret Mead

“
Education is the
passport to the future,
for tomorrow belongs
to those who prepare
for it today.

Malcolm X

“The beautiful thing
about learning is
that no one can take
it away from you.”

—B.B. King

“There is no end to education. It is not that you read a book, pass an examination, and finish with education. The whole of life, from the moment you are born to the moment you die, is a process of learning.”

— Jiddu Krishnamurti

Education is not preparation for life;
education is life itself.

— John Dewey —

Where do value lessons occur?

The Hidden Curriculum

- The hidden curriculum is the "unintended" curriculum.
- It consists of those learning experiences, both negative and positive, that are not part of the explicit curriculum but that result in changes in the attitudes, beliefs, and values of students.
- The teacher must be constantly aware of the hidden curriculum that may be communicated or modeled in his/her classroom



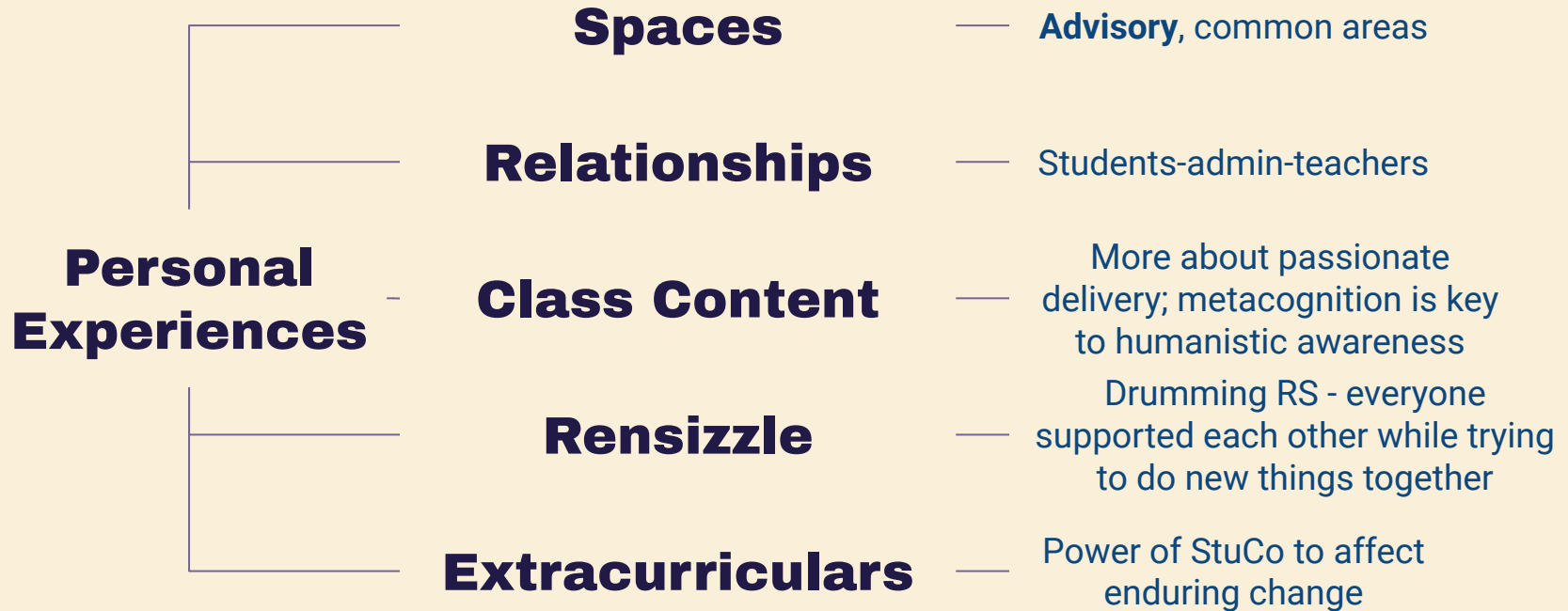
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Aside from the straightforwardly visible curriculum, there is the hidden curriculum. This exists in the wider set of beliefs and values pupils acquire because of the way that a school is run and its teaching organized. It is about the behaviour of the teachers, the textbooks chosen, the school rules.

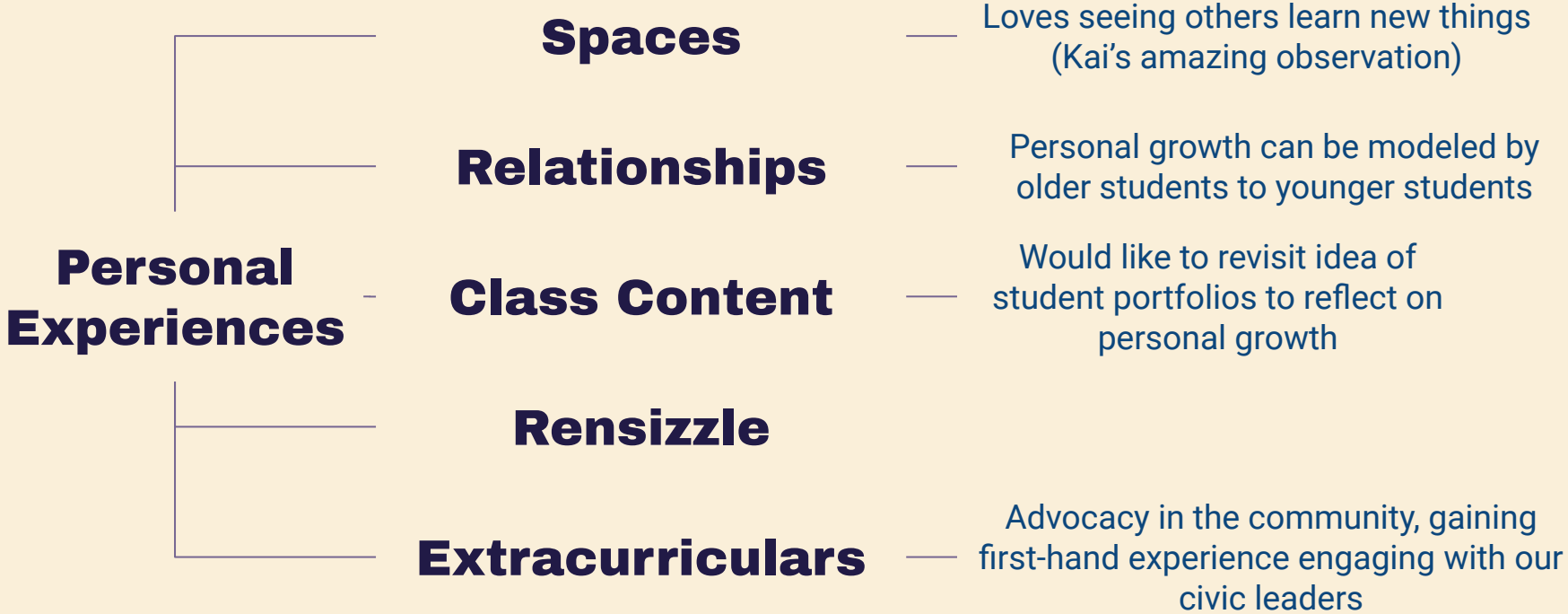
~ Gary Thomas

GREATSAVINGS.NET

...fostering educated, responsible, humanistic young leaders



...through [students'] own personal growth [they will] spark a renaissance in New York



What, how, and with whom can value lessons occur?

What?

- Advisory
- Common spaces
- Rensizzle & other enrichment days
- Class visits
- Clubs & sports
- Student government
- Professional Learning Communities/Critical Friends Group/Learning Rounds

How?

- Portfolio-based assessments for increased opportunities for personal reflection
- Interactive lessons to create opportunities to work with and cheer on classmates
- Community-based, experiential learning opportunities
- Learning from our friends

With Whom?

- Student-student in and across grades
- Student-student across clusters
- Teacher-student
- Teacher-admin
- Admin-student
- Family-school
- Student-community
- Student-city
- Teacher-teacher

Possible Avenues to Explore

Advisory

- Time for personal and group reflection
- Space to increase student leadership via representation (instead of Model UN, Advisory could become a Model US...)
- Could be a space for group academic share-outs

Student Council

- MS & HS collaboration with each other and with school leadership
- Members members of CSG as part of StuCo
- Serve as co-leaders in developing Town Hall programming
-

Rensizzle

- Portfolio-based assessments for Increased opportunities for personal reflection about value connections
- Student- and teacher-designed lessons to create opportunities to work with and cheer on classmates
- Jackson Heights-based, experiential learning opportunities
- Increase ways to learning collaboratively from fellow students

Proposed Resolution: Communication

- ❖ **Broadening message with *opportunities to respond*:**
 - **Monthly MS and HS Town Halls to increase student-student and student-administration communications**
 - **State of the School updates at each CSG meeting to increase 360-degree communications**
 - **Language translation at all public meetings**
 - **CSG - “corner” in Daily Digest / HS newsletter - convey to community → remind us about our values on a regular basis**

Proposed Resolution: Continuity of CSG Leadership

- ❖ **2-year term for CSG coordinators**
- ❖ **CSG steering committee with fair representation from the Board, the PA, PC, MS and HS Student Council Leaders, SMT, and Cluster Co-Coordinator(s).**
- ❖ **2nd year focused on implementation and expansion of mission-based actions**

Proposed Resolution: Community

- ❖ **Fortify local/city partnerships for Rensizzle**
- ❖ **Increase number of at-school Events**
- ❖ **Political Action Committee**
- ❖ **Expand Community Service Day (led by Student Councils?)**
- ❖ **Student-driven Social Justice Day theme**