

East Aurora School District 131

African American Parent Association Meeting

Thursday January 13, 2022

Agenda:

- I. Welcome
- II. Introductions
- III. Guest Speakers- “The Neighbor Project”
- IV. Concluding Remarks
- V. Updates and Events
- VI. Questions

Group Norms

Respect:

Be respectful of the opinions of others

Open communication:

We must create a safe meeting environment where everyone feels comfortable enough to share their opinions.

(Ex. Table / parking for future discussions)

Open mind:

We must keep an open mind, maintaining a safe and supportive environment that encourages growth and development.

Responsibility:

Be ready to start on time, be prepared and be responsible

(Ex. Keep the mic on mute when not speaking, maintain a healthy mood, celebrate, and laugh together.)



Strategic Plan:

MISSION

Our purpose is to educate and empower all students to reach their full potential.

VISION

Our future graduates will be confident and productive global citizens committed to improving their community.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES



EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

Meet the diverse needs of all students by ensuring a safe and inclusive learning environment.



OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Utilize systems and resources that promote operational excellence, efficiency, and fiscal accountability.



COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP

Engage in continuous improvements through collaborative, student-focused, and data-driven leadership.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Ensure the academic success of all students by closing the opportunity gap.



Introductions:

Break Out rooms (5 minutes):

- Share your name
- Child/children's school, and grade(s)
- What is one thing you did for self care over winter break?



Presentation by :

Jerria Donelson, MBA, MCED,
DIRECTOR OF HOUSING
COUNSELING & EDUCATION
SERVICES

Curtis Spivey, OUTREACH
COORDINATOR

David O. Blancas, M. Ed. PROGRAM
MANAGER, AURORA FINANCIAL
EMPOWERMENT CENTER

The Neighbor Project™



Aurora
Financial
Empowerment
Center



EAST AURORA
SCHOOL DISTRICT 131

- **Networked Saving Program** makes it possible for a family to save for a down payment on a home—while paying the same rent that they’ve already been paying. This turns permanent renters into permanent homeowners. And that changes neighborhoods, communities and lives—for generations to come.

The Neighbor Project™



Homebuyer Education Counseling Services:

What are the steps needed to qualify for a home loan and buy a house?

- The Neighbor Project Homebuyer will work with you towards your goal of homeownership.
- We will walk with you through each step of the home buying process, helping you discover how to leverage your income into an asset.

The Neighbor Project™

Help for Homeowners:

- The Neighbor Project is here—on your way to purchasing a home, during your buying process, and after you've become a homeowner.
- We provide resources to you at every point on the pathway to financial well-being.
- One of the most important stages is homeownership itself. Being a homeowner is an ongoing journey—and those who own homes are not immune to unexpected economic shocks. City of Aurora offers two grants to help with possible repairs on owner occupied properties.

The Neighbor Project™

- Kane County still has grant monies to disperse. For any 501c3 that provides services to kane county residents in regards to mental health or food pantries, this is beneficial. If any parents are also operating in or providing these kinds of services this will be doubly beneficial.

Press release attached, the link to apply is here: (countyofkane.org)

- HESED House has \$200,000 in funds to disperse in the area of potential, emergency assistance. Rent and utilities would be priority. For more information or to set up an appointment contact **Curtis at curtis@neighborproject.us**

The Neighbor Project™

The Aurora Financial Empowerment Center is a FREE Public Service program sponsored by the City of Aurora and The Neighbor Project.

The Aurora FEC offers free 1-1 financial counseling to anyone looking to:

- Reduce their debt
- Increase their savings
- Establish or Strengthen their credit score
- Access affordable banking services



**Aurora
Financial
Empowerment
Center**



EAST AURORA
SCHOOL DISTRICT 131

In just under 2 yrs, AFEC has served over 800 households!

Reduced the total debt by over 1 million dollars, and increased the total savings by almost half a million dollars.

- FEC does not offer legal advice and does not offer financial assistance. FEC does partner with organizations that provide that.
- Partnered with Hesed House who has an Emergency Rent Assistance Program. FEC Financial Counselors help complete and submit the application for qualifying individuals.



**Aurora
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Empowerment
Center**



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SCHOOL DISTRICT 131

Other important Info:

- We don't ask about immigration status and this is not a public charge program.
- Because of our capacity we are prioritizing individuals from Aurora and the surrounding area.
- All of our counselors are bilingual, and our services can be accessed in over 200 languages.
- All sessions can be in person, over the phone, or through video



**Aurora
Financial
Empowerment
Center**

The Illinois Rental Payment Program 2.0 is now available.

- AFEC counselors are also helping individuals with that application.
- Even though the Aurora FEC does not offer financial assistance, we can connect individuals to resources.

If you are looking to strengthen your financial health, please call us and leave a message.

Our Phone number is 630-256-4552.



**Aurora
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Empowerment
Center**



EAST AURORA
SCHOOL DISTRICT 131

EASD 131 Prenatal to Age Three Program

Helping our children reach their full potential begins **before** they enter preschool.



Ayudar a nuestros hijos a alcanzar su máximo potencial comienza **antes** de que ingresen al preescolar.

For more information call:

630.299.7493

Llámenos para mas información.

<https://ecc.d131.org/jumpstart/>



EAST AURORA
SCHOOL DISTRICT 131

Checklist for the Community Foundation Scholarship:


- Currently getting very few students to complete the Community Foundation Scholarship.
- The deadline is approaching fast, and we currently have **only 7 students who have submitted their application.**
- The Community Foundation Scholarship offers **over 300 scholarships!** Yes, that's a lot of money for our students, so we do not want our students and families to get left out.

Please contact Nakita Stewart with any questions at 630-299-8158 or via email at nstewart@d131.org.

CFFRV Scholarship Checklist

- GPA must be at least 2.0
- Must know your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) from FAFSA/Alternative Application
- Must complete the online application at www.cffrv.org, which includes:
 - One long essay question
 - Five short answer questions
 - Two letters of recommendation (need emails)
 - Transcript

All of these items need to be completed by January 18, 2022

 **EAST AURORA**
HIGH SCHOOL

Employment Opportunities:

Please visit the district website for employment opportunities:

[D131 Employment](#)



Concluding Remarks:

Next meeting date:
Thursday February 3, 2021
6:30 pm- 7:30 pm
(Virtual)

For more information and future updates please click [HERE!](#)



Updates and Events:

- Download the [EA Parent App](#) to receive news and district updates.
- Resources on Social Emotional Learning

Upcoming events:

Looking to get involved in your child's school?

- Attend "Parent Workshops", offered each month at each school!
- All Workshops will be virtual this year!
- Flyers will be provided by your school's Parent Liaison.

For more information, please contact Iliana Núñez at inunez@d131.org or 630-299-7207.



Questions?

