

Juliet

Ms. Okun & Ms. O'Neil

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### The Learning Community: The Beginning

Before the Learning Community existed, Ms. Sarah Friedman worked at a family services agency with Ms. Cheryl Luciano. They went from school to school and noticed that public schools in Central Falls, Providence, and Pawtucket weren't doing so well since some teachers were ordered to teach from books that weren't up to date. Teachers couldn't do anything about it, they had to teach from the book that they were given. According to Ms. Luciano, "Schools were letting kids fall through cracks." At one of the schools Ms. Luciano worked at, they let a kid graduate even though his reading level was extremely low.

After that, Ms. Meg and Ms. Sarah had the idea to open a school. They wanted to open the school in Central Falls, Providence, and Pawtucket because they wanted to make sure that kids who live in the city were getting the same education as wealthier kids. They also wanted to start a school because they were going to take in kids from all three cities. That way when kids were moving from city to city they wouldn't have to transfer schools, according to an article called Regents Back Central Falls Charter by Tatiana Pina. Another motive they had to start a new school was that parents were saying that they weren't feeling welcomed in their kids school's. Only 68% of the parents in Rhode Island felt welcomed at the schools their kids attend to according to the Rhode Island salt survey.

Ms. Meg and Ms. Sarah had big goals before starting the Learning Community. Ms. Meg and Ms. Sarah wanted us to be great in math, reading, and writing so we can have power. With power we can have good jobs, we can get paid well, and be able to provide for a family you

might have one day. Another one of their top goals was to make sure that in the Learning Community parents feel completely welcomed. They also wanted to be persistent on finding ways to teach students with better strategies than other schools. Additionally, in their school they wanted to make sure that their teachers taught with new teaching methods. They also wanted to specialize in Latino culture. In the Learning Community they wanted to hire teachers from all races. According to the charter application from 2001, 81% of teachers in Rhode Island are white.

Before the Learning Community started the founders had to do a lot of things to make LCCS happen. The first thing they had to do in the process of starting a school was to make sure the government accepted their application to be a charter school. That took them about a year according to the interview from Ms. Marcia Uretsky. After the government accepted their application, they had to recruit children and teachers. Recruiting children was the most challenging. Wherever they saw kids they pulled over asked them to join their school. Getting kids was hard for them because when the parents asked them where the school was, the only thing they could say was I don't know yet. Being one of those parents, it was probably hard to trust them when they don't have a building for their school. What if September came and they didn't have a building yet, where would there kids go on the first day of school? That's another thing they had to do, find a building. They looked at tons of buildings, but when they got to the building where LCCS is right now they knew that's where they had to start the school.

Eleven years later they have accomplished all their goals. They made this school a very high ranking school. I would say this school has been very successful. This school was meant to teach kids from kindergarten through sixth grade but it's grown to be a kindergarten through

eighth grade school. This school has 120 people in the staff and over 500 students. That is a big accomplishment. Ms. Meg and Ms. Sarah can definitely feel proud of this school.