



## A CLOSER LOOK

# Exploring the jumpstart of student-led, inquiry-guided coaching at HISD

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### **Vanessa:**

This began with me crying on Sharnice's shoulder. "We're not paying attention to the students. We are teaching them strategies, the Kagen strategy, the turn and talk, this strategy, that strategy, but we're not really seeing if it helps the students in their school work, in their relationships." Then Sharnice said let's just ask the students some questions and see what they say about their learning experiences, and that opened the floodgates. They could speak to it — "I like when my teacher does this, I wish my teacher would do this." So, with that experience, we said, let's see what happens when we open this up. It worked, let's run with it.

### **Sharnice:**

We planted a seed, and it's growing and sprouting in so many ways. After the test with the initial empathy interviews, we said, let's try Cogen Dialogues with your students, and the coaches ran with that too, and the ideas that are coming out of it, the conversations they are having, it's amazing. One coach said, why can't we have these same kinds of conversations with families, and she's trying that out. Another is going to co-facilitate a cogen dialogue with her teacher and they are working with counselors and wraparound specialists to invite students who do not have parental support at home and/or are working to make ends meet for their families.

### **Vanessa:**

It just makes so much sense to people.

### **Sharnice:**

It was really a matter of, how do we hear from students? We gather all this data, but it means nothing if their experience isn't optimal. So this is how we find out, and then this is how we do something about it.