



Mentor Meeting Notes - 3.24.10 Elementary & Middle Schools

This was a wonderful meeting with all mentors sharing practices and celebrating what has been going well at their schools. Comments such as, *“We are finding the groove in all of the buildings,”* and *“This doesn’t feel like an initiative anymore. It feels like this is now coming to be part of the culture.”* were shared.

For practices that were discussed, and a variety of others ideas, please go to <http://www.charmmdfoundation.org/SharingPractices.html>.

While all were happy to share what was going well, one of our coaches reminded all to *“expect the dips and know the peaks will come again!”* This is part of the journey.

She also mentioned she has reflection tools she can share where staff can ask the students to reflect. This reflection would be helpful to the students and give insight to the staff.

One other suggestion was made by one of our coaches. *“Think of MBO, (management by objective) and identify areas you deem valuable for students AND staff.”*

A question was raised, *“What does a student perceive as a teacher who is socially, emotionally competent?”* What do you think? How can you get that answer?

A question was raised in regard to how a school could get parents involved on the school steering committee.

- One school responded that the principal personally invited parents to the meetings and workshops. One parent is on committees at both the middle school and high school. Others from that school then chimed in about the parents being great allies... One parent was even identified because his high school student was taking a class on this topic.
- Another school mentioned they went to their Parent Teacher Organization to talk about this work and get parent involvement.

As for the impact the parents have. The comments were:

- *“These parents have a strong connection to the community where they are involved in other activities and have a voice that is listened to.”*
- *“This group has been a gift to get to know. They offer support, ideas and opportunities to open doors, communicate and coordinate with each other and the other schools transformations, too.”*