



Mentor Meeting Notes -

05.11.10 Elementary/Middle/High Schools

Open Workshop & Celebration Luncheon

Successes:

This was the last mentor meeting for the 2009-2010 school year and the group reflected on personal and school accomplishments.

- A mentor expressed appreciation for the mentor meetings and sharing of ideas to take back, noting that “movement is contagious”.
- One cited the book club in place based on Nathan Eklund’s book: *How Was Your Day at School?*
- Another expressed her gratitude for being in the mentor position and further spoke of the challenging role that helped her school’s staff contagiously earn more respect this year.
- Naysayers have become more supportive of the initiative, and that even students have gone from chaotic problem-solving scenarios to more skilled methods of reaching solutions—a byproduct of modeling by adults!
- The school team is working to reinvent unity and cohesion in their building during the transition with the principal. SECD is not yet pervasive throughout the community, but they have made great strides.
- Impactful Professional Development session with Dr. Merle Schwartz, “Creating Core Values” and the staff now “gets it.” People are asking, “What’s next? Where do we go now?” The committee is in the process of defining next steps.
- A mentor spoke of a specific example where she “Punched the Shark” (a term that was learned in the March 23 workshop with Nathan Eklund). She had a courageous conversation and so she could understand that person more clearly. She felt that this was a great step forward for herself and for the initiative. She noted that looking at oneself can be difficult, but that it is necessary.
- A principal proudly spoke of the impact that the initiative has made on their parent group. They now have 20 parents on their planning team and they have developed sub-committees as well. He feels synergy within the community. The parent group will have an end of year meeting to define their purpose and establish a mission statement in order to hit the ground running next school year. He realized that parents need access to principal leadership and so he and the administrative team—not the mentors—proactively determined that they would be the contacts for the parents and the community. They worked to partner with more community groups this year.
- A mentor stated that the one missing link in the initiative is that they need more national leaders and experts to come to speak to adults so that they can develop even more. Schools in the same community have finally begun to share information and really communicate this year. Even though they have been musing about this for a long time, communication has now really begun in earnest.
- The mentor meetings are extremely valuable and it was suggested that mentor meetings be extended from one hour to ½ days next year. Many ideas are shared and with more time, there could be even more success. Several others audibly agreed with this idea!