

Elementary/Middle School Workshop: *Basic Assessment and Core Ethical Values*

January 28, 2009

Key Take-Aways

The purpose of this session is to help elementary and middle schools review and plan for baseline assessment in the context of working with core ethical values, data collection, and action planning. Each school team will be met where they are in this process and activities will be differentiated to meet their unique needs.

- **Great self reflection questions for the schools**
 - What are your schools/districts espoused values?
 - Do the adults model these values?
 - The idea is that what we see in our schools should be what we say we value.
- **Other questions for the schools to think about in assessing their culture**
 - What would you like to find out?
 - Where would you go to get that information?
 - How do we get that information, especially from parents and non-teaching staff?
 - Some suggestions were; advertise this on their websites, remind parents about upcoming surveys during conferences and open houses, give kids extra credit if the parent returns the survey
- **You need to market a survey in multiple ways to maximum reach and response**
- **Small group conversations provide such a free flow of rich discussion.**
 - To do this the school would need to lay the ground work to encourage conversations
- **We are about creating a caring community for adults**
- **We are consistently holding the students to higher standards, yet are so hesitant to do that with our colleagues**
- **The secret is to get to know each person as an individual and what talents they can give the group. Not all people have to be equal in what they give as everyone benefits the group differently**
- **Celebrate successes!!!! Create benchmarks along the way so your committee can keep perspective on progress**
- **One on one discussions can provide qualitative data that is just as important as the data gathered from focus groups, both can be used to assess your school's culture/ climate, both are useful**
- **You're actions reflect what you value. We need to get to a point where our values & actions match.**
- **It's important to have benchmarks put in place along the way to measure progress**
- **We need to celebrate what we do well. Share so that all know the great things going on.**

Imagine... laying the foundation work that will hold up your community's values!