

Lakota Community Conversation  
Ridge Junior High  
September 30, 2019

*Why was it important for you to be here tonight?*

Wanted to see how things happen, understand what makes it happen.

Want to have a shared contribution.

I'm part of the community, and the community is a part of schools.

It's important to have community within each school.

I have attended one before and enjoyed it. It's important when the school board is reaching out to respond to that.

Care very deeply about the community. I deal with a lot of kids who are longing for a sense of community.

I'm a teacher here and I also went to Lakota. So Lakota means a lot to me.

I'm not from here, but moved here four years ago. It's important to invest in community. I'm ultimately here for kids.

I helped start the Community Conversation program eight years ago, but had gotten disconnected from community somewhat.

Parents are essential to the partnership. We can't help students succeed if parents are not involved. We cannot do what we do without parents.

I'm the assistant principal here, but I'm a community member as well.

I'm a business owner, and I want to listen and learn. It's crucial to help prepare kids for their education.

*What can we do together that we can't do alone?*

Being a good citizen when you leave. The development of "portrait of a graduate." Being able to advocate for yourselves.

It's the transition from elementary school. Teaching kids how to be more independent. Or them telling me they're more independent.

In our group we talked about the impact of things happening at home, about the environment at home. And the importance of having relationships where they can share those things.

Making sure everyone's heard. Making sure people can be heard.

To have a voice in my classes. Learning on paper versus hands-on learning. Having a voice in classroom work. We need to have a voice in the classroom.

Some students don't say much in class. It's important for that student to be supported, to bring out the quiet voices.

Building relationships to meet every kid's need.

Education of soft skills. The education on being a good citizen.

Parent engagement might be lower since now it's junior high.

Maybe our community has a lot of older folks. We could reach out to them and reinvigorate them about what we're doing

I wish we had a construction class, those opportunities for kids would be great.

We're not teaching to a test...we're here to teach fundamental life skills.

Parents and businesses could participate in mentorship programs. Even just residents.

In levy time so many residents say, "I don't have kids in school. Why should I vote for it?" Maybe it would help them to see what we're all about.

We did a bus tour before school starts. It was amazing to go to some communities and see the looks on the kids' faces when their teachers got off the bus.

It was kind of cool we went to them.

We talked a lot about mentoring with the high school, and with the elementaries (in the other direction). And what a good citizen is supposed to be like.

We also talked a lot about mentorships. That could be students mentoring students, or businesses mentoring students. A lot of times students just need to see what a good citizen looks like.

Peer learning. Doing research on their own, and then sharing it. Empowering students to have some self-discovery instead of us just telling them how to think and feel at this age. It means taking a step back sometimes.

It has helped a lot building vertical partnerships with elementary schools. Doing things like going to their PTA meetings. It's taking a big district and making it into a small one.

Have we ever reached out to companies (like Luxottica) to come and tutor students? Maybe some of the companies around us would be willing to do that.

Most valuable resource could be retired people.

The most exciting thing for them (students) is they finally had some choices when they got to junior high.

We still need a teacher in this digital world. We need a combination of great teachers and technology.

I was surprised at the high percentage of students taking classes at Butler Tech.

*In a sentence, what's possible if more stakeholder work is done together?*

Anything.

More efficient use of all our time.

A collaborative spirit.

Less stress on our students.

How I can communicate with those who don't have kids in school anymore, and get them to re-engage?

Keep an open mind, to remember all of this.

We all could have a shared vision.

We could understand decisions that others make.

Look at the whole individual, and not generalize about them. Recognize their contributions and special qualities, listen to what they need and how we can reach out and make those things happen. Continue to be intentional about shaping a culture that has capacity, to take ideas and position them to still pursue something that falls under that shared vision. It can be an expedited process, and not just a top down thing change.

Galvanize more people so more things can happen in a short time.

Find your thing that you care about the most.

Bother the people you need to bother to make it happen.

There's power in numbers. Actions speak louder than words.

When everyone comes together you are more comfortable. Sometimes people are nervous about putting something out there, like on Twitter, because they may be judged.

Everybody's winning when more are doing.

We're think we're one piece of a puzzle. We think, "OK, I've done my part." The reality is you hold more than one piece in your hand.

With collaboration we can grow the whole child, who's more than test scores. With everybody working together there could be so many opportunities.

Working together builds a better community.