

## Notes from November 7<sup>th</sup> Community Conversation Hosted by Mike Underhill

### CHALLENGES

- Be resourceful
  - ↳ teachers
- Deep frustration that it's not like it's supposed to be
  - ~ No music, art, sports (pay to play)
    - ↳ less
  - ~ No sense of community without kids in public schools
  - ~ Help not there for parents now
- The challenges affect everyone
  - ↳ A single test has too much power over kid's life path
- No common purpose
  - ↓
  - Not necessarily what is best for this student – High pressure on parents
- Huge demand on the teachers
  - ~ Then they push on parents
- Perception
  - "We are falling behind"
    - ↳ Puts stress on and influences everything
- Unfair to compare US system to other countries
- Mandates from outsiders
  - ~ Stifles teachers' creativity
  - ↓
- "We are manufacturing students and results"
  - ~ But all students are the same
- The test is not neutral because the system leading to the test is not neutral
- Education is too technical and not...
  - ~ Pragmatic
  - ~ Real life
  - ~ Involving parents
  - ~ Creativity of teacher
- Public education is undervalued vs. private schools
- Lack of support for those with differences

- Gay groups are not supported by the administration
  - ~ Parents and students have to push for it
- What happened to “Everybody Counts”?
- Perception of Lakota is “bad” but is that real?
- Teachers are demoralized and need a boost emotionally and this will carry over to the kids
- Emotionally value
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- Can’t pay teachers enough to keep good ones vs. other districts and other jobs

## SUCSESSES

- Collaboration among
  - ~ Teachers
  - ~ School buildings
  - ~ Administration
- Use technology to improve student experience and control cost
- Learn at home, test/coach at school
- Reading and writing first priority
- Kids are the focus – Individual students
- Empower kids for next steps
- Courage to take next steps
- Get resources together for next steps
- Career planning/goal setting but focused on next steps
- Teach resilience and how to take one step after another on your own
- The learning progression continues
- That kids like to learn
  - Enjoyable atmosphere to learn in
- Work one-on-one and teach kids as individuals
- Care about the differences between kids learning style, pace
- Reasonable class size
- It’s not all measurable

- Community members speaking out RE: What they want
- Evaluate teachers on more than test results
- Supportive parents who take responsibility for child's education – Parents collaborate with teachers
- Less tweeting, more writing
- Online communication - HAC