

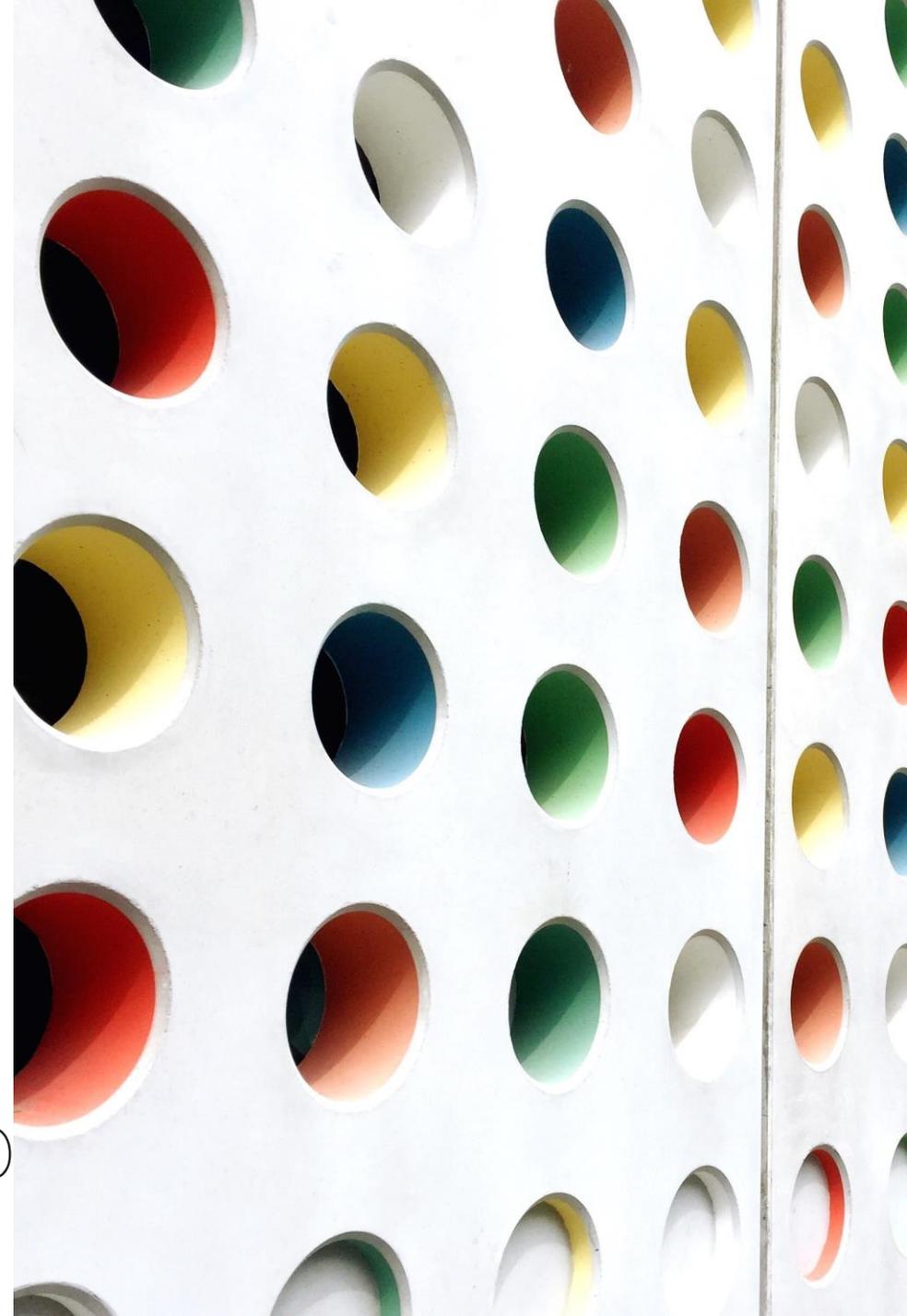
# Reimagining Middle Schools

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BELLEVUE SCHOOL DISTRICT

2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #3 (9/20/22)



Activity	Duration	Details
Purpose	Starts-4:30 PM 5 min	Welcome Agenda Overview Objectives for Today's Meeting Norms and Roles for Today's Meeting
Setting up the stage	5 min	Setting up the stage for Student Listening Panel and Walking & Talking
Content	30 min	WE EMPATHIZE (Part #1) Student Voice
Content	15 min	WE EMPATHIZE (Part #2) "Walking & Talking"
Debrief	10 min	Whole Group Debrief
Reflection	15 min	Empathy Activity
Nuts and Bolts	5 min	What is coming up: WE EMPATHIZE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Shadow a Middle School Student" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listening Campaign</li> </ul> </li> <li>• October date change (Oct 6 to Oct 3)</li> </ul>
Optimistic Closing	5 min End-6:00 PM	Caring deeply for the social, emotional and mental well-being of each other

# Today's Objectives

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➤ Continue to:

- ❑ Build trusting relationships between committee members

➤ **Empathize** with middle school students by deeply listening to and seeking to understand their experiences through:

- ❑ Student Listening Panel

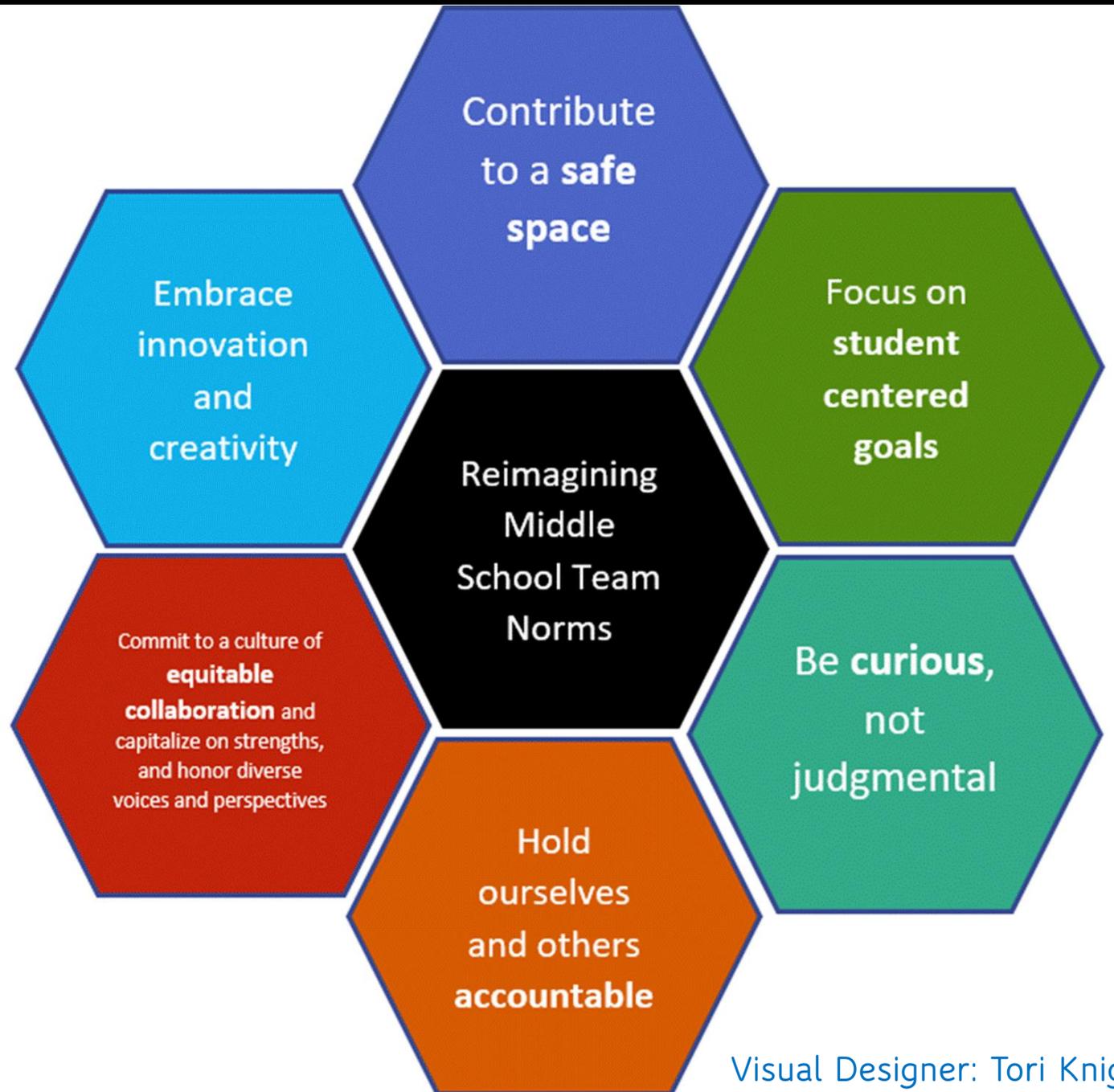
- ❑ “Walking and Talking” Processing Time

- ❑ Empathy Activity

# Community Agreements

## Roles

Timekeeper	Note Taker	Process Monitor
Dee Bryant	James Peterson	Self- Reflection



Visual Designer: Tori Knight

# Parking Lot



What is going well?



What can we improve?



What are the questions?



What are the issues and ideas?



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New Zealand: PO Box 1400, Wellington, NZ 6140. Phone: +64 4 473 1347  
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# ..QuestionLot..

1

2

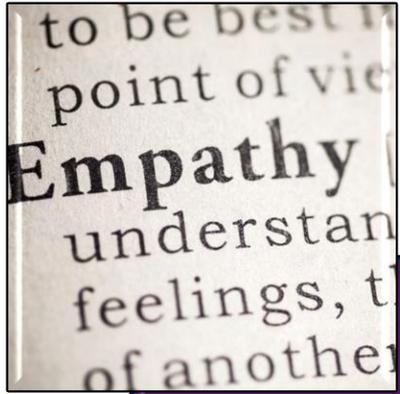
3

4

Have A Question?  
Park It Here!

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# Design Thinking



## Empathize

### **What are the needs of the people we are solving for?**

- Gain an empathic understanding of the problem we are trying to solve
- Get to know the MS students and understand their desires, needs, and objectives (what they are and why they are important)
- Set aside our own beliefs and assumptions
- Why do we need to solve the problem?
- Why is it so important to them?
- What will be the outcome if we were to address the problem/need?



# Assume a Beginner's Mindset

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How to assume a beginner's mindset

- ❑ **Don't judge.** Just observe and engage students/families/staff without the influence of value judgments upon their actions, circumstances, decisions, or "issues."
- ❑ **Question everything.** Question even (and especially) the things you think you already understand. Ask questions to learn about how the students perceives the world. Think about how a 4-year-old asks "Why?" about everything. Follow up an answer to one "why" with a second "why."
- ❑ **Be truly curious.** Strive to assume a posture of wonder and curiosity, especially in circumstances that seem either familiar or uncomfortable.
- ❑ **Find patterns.** Look for interesting threads and themes that emerge across interactions with students/parents/staff. Listen. Really. Lose your agenda. Absorb what students/parents/staff. say to you, and how they say it, without thinking about the next thing you're going to say.

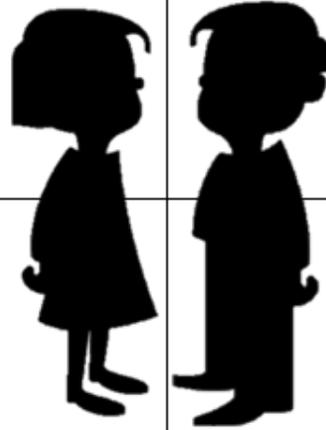
# Empathy Map

## SAY

What are some quotes & defining words you heard them say?

## THINK

What might they be thinking?  
What does this tell you about their beliefs?



## DO

What actions and behaviors did you notice?

## FEEL

What emotions might they be feeling?  
What emotions do you hear or see?

"Without the understanding of what users see, feel, and experience, design is a pointless task."  
-Tim Brown (CEO of IDEO)

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>
Lucas	Tyee
Joanne	Tillicum
Will	Chinook
Alex	Odle
Marquis	Highland
Dejah	Odle
Sodi	Highland
Noelia	Highland
Dinah	Highland
Ria	Tyee

Welcoming

**Drew O'Connell**  
**Director of Student Life**



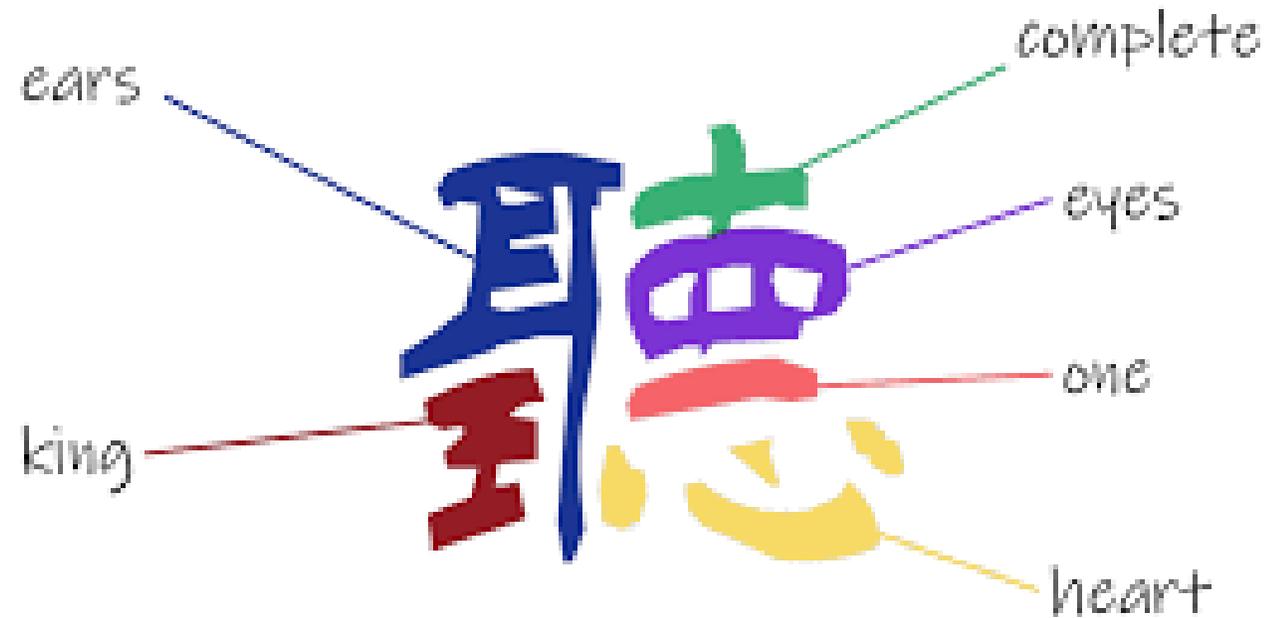
**Student Panel**

# Walking and Talking

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We will elevate our guests' voice and engage with their experiences through "Walking & Talking"

- ❑ Gathering Multiple Perspectives
- ❑ Elevate Voices
- ❑ Active & Concentrated Listening
- ❑ Questions



# Questions to guide conversation...

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- What do they need? What is getting in their way?
- What do they like about middle school?
- How do they feel? How do you want them to feel?
- What are their strengths? How can they improve?
- What do they want to learn? What do you want them to learn?
- What do you hope for them as they go through middle school?
- What do you wish for the student's middle school experience?
- What do you think the student wants us to know?

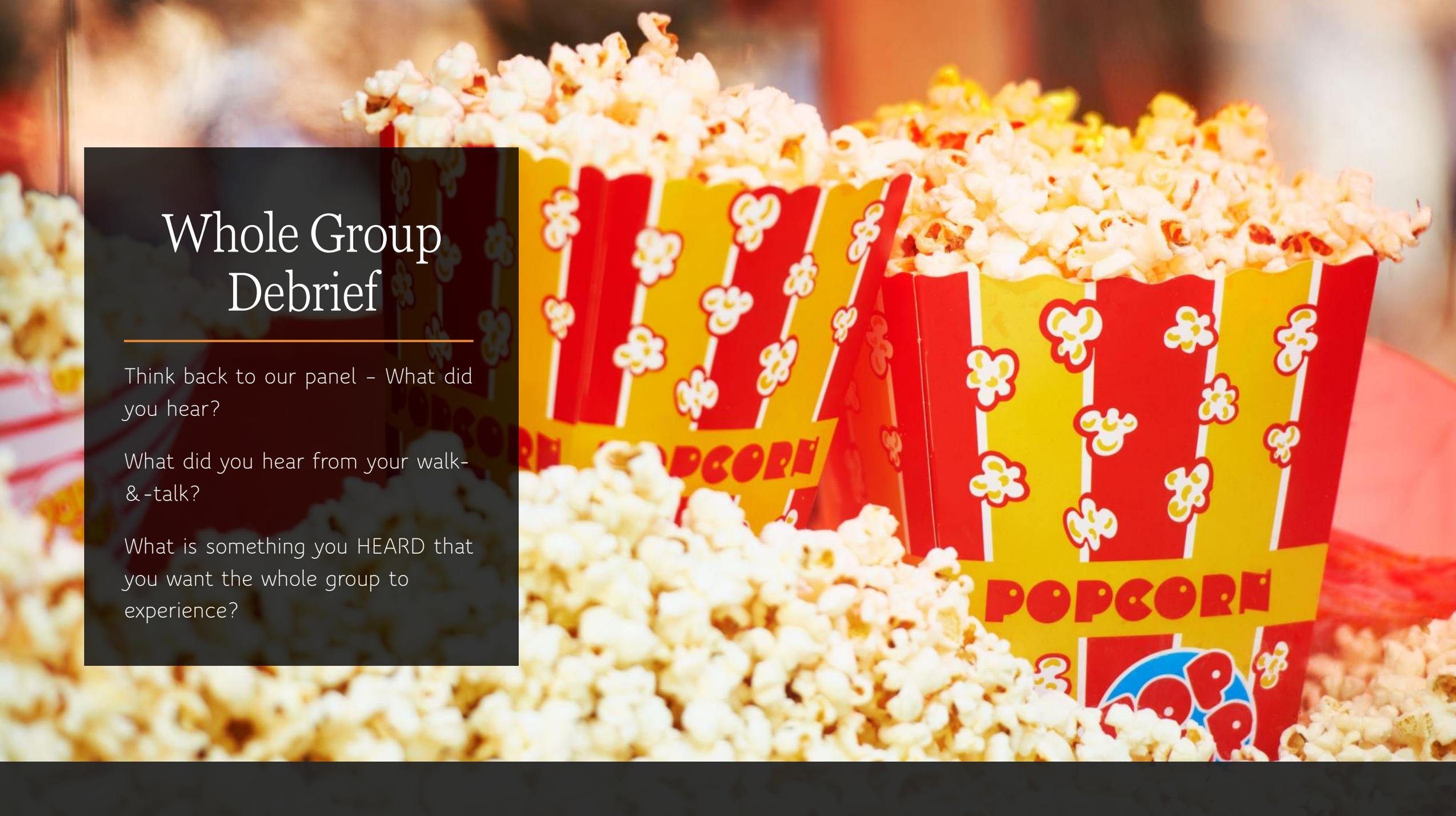


**BE BACK  
SOON!**

[www.free-printable-signs.com](http://www.free-printable-signs.com)

**5:25 PM**

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The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of several red and yellow popcorn buckets overflowing with white popcorn. The buckets have a repeating pattern of white popcorn icons and the word 'POPCORN' in red letters on a yellow band. The lighting is warm and slightly blurred, creating a cinematic feel.

# Whole Group Debrief

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Think back to our panel – What did you hear?

What did you hear from your walk- & -talk?

What is something you HEARD that you want the whole group to experience?

# Student Cutout Empathy Activity

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## **Think about what we heard.....**

Grounding the work in our students, and their needs, adding our insights to an empathy activity.

- What do they need? What is getting in their way?
- What do they like about middle school?
- How do they feel? How do you want them to feel?
- What are their strengths? How can they improve?
- What do they want to learn? What do you want them to learn?
- What do you hope for them as they go through middle school?
- What do you wish for the student's middle school experience?
- What do you think the student wants us to know?



# Empathy Activity

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Grounding the work in our students, and their needs, adding our insights to a NEW empathy activity.

\*\*\*Adding Verbs and Needs

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6	Group 7	Group 8
Garima	Danielle	Valeri	Gaurav	Brendan	Sahaj	Kim	Dan
Eva	Courtney	Jessi	Mariela	Kara	Nellie	Tom	Susie
Diego	Susan/ Jennifer	Desiree	Usha	Drew	Lucas		Sodi
Will	Johanna	Annisa	Melissa	Samayah	Joanne	Matthew	Scott
James	Noelle	Kalena	Alex F./Ria	Gargi	Hasini	Regen	Anna
	Alex	Linda Marie	Michelle	Rebecca		Dejah	





# Nuts and Bolts

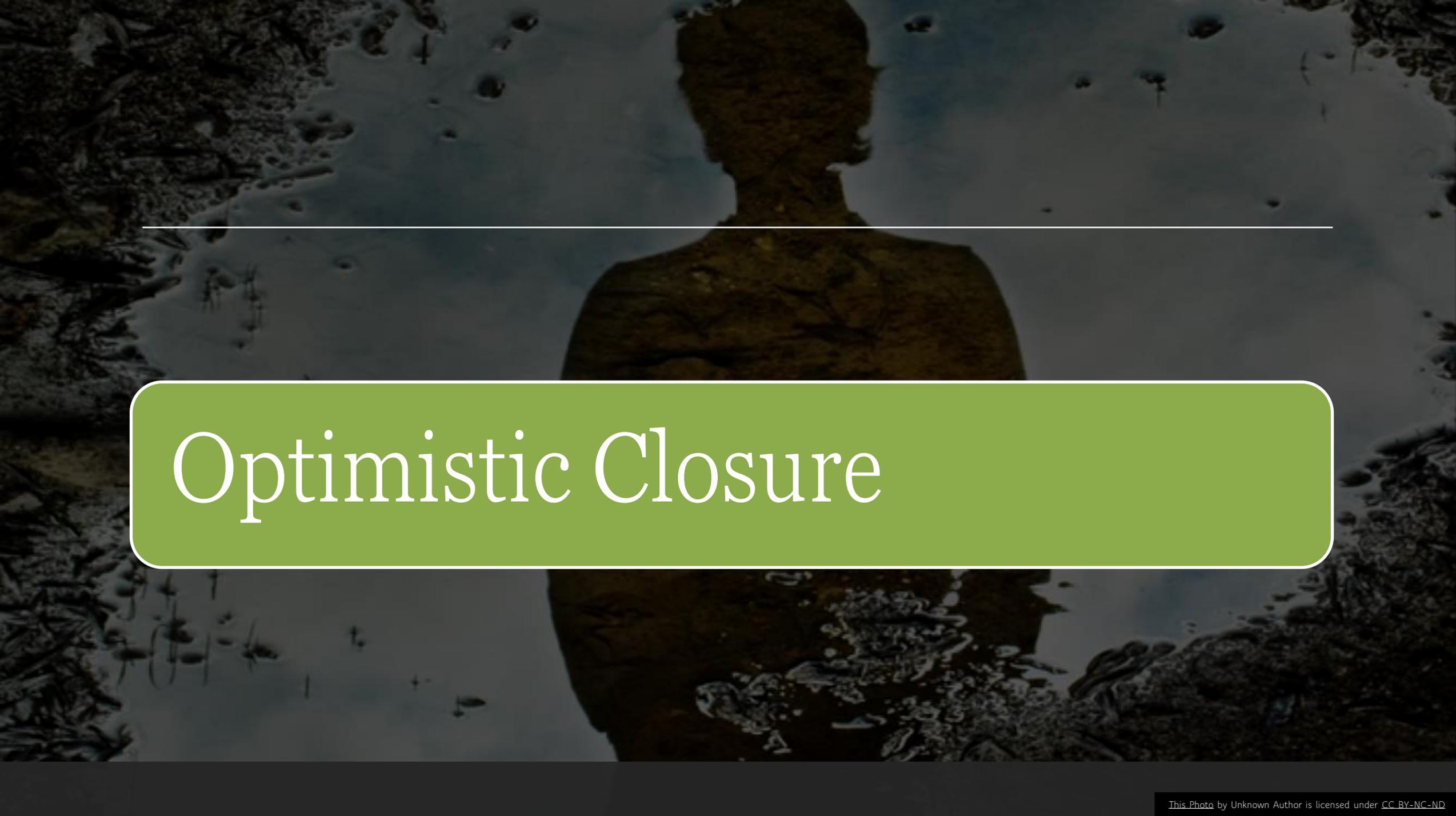
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Next Meeting – Tillicum

Chapter #3 (pages 45-50 on  
“Leadership and Organization” 😊)

What is coming up: WE EMPATHIZE

- “Shadow a Middle School Student”
- Listening Campaign
- October date change Oct 6 → Oct 3



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# Optimistic Closure