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Creating Significant Trusting Relationships



Just like teachers with their students, leaders need to create significant and meaningful relationships with those who they lead. Parents, students, teachers, and colleagues all make up the educational community that directly impacts student success. Investing yourself in getting to know the school community allows for leaders to make decisions that best suit the needs of the school. When the community sees that you are taking their best interests in to consideration when making decisions, they will follow when it comes time to take risks.

Holding teachers and students to high expectations empowers them to take risks and share their knowledge; this builds their confidence and challenges them to continue to professionally grow. By encouraging staff to present at staff meetings, professional developments, and conferences, they feel that they are being recognized for their accomplishments in classroom instruction and student achievement. Just like students, when we hold teachers to high expectations and challenge them through encouragement, they will rise to the occasion and gain more confidence in their skills.

Relationships cannot be created without listening. Hearing teachers', parents', and students' concerns is extremely significant in building relationships. The community needs to feel that their opinions and ideas are being recognized as everyone has one goal: student achievement. It is important for any leader to take the time to recognize, listen, and reflect on what is being done to improve instruction and the educational environment.

The building of a positive school community starts with having these trusted relationships. This environment allows for difficult discussions to be more reflective and motivating to improve practice for student achievement. The culture defines the way that the school runs, feels, and achieves; it provides the best learning environment for all students and staff. It begins with trust.