

Trustee report Jan 2022

Submitted by Ann Whiteaker

I was grateful to attend the BC Family School Engagement Workshop “Collaborating to Transform & Improve Education.

I was pleased to see so many parent leaders in attendance, but I was far more pleased with the content of the presentation, the evidence presented, and the resources provided which support my belief and advocacy which have brought me to this table today. That is the belief “that parents are an essential partner in transforming and improving the education system”.

The presentation included input from SD’s 23, 48 and 73 along with UBC and the Center for Universal Education and spotlighted the Center’s Playbook for Collaborating to transform & improve education.

There was a lot of information in the session but of particular interest to me when reviewing the research was the difference in parent and teacher beliefs of what they think the other thinks is the most important purpose of school when considering **academics, SEL, economic outcomes and civic responsibilities** and what when surveyed each group actually prioritized.

If there was any doubt before, the research leading to the playbook provides robust evidence that family-school engagement can significantly improve how systems serve their students, especially those who have been poorly served.

I encourage PACs and DPAC along with anyone else who works with parents in the system to investigate this resource and have some discussions together.

I will include the link to the playbook in my report and will also put this in the chat for those on zoom right now.

<https://www.brookings.edu/essay/collaborating-to-transform-and-improve-education-systems-a-playbook-for-family-school-engagement/>