



Roundtable (2/27/18) Table Notes Summary

This Roundtable session included more than 150 teachers, students, community leaders and business members.

Guest speaker, Judy Langford from the Center for the Study of Social Policy, shared with the group information surrounding protective factors and Strengthening Families Framework (<https://www.cssp.org/young-children-their-families/strengtheningfamilies>) as a community.

Then each table had conversations addressing the following questions and here are the summaries:

Key take-aways:

- There are different types of isolation impact families and their awareness (working too many hours, language, limited resources, etc.). This is an opportunity to be intentional at building connections earlier.
- Participants expressed appreciation that there is a framework in place to support the community.
- Participants enjoyed the opportunity to share their personal experiences as related to issues discussed.

1. What was your big takeaway from the presentation, and what factors most resonated with you from your own experience and perspective?

A large majority of the tables commonly mentioned:

- The need to make a connection to resiliency
- There is a sense of a fractured community where people are fearful to come out and ask for assistance and don't want others to know they are struggling
- Trusting with who you are collaborating with "Collaboration moves at the speed of trust"
- It takes a village, everyone is part of the journey
- The parent is the child's first teacher- education starts at home
- How can we better connect people to resources that are already available?
- Social connections- culture & climate – key to have everyone on board- support students/communication
- There are programs for students but limited awareness of programs available for parents
- Need for community support the "raising of children" through libraries, law-enforcement, churches, pediatricians, etc.

Several tables mentioned:

- Recovery after Irma raised the importance of having resources and supports available for families- how did families get through such a stressful situation?
- Importance of parental involvement and seeking help for child when there is a problem
- Early Identification can reduce number of at risk students in the long run
- A framework is established, but there is a disconnect getting information to parents- parents need to be educated on how they can be involved
- Families who move to Florida may not find the same supporting community they came from and feel isolated (being new, distance from others, no family near)
- Fostering strengths in parent involvement



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(page 2)

- Social media enables us to connect with a lot of people, but there is importance around building meaningful relationships.
- People in need of support may not know where to start or what questions to ask

2. What would it be like if every child was met with full support of the protective factors Judy shared? How would our community be different?

A large majority of the tables commonly mentioned:

- The potential effect on school would include, fewer issues/disruptions, positive student behavior, sense of community, increased level of learning
- Strong culture, climate and trust within a community aligned with support where people feel less judged by peers- it takes a village
- Child development delays would be caught early, and start to receive intervention earlier on, overall decreasing the impact of issues before it has a lasting effect
- Children would have the supports needed to express themselves and have a sense of safety from the beginning- curriculum would strengthen as they would be better equipped for learning
- Increased health and emotional stability or comfort to seek help in times of need
- Leverage communication through technology (social media, etc.) to provide better access to information and resources
- An ultimate goal would involve becoming a Utopia- aim high
- Parents would be able to find a platform that connects them to the community (churches, doctors, schools, libraries) in which will give access to available resources
- Less time will be spent on "repairing" gaps of support for children

Several tables mentioned:

- There is an ability to utilize senior citizens to share their experiences through formal and informal mentoring
- Break the cycle of dysfunctional family patterns to add new layers of challenges
- Schools would be more inviting, increasing parent involvement and advocacy for their children
- Awareness that being "different" is okay and socially acceptable
- By leveling the play field, crime may decrease
- Bridging the gap between socio-economic status of the residents of Collier County
- Open line of communication (surveys, conversations, cafes) that track parents strengths and needs in the community to better adapt
- The focus historically has been on risk factors, by considering protective factors, it provides a new way of thinking
- Increased social interactions among parents, students, educators, community individuals, etc.
- Children would be entering the schools better equipped to start learning at any age
- Improvement of employment rates- working age individuals will be have their needs met and ability stable to access