



Roundtable (4/24/18) Table Notes Summary

This Roundtable session included more than 130 teachers, students, community leaders and business members who came together to learn about the overall strengths and gaps in our Collier County community and explore ways to keep students on-track for the summer.

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

Key take-aways:

1. What insights do you take away from the issues shared through the Community Assessment?

Education (most common responses in bold):

- **Increase pre-kindergarten resources- help children be ready for school**
- **Need for more technical/vocational education- forecasting future job needs**
- **There are not a lot of early learning providers**
- **Get college resources into the hands of students early on**
- **Disparity of education connections (understand how to register for school)**
- **Need for afterschool programs- consider expensive costs and transportation could be difficult**
- Need for more bi-lingual teachers
- Children are taught in English and could potentially lose skill in their native language, making it difficult to communication with monolingual parents/caregivers
- Foreign languages also have dialects- Guatemalan students
- Strengthen curriculum for Pre-Kindergarten programs to prepare children for Kindergarten
- Affording college education- can students afford college locally and gain employment afterwards?
- Migrant workers- how to educate the children when these families are living elsewhere for part of the year?

Living in collier county (housing costs, employment/income, cultural differences):

- **Housing is expensive- lack of affordable housing options for families and individuals- cost of owning a home can put this goal out of reach for many- people can't afford the rent and forced to move**
- **The cost of living- beyond basic needs- can people afford to live here and raise a family?**
- **Create more accessible jobs so new graduates entering the workforce don't feel compelled to move elsewhere to seek employment**
- **Many people who work in Collier, choose to live outside of the county and commute**
- **Childcare is expensive and hard for some families to afford- forcing parents to choose cost over quality**
- **Housing and jobs are tough for minorities to obtain**
- **The need to let more people become aware of the efforts to improve- get more people involved**
- **The disparity of earned income to cost of living, making it challenging for many to stay ahead of the income gap**
- Certain communities feel disconnected from the rest of the county, there are several pockets within Collier County that are different from the whole
- Residents of Immokalee are dissatisfied with the living conditions within the community



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Healthcare:

- **Many people are not aware of the healthcare services that are available- need to communicate this more**
- **Unequal distribution of healthcare facilities in areas including the Estates, Immokalee, etc**
- Lack of healthcare providers for the expanding population
- Increasing facilities to train and educate healthcare professionals could ease pressure to fill spots
- Connecting families of children ages 0-3 to pediatricians to start tracking development early on
- Mental health concerns- among young population

Traffic and Transportation:

- **Need for more traffic lights, better lit streets**
- **The roads are not as safe**
- **Bicycle safety- run the risk of injury by pedaling in streets shared with motor vehicles**
- Many accidents happen
- Sidewalks often are under construction or blocked for construction- making it dangerous to maneuver
- Confusion on who has the right away- drivers, pedestrians, cyclist

2. How do these insights connect to the different roles you play in the community? (parent, teacher, business owner, volunteer, etc...)

Education:

- **Parent outreach programs are important in helping educate parents to gain informed understanding**
- **Utilize school assemblies to discuss life issues (jobs, finances, life skills, career opportunities, etc) and not just school achievements**
- **Discover ways to attract and retain good educators (focus on technology)**
- **Educate students about the opportunities to continue education and lead to a career in the county**
- **Providing before and after school care that is more affordable to take responsibility off of parents or older siblings**
- Business Owners and Parents need to better recognize the importance of education
- Start support systems early, and focus on Middle School to better bridge between Elementary and High
- Educators see that children and families in need can suffer from a critical lack of communication/understanding
- Educators, volunteers, etc play a critical role in helping to promote knowledge of programs and organizations- provide an incentive to participate
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is advertised but not much else
- Vocational training can be highly stigmatized
- Student loans- in combination with high housing costs can be prohibitive on quality of life
- Incorporate tutoring/ACT/SAT prep during school days



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Living in Collier County (housing costs, employment/income, cultural differences):

- **For those who live outside of Collier but work within, feel disconnected from the community**
- **Increase affordable housing options to appeal to workforce**
- **Economic development is critical to support wages and cost of living within the community**
- **Housing costs is impactful when determining career choices**
- Increase recreation options in the Estates (similar to the Greenway in Naples)
- There are a lot of various needs in the community
- There are "two Collier Counties"
- Enhance opportunities for young professionals to live and work in Collier County

Healthcare:

- Medical field is popular at certain high education schools
- Pursuing a medical degree can be costly
- Many children do not have a primary doctor

Traffic and Transportation:

- **Opportunity for increase public transit and side walks**
- **Increase driver safety- reduce distracted driving**
- Fuel costs impacts decisions on how far people are willing to travel for employment
- Kids don't always have transportation available to them since parents/caregivers are working many jobs
- Not a consistent public transportation system in place to support all of Collier County

3. Given what we have been talking about and our FRC priorities, what could we each do this summer to make sure young people know this community cares about them and their future?

A majority (more than half) of the tables mentioned:

- **Connect through social media with active hyperlinks where students can get all the information. Goal would be to help students improve and/or connect with opportunities**
- **Have a conversation with a student and let them know how important they are, share resources, ask them about their dreams and what they want to do in the future, ask them if they have a plan on how to achieve their goal**
- **Volunteer opportunities- develop more and develop outreach to students**
- **Connect older students (high school) with younger students (middle and elementary school) for mentoring**
- **Develop more awareness surrounding internship and scholarship opportunities- make connections between student and business owners**



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Several tables mentioned:

- Showcase career ideas where students and families can attend and learn of opportunities
- Host a Student Café- informal hangout to discuss internships and summer experiences available
- Continue to build community partnerships that provide opportunities to build experiences
- Look beyond the community and see what is available to engage students in their learning
- Connect community service opportunities with chances for students to learn more about their interests and abilities/skills
- Continue accessing field trips and related trips to help students learn more about the programs available within the community- business tours
- Focus on youth development
- Attend the Leadership Conference
- Empower the Student Government Association within each school to share opportunities to the rest of the student body
- Encourage students to continue learning over summer
- Help students showcase their talents- connect that talent with possible career paths
- Connect high school students with elementary students during summer programs- role-modeling
- Provide transportation so students can attend more programs that are before or after school
- Increase availability of daycare options for young children- allowing older siblings to attend the summer opportunities
- Stop and the Lemonade Stand and have a conversation with the child
- Participate in a mentorship program that will directly impact a young person
- Formalize a welcome event for new families to the district
- Develop a yearly game plan with a student to give them an opportunity to be honest if there are areas they need support