Community Capacity Building: a relational approach

We know...

- Parental involvement has a positive impact on academic achievement.
- Parental expectations for their children’s academic achievements have a positive impact on academic achievement.
- Relationship between parental involvement and academic achievement is generalizable across different social and ethnic groups.


Every school community is unique and so this calls for active negotiation of family-school-community partnership in your context. This calls for a relational approach to community capacity building, connecting all community members, tying them to commonly owned goals, values and aspirations. Schools within communities, committed to inclusivity, democracy and social justice.

I believe...

- Relationships are created and sustained around authentic trust, respect and notions of mutuality and reciprocity. Space exists for those most affected at the ‘grass-roots’ level to identify the constraints they are experiencing. Collective efficacy and action grow in strength as individuals form groups, groups identify issues and develop projects that recognise and harness the potential in the overlapping spheres of influence in the lives of our young people: family, school and community.

- Relational leadership turns on our understanding of relational power, relational trust, and our willingness to truly engage with, listen to, and have authentic dialogue with all members of our school community. In looking to exercise communal leadership we need pay attention to community capacity building.

- Authentic partnerships are respectful alliances among educators, families and community groups that value relationship building, dialogue across difference, and sharing power in pursuit of a common purpose in socially just, democratic schools.

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- There is no one size fits all intervention for supporting parental engagement; not all parents are the same, have the same needs, face the same barriers or share the same conceptualisation of parental engagement.

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We explore the concept of Trust and its development
- Low risk social interactions: Respect, Personal regard for others
- High risk social interactions: Integrity, Competence

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We explore the concept of Partnership
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