# Parents matter From Conversation to Collaboration



"The ability to ask the right kind of question, at the right time, is the hallmark of a truly efficient and successful learner."

- Angela Maiers



## Community Building



- Let your community know what matters to you.
- Take time to build relationships
- Know and get to know your school community.
- Create an online community



### When the Village comes together



Creativity takes effect.

• More opinions means more options.

• Possibilities Grow.

 People feel a sense of pride for their school and a belonging.



#### Connection in Communities



 It's not about a policy or program it is about someone real who will be helped or hurt by the changes made.

 It is easier for people to grasp concepts and retain information when it is tied to real experiences.

# The Power of Story to Connect Communities



 Talking about real people humanizes the information you are trying to convey.

Stories open doors in areas
 where it is difficult to discuss the
 law or the reform effort, sharing
 a simple story is a way to open
 dialog.



## Implementing Storytelling



 Create tools and opportunities for staff to share stories.

 Teach staff the value of understanding the role of storytelling.

 Create a way for your families and students to share stories as well.



#### Story Techniques and Exercises



Story circles

Six word stories

Family stories



#### How can Stories Help us?



- Sharing knowledge
- Building commitment
- Influence change
- Inspire action
- Connection as a community



# As learners and leaders our currency is our story.



- As parents travel to and from school, what stories are they being told by their children?
- As they move into the community, what stories of school do they bring with them?
- As community members interact with you, what stories resonate most?



#### Storytelling is collaborative



- We share a common ground in storytelling.
- There is no policy or program involved
- Storytelling is organic in its nature



#### Wrap Up

#### Keep Up to Date...

#### **Parents Matter Initiative: Invitation to Professionals**

Pathfinder Services of ND will be implementing a new initiative in 2019, called parents W matter Parents Matter. This initiative will offer activities to increase the understanding of engagement and strategies and resources that promote sustainable partnerships with parents, schools, and community.

We held a listening session with the creator of the curriculum, Angela Maiers on June 20th. Watch this session here:



#### Overview...

- **Discussion Time**
- Review of Toolkit
- **Genius Matters**

Moving Forward...

