

Assistant Superintendent Board Report:

Stan Davis- “What do we do about Bullying Presentations”

As previously mentioned Stan Davis was able to visit MCSD from March 30-April 3. The primary focus of his presentations was based creating a better understanding of inappropriate behavior that is typically witnessed and experienced within a school setting. His focus was to ensure students understood how to support one another as well as informing staff and students of ways in which they can support student’s sense of belonging.

Stan visited all MCSD 4-6 buildings as well as the 7-12 secondary schools. He visited with students and staff about their survey and behavior data, and then focused on how they can improve students feeling safe while in school. On Friday Stan facilitated a “What to do about bullying” workshop that incorporated strategies and techniques for improving student behavior in school as well as helping schools create consistency in how they resolve conflict and create a safer learning environment.

Stan Davis Key Points...

- **The terms “bullies” and “bullying” have done a world of harm.**
 - They’re vague, generic, confusing, “toxic,” and damaging.
 - “Nobody really knows what that means.” **We need to stop using them.**
 - Let’s start talking about “wrong-doing” and “right-doing.”
 - Be specific and describe actions in concrete terms, rather than putting them in a blanket category.
- **The business of schools is learning.** The school culture must promote learning.
 - Frame all conversations around behavior with kids, parents, etc. around “impact on learning.”
- ***The MOST effective way that kids can support youth who are called names, excluded, etc., is to simply reach out and be friendly to them; to give them a sense of belonging.***
 - In Stan’s research, a sense of belonging protected kids from the negative effects of wrongdoing.
 - Notice isolated kids, and include them: spend time, take a walk, talk, give advice, call them, etc.
 - **MAGIC WORDS: “Want to play with me?”**
 - “You don’t have to be best friends – you just have to be kind.”
 - Staff can encourage kindness and inclusiveness by helping kids observe the outcome of their kindness.
- The second most effective way to support victims of wrongdoing is to tell /seek help from an adult.

His trainings integrated research, practical experience, specific techniques, as well as some audience participation. We are planning to create more consistency within the district in how we respond to student misbehavior and we are looking to keep Stan Davis as a consultant as we improve student learning and feeling safe.