

Some of the things that we took away from YLI is a **no suspension rule**, culture introduced to teachers, **teacher-student interactions**, safe school, and don't judge a book by its cover.

The no suspension rule is a rule where instead of suspending someone from the school you can give them community service or in-school suspension. A wonderful Elder who goes by Liz Sunnyboy told us that she has a problem with suspending students. She said "The teachers in charge of the problem don't listen to the child's side of the story. That child could have a serious problem and the teacher would never know it because they don't listen. That student could easily be on drugs and needs help but the teachers are not willing to listen." She told us a story about a young man she knew. This is her story. "I knew this really smart young man. He got into a fight and punched another child. He was on drugs. People knew and no one was willing to listen to his side of the story. He was suspended from school after the incident. He wanted help and no one would give it to him. So he killed himself. The teachers felt bad that they had not listened when he asked for help." This story brought tears to almost everyone in the room. Including me. I was hurt. I felt bad. Some of the things we could do is community service or in school suspension. In school suspension is when the child is still learning but does not get the same privileges that the other students get.

I also took away teacher-student interactions. The YLI leaders taught me that teacher and student interactions are really important. If the student and teachers don't know anything about the student then they are not going to have a close relationship. It is kind of the same situation with the no suspension rule. When I was in YLI it was surprising to me to learn that a lot of bigger districts have the same issues that the rural districts do. One girl was talking about how there was no teacher and student interaction at her school. She spoke about how the teachers distance themselves from the students during lunch and leave right after school.

The June Nelson Scholarship was an interesting time. I got more information about what the June Nelson raises money for. It raises money to help the seniors go to college. We had an auction and raised enough money for a little more than 11 scholarships. Each scholarship was \$1500. The things that they were auctioning off were really cool. People were really generous.

There was a roundtable event. It was where a couple kids and a couple adults sit down and talk about their district. I met this kid from another district. His name is Hunter. We had a time where we could share what things in our schools and district did great and what we can do better. I shared my insight about my school and the district and Hunter did the same. The others at the table were all adults that were there to listen and share their insight. Hunter even told me some insights that would help me with my school and the district. I got a lot of knowledge off of Hunter and all of the other adults. I am hoping that we can bring some of those ideas to our district.

I really enjoyed my time at YLI. I met a lot of great people. It felt good to be listened to. Most of the activities we did were to help the adults and children listen to each other. I learned a lot and really enjoyed my time. THANK YOU SO MUCH SCHOOL BOARD.