

Elementary Feedback on Willow's Presentation

Certified Staff-

-I always enjoy listening to Willow. This time we were able to connect with the elementary staff, as we made suggestions on how to make the school a better work environment. I really enjoyed listening to others and having my feelings validated during that discussion. Other takeaways during Willow's presentation were the phrases "my turn" and "self-worth". When going through a hard time, saying "my turn" could help us get through it. To me this meant that eventually it won't be my turn and I will get through it. She also mentioned how having a bad lesson, not explaining directions well, or other tough things we analyze as teachers does not determine our self-worth. Those two phrases really stood out to me during her presentation.

-First off, she was AMAZING. I think especially coming in as a first-year teacher this was a PERFECT PD for January. It boosted me up and kinda allowed me to think about myself a little bit more. The kids are so important but I truly believe if you are not in a good head space and thriving neither will your kids. So, for me personally, it was good timing for her and she was just amazing. The first presentation was great. Willow is someone you feel so connected to even when you really don't "know" her. She finds a way for you to be engaged and to connect with everyone on a deeper level. I also feel like I got to know the people I am working with on a deeper level. I tend to only really engage with a couple of people I am located by so this was awesome to kinda open up the floor and learn more about others that I work with / encounter throughout the day. - I think she is someone you should definitely keep bringing. I would love to see more of her. I think her being here in a way kind of opened up a different side of education for me. On the flip side the afternoon piece was also fabulous. I got to talk to people that taught nothing like me. It was interesting to see / problem solve with some others who I know of but never really get the time of day to talk to. I will say the conversation was good to hear but in a way was a little overwhelming coming in knowing nothing that has been talked about before. But I think those hard conversations truly need to be done and the way they were done was great.

-I think she is very easy to listen to! One of the most productive things I think we did with her was meet as an elementary staff to discuss where we are at. It was nice that people could talk openly there.

Non-certified Staff-

-She made me see things through a different side. How to not dwell on what has happened but to just move forward. I was able to speak up for myself on something that I was holding on to for a couple of years. She is always very nice, interacts with the group and is very friendly. I wish she would continue to come back and help us to grow as a school.

-I have really enjoyed Willow coming and speaking to us. Every time she comes, it's always something new that she wants to discuss. This last time she had come and spoke, it was nice to have more reflection off of ourselves. I feel like when she speaks, she makes things more about us. She always answers our questions, which is great. Willow always gives us great feedback and is an awesome speaker all around!

-I wish that we had started with this presentation. I feel that the staff felt more connected, united and heard. This is compared to the other presentations as well as just this one on its own. When the paras left, I felt like we left at the wrong time- like we had just opened up to one another, but then it was time to go to our meeting. We didn't get closure or tips on how to heal and move on from our trauma and how it impacts/connects us to students in our classrooms.