

Beyond Advocacy: Building Stronger Learning Communities Through Authentic Parent Engagement



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Education Acronyms Defined

NIDES – North Island Distance Education School

SD 71 – School District 71 (Comox Valley)

PAC – Parent Advisory Council

SPC – School Planning Council

MOE – Ministry of Education

IEP – Individualized Education Plan

The Modern Metaphor of School Community



- Schools as castles
- Isolated
- Rigid, rule defined relationships with parents & community

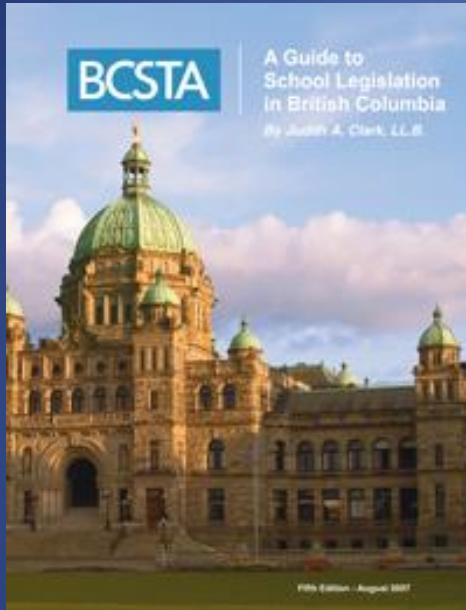
The Family Spectrum & Schools?



- Atomized & Isolated Families
- Scarcity Mentality
- Competition For Resources



Who is setting the table for dinner?



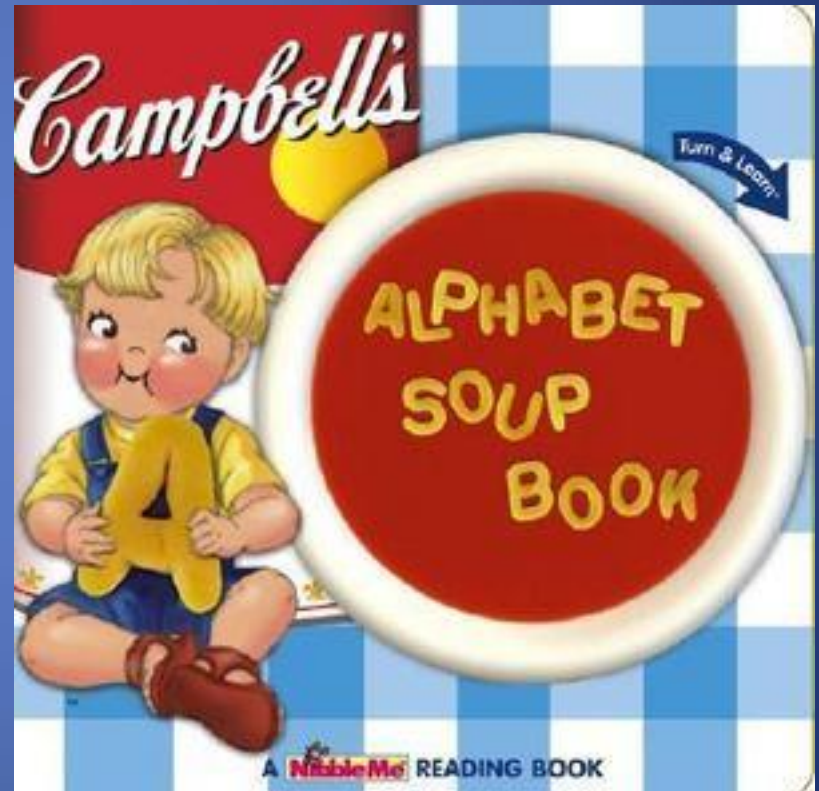
Parent participation through PAC & SPC: Formalized Legislation and Policy..... **WHY?**



Enter The Struggling Learner & Family

- So your child has a learning challenge... **Now What** ????
- Discover Alphabet Soup:
MOE Designation “Codes”
- Services Defined by a
Funding Model: IEPs &
Designations
- And if **Mental Health**

D-H-R



Individualization For SOME

The “*Individualized Education Plan*”

(I.E.P.) policy, intervention & funding environment has:

1. *Stigmatized students & families*
2. Made parents compete for resources
3. Pitted parents against schools & districts
4. Forced parents into the “Advocacy” paradigm we now live in

Made the Moat Deeper & Wider



Beyond “Advocacy”



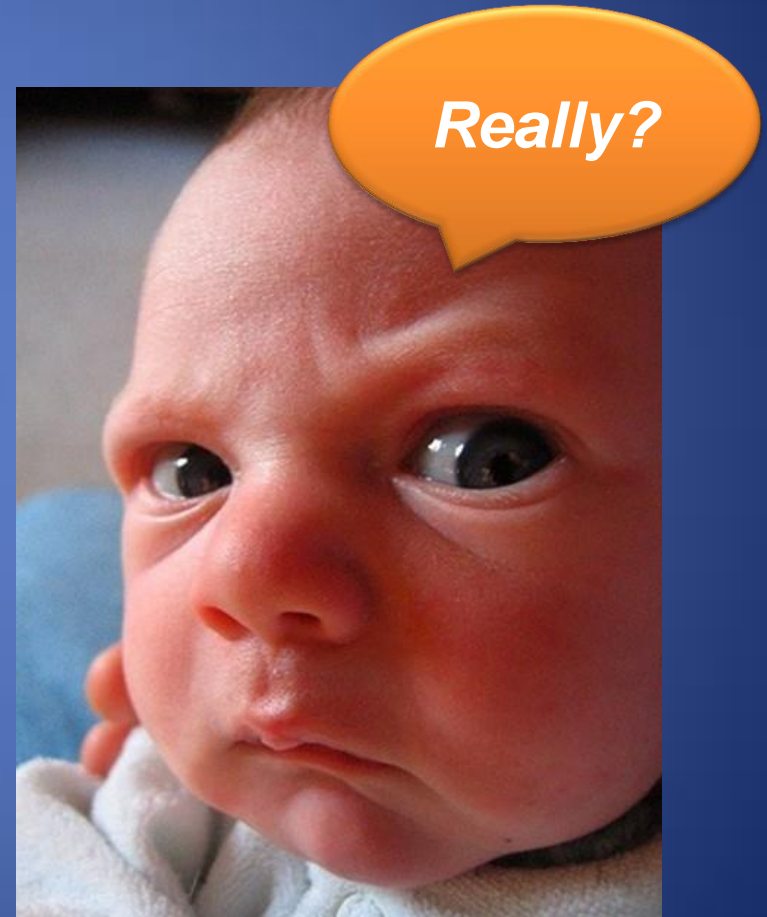
- If we agree that the current system is broken & dysfunctional then
- How do we construct a new paradigm of parent engagement in schools that is authentic and reconnects the family to the their child’s learning and the school community?

The BC Education Plan

"Under the plan (we will) make sure that every student's needs are met, passions are explored and goals are achieved."
BC Education Plan



Personalization....*meaning* ????



Schools As Villages of Attachment



The core of the change that is required is centred around**RELATIONSHIPS**

Rebuilding “*Right*” relationships, strengthening each other as a community.

Parents + Children + Professionals

Social Emotional Learning (SEL)



Educating the whole child by...
Educating **both** the HEART & MIND



Personalized Education Plans

Every Child Has A Plan

- ✓ That identifies each child's gifts, supports, challenges and adult champions
- ✓ That is in place before learning begins each year
- ✓ That is centred in meaningful, ongoing conversations with the parents, child and educator (not a "report card")
- ✓ That ties learning to holistic assessment (Heart & Mind)



Every Child Needs A Community of Champions



Co-facilitation of Learning



A vision for *21st Century Learning & Personalization* built around new, supportive relationships between the parents, children and educators.

- Project based learning
- Social Media (Blogs/Wikis etc.)
- Digital Portfolios
- Blended Learning (F2F + Online)
- Parent mentorship



Parent Connections



- A physical place for parents to connect in the building & open to all school community - ***no invitations needed***
- Parents empowering parents
- Meetings – re-thinking the why, where, how, & letting go



PACs...Beyond Fundraising

- Think about the piggy bank
- Focus on community & relationships, *not* resources



- Shift from parent *involvement* to parent *engagement*
- Re-define what it means to be a PAC in 21st Century ???



Community Integration

- Leverage the power of community to support & connect families
- Use parents' gifts to connect children with adult champions
- Parents/Families creating opportunities



Conclusion: Re-Setting the Table



- Stop waiting and fighting for a place at the table
- Re-set the places at the table and start new conversations
- Reconstruct relationships: parents supporting each other, and the whole school community.

Many Questions – Few Answers!



'in the know'



'in the know' is a monthly networking and information sharing session that provides a topic expert on what parent/caregivers really want to know.

This is an opportunity to share so that everyone is 'in the know'.

Sessions are provided as a webinar through home internet and group webinar viewings are available in participating communities.

See website for locations

All Welcome!

Thank you for your time!

We value your feedback & hope you will complete the feedback form in the resources section

(click on the paper clip in the lower right hand corner)

**You can be entered to win a
\$50 Chapters Gift Card (optional)**