



National School Board Association Conference



NSBA represents various state school boards associations and more than 90,000 individual school board members.

As an NSBA member, I wholly support the idea that an effective, equitable and quality education is a civil right.



Dan Rather : served as our initial keynote speaker on Saturday morning.

He summed up the importance of an effective education by maintaining that a good teacher can motivate students to the next plateau.

I then surmised that the tricky thing is keeping & recruiting those teachers in Arizona.



One Example

“How to Conduct an Engagement Audit”

One of Saturday's Sessions _____

How to Conduct an Engagement Audit

My observations:

Meaningful collaboration between students, parents and community are key in increasing student achievement, building new partnerships and resources and create capacity for future bond conversations.

These “meaningful collaborations” will occur as continue to invite community input.

One example of that has been our Five Year Strategic Plan session at TEP, and our revised community input policy.

What is the value of an
Engagement Audit?

Define COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Why do we need it? Are we engaged now?

What does it look like to individual families and/or stakeholder groups?

Define benefits?

How does this benefit the community at large?

- Families & community partners become better informed
- Families/Stakeholders become more involved
- Community becomes more supportive of students, families & the schools

How does this help OUR schools/district?

- Support the value of education, increase interaction with our district, volunteer in our schools, support increased school funding/bonds, participate in facilities planning, make sure students attend school, make certain homework is completed attend school/district events & contribute (when possible) to events & programs

OUTPUTS:

Volunteers/Volunteer hours
Partner MOUs
Students served
Service learning placements
Increased parent involvement Website
visits/Social media
Newsletter distribution
Community use of facilities
Community Forums
Event attendance
Survey responses
Community presentations
Adult Ed/ Community learning classes
Facebook friends

OUTCOMES:

More volunteer hours
Higher attendance at events
Higher test scores
Increased graduation rates
More political support for education
Increased attendance

Most people are more willing to agree with decisions they did not originally support as long as they feel that all facts and viewpoints were fairly considered.



In Conclusion:

One of the most important things that board members can do collectively is build and maintain community optimism and confidence. With this confidence, our principals, teachers, parents, local groups/associations and business – everyone who makes up the strong fiber of a community – will in turn boost student confidence and performance.

*"It is not the strongest of the species, nor the most intelligent that survives.
It is the one that is most adaptable to change."*

-Charles Darwin

Overview of Saturday Sessions

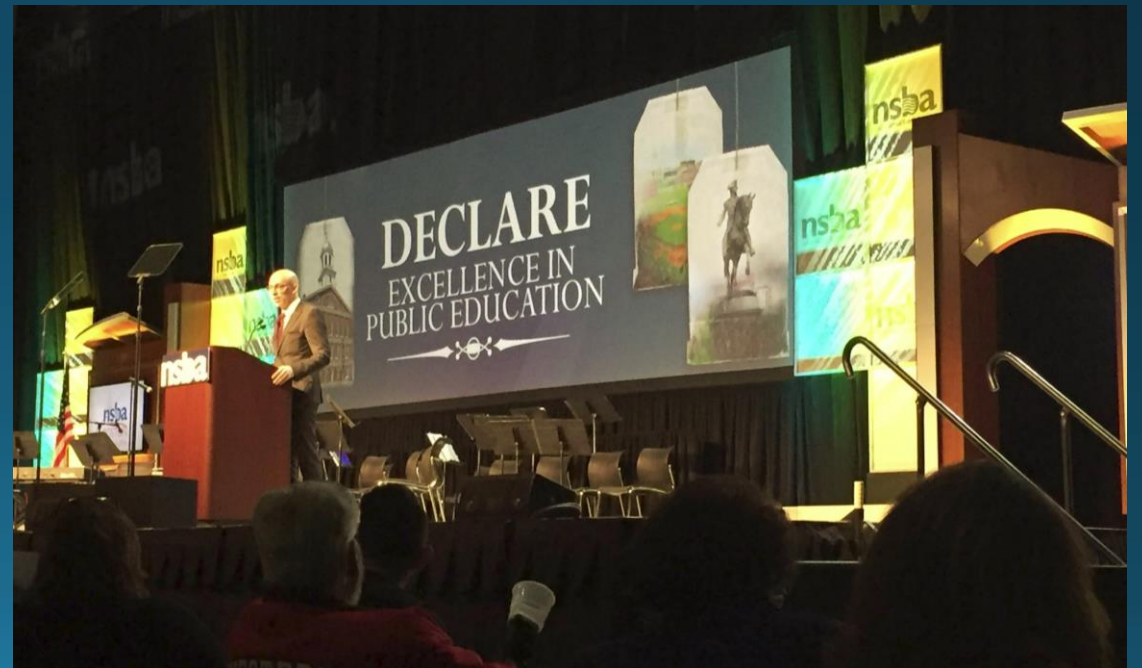
- How to Conduct an Engagement Audit (Lamb)
- Five Safety Rules to Help Children Speak Up & Be Safe (Parker)
- Superintendent Evaluation –Model of Cont. Growth
(Washington County School District) (Cochran)
- Adult Bullying: How to Recognize it & Deal With It Effectively
(Port Washington-Saukville School District) (Weber)

Sunday Sessions

- Late Start: Caught second half of Facility Master Planning: Building a Compelling Case for Taxpayers
- Putting the Puzzle Pieces Together: How a Robust Strategic Planning Process Supports the Key Work of School Boards & Achieves Results (Pewaunke) (Sternke)
- Meetings That Matter (New Jersey School Boards Assoc.)

Monday Sessions

- Creating a Culture of Reading in Your District
(Watertown City School District) (Zehr)
- The Power of Partnership: Providing a Quality Extended Learning Experience (Jennings)
- NSBA Conf Closing Ceremony





“As students, we can take action to stop bullying in our school and I have some ideas to make this happen. If a group of students would dedicate one week at the beginning of the school year to hold an anti-bullying campaign called a Bully Beatdown. The Bully Beatdown Campaign would raise awareness to the issues of bullying.”

—Jaden Harris for the
Do the Write Thing Challenge Program
spearheaded by the National Campaign to Stop Violence
based in Washington D.C.

“Our schools are not failing, the system has become obsolete and needs reinventing, not reform”

We are in the business of developing the next generation of young people, who undoubtedly will change the world.”

- Tony Wagner

Thank You