**Parent Interviews**

With the intention of gathering accurate data from the parent interviews, I was able to use Brockway Elementary, my Supplemental building site to interview parents. My questions are based around the community as our school district continues the work in meeting the educational needs of our students. Our mission and vision statements at Brockway Elementary share a common theme of building strong relationships.

**Mission Statement**

The mission of Brockway School is to promote lifelong learning, respect, and responsibility in a positive, safe environment where staff, students, parents, and the community work as a team to prepare children for a successful life.

**Vision Statement**

We believe that children are the future and that our society is dependent upon well-educated and informed citizens.  Communication is essential among all participants in the educational process.

The following questions were asked:

1. **What are the most important sources of information and support for you as a parent? (i.e. extended family, church, pediatrician, family resource center, etc.)**

The first parent talked of the importance of family and friends as their most important source of information and support as a parent. The second parent mentioned family members, friends, and teachers in this question and made reference to “each other”. In asking what “each other” meant, the parent mentioned the community/neighborhoods. The second parent believed that the entire community is an important source of information and support.

1. **What programs and/or services in the Winston-Dillard area and/or Douglas County have been most helpful to you, if any, in raising your young children? (i.e. community library, preschool/daycare, bus service, summer lunch program, health clinic, etc.)**

The first parent I interviewed was appreciative that her student had the ability to get picked up in Ten Mile and get transported to school in Winston which made me realize she slightly misunderstood the question. I redirected her back to the programs/services that are not mandatory that she might use. After some thought she mentioned 4-H. The 2nd parent that I interviewed made specific reference to the community parks we have in Winston and also to the reading programs (read to succeed) at school and the library.

1. **What do you find the hardest part of raising a child in the Winston-Dillard area?**

The first parent I spoke with expressed her dislike of the 4 day school week and how that gives students an extra day of unstructured time which could lead to more trouble/parents must also find and provide an extra day of child care, also the students have three days instead of two which could affect their ability to remember important content that was learned during the week. The 2nd parent I interviewed mentioned the lack of quality pre-schools in our area and thought our community could also benefit from “itty bitty” sports and activities to promote family time.

1. **If you could make one suggestion to help make the system of community resources work better to support families of young children, what would it be?**

The first parent I spoke with was very passionate in regards to her response when mentioning the need for more PE (ironic) and Art back in the school. Currently, Brockway students get PE and Art one time per week. She believes that kids function better in their lives with daily structured exercise. I obviously loved this response being a PE teacher and I let her know that I appreciated her thoughts on both art and PE. I fully believe in educating the holistic child. Missing recess as a consequence is something that I have learned in a short time here as principal at Brockway that makes absolutely no sense, I digress. The first parent I interviewed also spoke of the homework load on the kids and how she perceived that as burdensome. Her perception was that young learners lack the time to unwind and enjoy family time after being in a structured environment, and no, I did not remind her of the response she gave for question number two. The second parent that I interviewed gave a fantastic answer to this question in explaining the need for a good preschool/daycare center where children are being taught kindergarten readiness tools with parents receiving parenting classes to help with the understanding of expectations as their child entered school.

In the end the interviews were great reminders in regards to the saying, “the customer is always right”. It is essential to understand the thoughts, feelings, and attitudes of the parents, students, staff members, and community members when serving the educational needs of students.