Forum 5

Building relationships with outside agencies allows for all to contribute to the success of the students. The community is where the students are currently living and interacting and building a relationship and knowing the skills the outside agencies are needing is what could drive the learning in the classroom. The ultimate goal is to grow educated, active community members that can continue growth and development of a healthy community. This will not happen if the community members are not educated. "A true collaborative arrangement between schools and business is not charity because the partnerships should provide mutual benefits to all parties (pg. 137). The students can and should be providing information that the outside agencies are looking for to help all succeed.

In my first year of doing project based learning with the students the community partnerships have been the easiest and most natural to identify. Because there needs to be an authentic audience for high quality PBL, the outside community members have been evaluating the work of the students for their presentations. I wouldn’t force PBL on the teachers but I would ask for the work of those not doing PBL to create public products that would want to be known by the community.

Another strategy would be to build community partnerships for promoting programs within the school day to help them be successful. The community stakeholders should be invested, not only money, in the success of the local schools.

Hackmann, D.G., Tracy, J.C., & Schmitt-Oliver, D.M. (2002). The standards-based administrative internship: putting the ISLLC standards into practice. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press