

## Enhancing Teaching and Learning

### Notes

#### Chapter 5

- The community has a central role in children’s development.
- Most organizations within the schools are limited to including the parents only.
  - Only 25% of adults in the US have school-age or younger children.
- Why involvement with the community matters:
  - Parents and citizens learn why the school library matters.
  - By understanding the program, people are more likely to support it verbally and financially.
  - When parents understand the importance, they are more willing to help their children academically and socially.
- Family Involvement:
  - Families are the core of the school’s community.
  - The library lacks direct contact with parents.
  - How to reach out to parents:
    - Do presentations at meetings
      - So they know that the selection process is more than just a shopping spree!
      - Talk about internet use
        - Responsible use
        - Ethics
        - Databases
    - Tips on the benefits on reading aloud at home
    - Teach parents how to help with homework and study skills
    - Literacy programs for speakers of foreign languages
    - Podcasts
    - Go to community meetings (ex: Lions Club, Kiwanis, etc)
    - School newsletter
      - Highlight exciting new books
      - Promote activities in the library and community
    - Blog
    - School’s website
    - Parent(s) on an advisory committee
- Advisory Review Process:
  - Review the current literature to discover what is considered “state of the art”

- Assess the program to determine its status usually by surveys to different groups
- Compare results from survey to literature review
- Develop a vision statement, goals, and an action plan
- Business Involvement
  - Businesses enter into partnerships with the school because
    - Contribute to the public good and improve quality of the school
    - Increased good publicity in the community
  - Schools seeks partnerships with businesses because
    - To increase their resources
    - To improve community understanding and respect for their programs
  - Guiding Principles between school-business partnerships:
    - Maintain a focus
      - Try to match the business to the right program to support
        - Ex: Bookseller to reading program
      - School should have special-interest staff to deal with each business individually in their partnership
    - Maintain the school's authority over substance
      - Watch out for the business' bias
    - The school decides the *what* of the partnership
    - The business decides the *how* of the partnership
  - Effective partnerships take time and nourishment
    - Keep your business partners in the loop
    - Tell them how they're contributions are helping in the classroom
- Community Resources
  - Public Library
    - Both support literary programs
    - Share databases
      - By partnering up, you can pressure for a better price
    - Communicate frequently
      - School to Public: what's going on in the curricula
      - Public to School: special programs going on
  - Community (ex: museums, zoos)
    - Develop a database of places students can go
    - Keep the school community informed about special activities being offered by these programs
  - Local press
    - Keep the newspaper, TV, and radio informed of school events
- How to approach a local foundation for assistance:

- *A request:* What is needed and how will it be used?
- *The need:* What local area needs will be met?
- *The fit of the proposal with the foundation's initiatives:* How will the school library with these added resources help the foundation progress towards its own goals?
- *Comparative data:* How does the status of the local school library compare with other situations in the state and nation?
- *A human face:* Provide a human interest story to give it a personal touch.
- *Proposal details:* Provide a timeline and description of how improvements will be carried out if the request is granted.
- *Conclusion:* Invite further conversation