

Townsend Interview

He started as a school board member in January of 2018 to March 2019.

He dealt with policy/procedures for all of prince edward county and operations dealt with specifically approving budgets.

Last year the budget he had to work with was 25 million dollars for the whole county. It was his job to analyze and allocate funds to different parts of the school system.

Based on your experiences, how would you personally describe the levels of parental involvement as it relates to children's education in this community?

Top 30% of parents are involved in their child's schooling.

Top 30% includes students in AP courses, dual enrollment, whose parents generally have time to be involved in educational processes. The determinate of parental involvement falls determined typically of the SES of the family.

Parents typically have 2-3 jobs

Live farther from the school to have cheaper housing

No transportation

One barrier that is seen is that the parents who read to their children come into pre-k learning a million more words than the children who are not read to.

Bridging gaps

Parents cannot always physically interact aka transportation (barriers)

Different levels of literacy among parents that form barriers when interacting with their child/children

The vocal parents tend to be the ones with students who are doing well in school.

Currently Prince Edwards elementary schools are accredited as well as their middle school with some conditions.

What do you feel would be the biggest obstacle of implementing this program?

We need to have our ducks in a row.

Suggest that we have a full prove budget and proposal

A layout of what we have previously done

Actual statistics and findings from our research

Need to look for grants and other sources of monetary funds before we meet with the school board.

Easier for them to back us if we have a solid plan.

Include taxes in budget

Be aware that the school board could give us money but its unlikely because the budget is already predetermined. And will basically have the same amount of funds as the previous school year.

What are methods that you would suggest to get the community involved with implementing this plan?

Delivery methods:

Deliver by churches, fire department, the school, voting locations

How receptive do you think the school board will be to this idea?

Pretty receptive as long as the plan is strong

Does the idea sound feasible?

Yes, with conditions of the budget allocation

And getting the superintendent on our side first, the school board will follow.

Who do you suggest our primary contact be in regards to trying to launch this project?

LVA Lucy Carson (part time education coordinator)

Barbara Johnson (Superintendent)