

Mentor Reflection – Amber Clark

I actually had two mentors and I think that both of them tried the best they could to be supportive; however, they too had their hands tied. I think that both of them felt frustrated and disappointed because they both believed passionately in what we were doing.

All the literature suggests, as does my personal experience, that a good school works with the parents as a team. I have spoken to several people in other parts of the school and for whatever reason, there seems to be an anti-parent sentiment. Parents are not really welcome at school except on specific times. I am not sure if this is to “protect” teachers as there have been some negative experiences in the past. I don’t know if it is a logistical reason – the school is so big and just can’t accommodate school wide-events. I just know that my previous mentor Lisa and I actually had parent volunteers to sit on a Parent-Teacher Association, and nothing ever happened. I certainly felt that Lisa supported me, and I felt that she was passionate and wanted the same things as me. I feel the same way about Jason. They couldn’t get support as Middle School Vice-Principal – that tells me that the roadblocks are from higher up. It goes back to something someone said – there are a lot of different priorities at this school, and at this moment in time, increasing parent involvement was not a priority. That doesn’t mean that it isn’t important, but just that the time isn’t right. I did the best I could, and my mentors supported me the best they could. What I have realized is that anyone in my situation would have experienced the same results I did. It truly wasn’t me, it was the school.