

Quotes from Building Professional Learning Communities

1. "Let's put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children." – Sitting Bull
2. Find Common Ground. Find what unites you rather than what separates you.
3. Don't call on others to improve your school. Accept responsibility for doing it yourself.
4. Embrace "Learning" rather than "Teaching" as the fundamental purpose of your school.
5. Remember...Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day.
6. Use data to paint your current reality.
7. Be hungry for information on your school, its achievements, how it is perceived.
8. Tolerate the truth, even if it is bad news.
9. Identify your hopes and dreams at the school you might create.
10. Identify the collective commitments you are willing to make to each other to make your shared hopes a reality.
11. ACT! GO! DO!
12. It takes action not philosophy to advance your improvement plan.
13. Translate your good intentions into specific steps.
14. Remember, the Romans did not build a world empire by just talking...Okay they did it by killing all who opposed them, but still...
15. Your school improvement plan isn't worth the paper it's written on, unless it starts you doing something.
16. Consistently Communicate Priorities
17. Remember, you express value by what you do, NOT by what you say.
18. Recognize that a collaborative culture will not be created by a chance, or even by invitation...you must embed collaborative processes into the routine practices of the school.
19. Organize the school into a genuine team...People working interdependently to achieve a common goal.
20. Improve your team's effectiveness:
 - ...by identifying team goals
 - ...by developing team protocols.
 - ...by focusing on the critical questions of learning.
 - ...by bringing doughnuts to meetings.
21. Before criticizing a teammate walk a mile in his shoes...that way if he gets upset he'll be a mile away and barefoot.
22. "Never doubt that a small group of committed, thoughtful people can change the world: Indeed it's the only thing that ever has!" – Margaret Mead
23. Stay Tough in the Positive Times.
24. Complaining is like a rocking chair. It gives you something to do but does not get you anywhere.
25. What you see in students,
What you see in parents,
What you see in each other...will depend on what you look for.
26. Be tender with one another.
27. Acknowledge that to err is human...but if your eraser wears out before the pencil, you are overdoing it.
28. Be thankful for every new morning...especially the ones in June.
29. Understand that example is the most powerful teacher.
30. Live your life so that when your students think of fairness, think of caring, think of integrity...they think of you.
31. Recognize that the road to become a learning community is dotted with many tempting parking places.
32. Obstacles and others can stop you temporarily; you are the only one who can do it permanently.
33. Believe what lies behind us and what lies ahead of us are insignificant compared to what lies within us.