



KLSD Learning Cafe

When the news enters the classroom

October 11, 2017

What is a Learning Café?

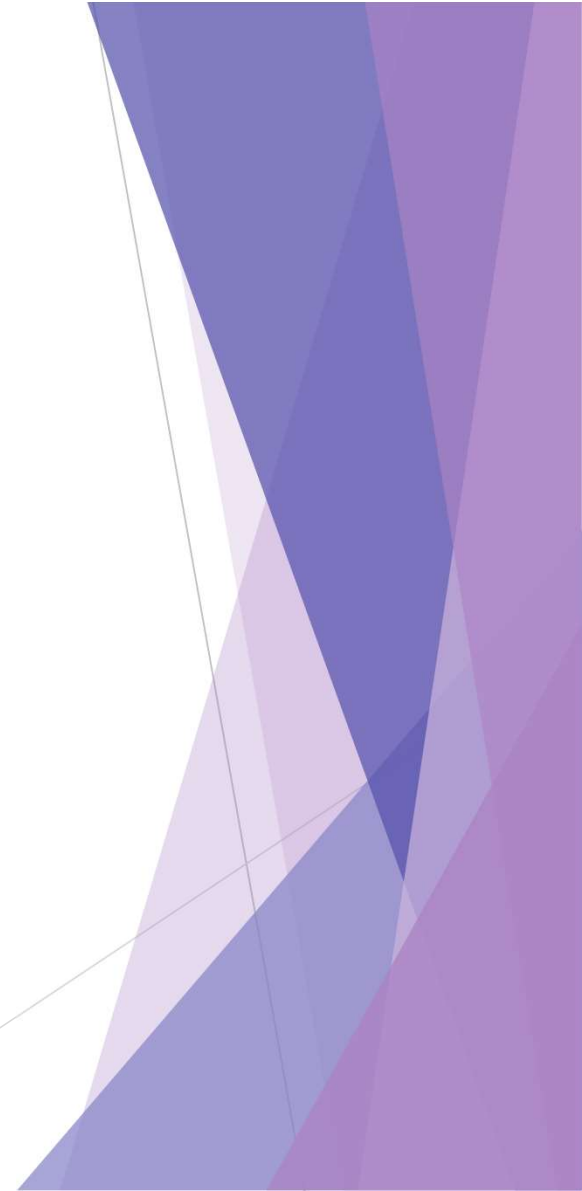
- ❖ A community conversation on a complex issue
- ❖ Structured to include many voices
- ❖ Two-way sharing of information & understanding
- ❖ Provides District with feedback for further reflection

Structure of a Learning Café?

- ❖ 3 sets of questions
- ❖ 3 rounds of conversation - different groups each time
- ❖ Opportunity to share out between rounds
- ❖ Note takers at each table so the District holds on to the conversations, the thinking, and the feedback

Table Facilitators

- Lisa Alvord
- Jean Capuano
- Lauren Carrigan
- Paul Crivelli
- Beth DeBeer
- Laura Ingram
- Gregg Kastanis
- Barbara Kessler
- Marc McAlley
- Connie Merritt
- Gretchen Morfea
- Jill Walsh
- Vicky Weiss

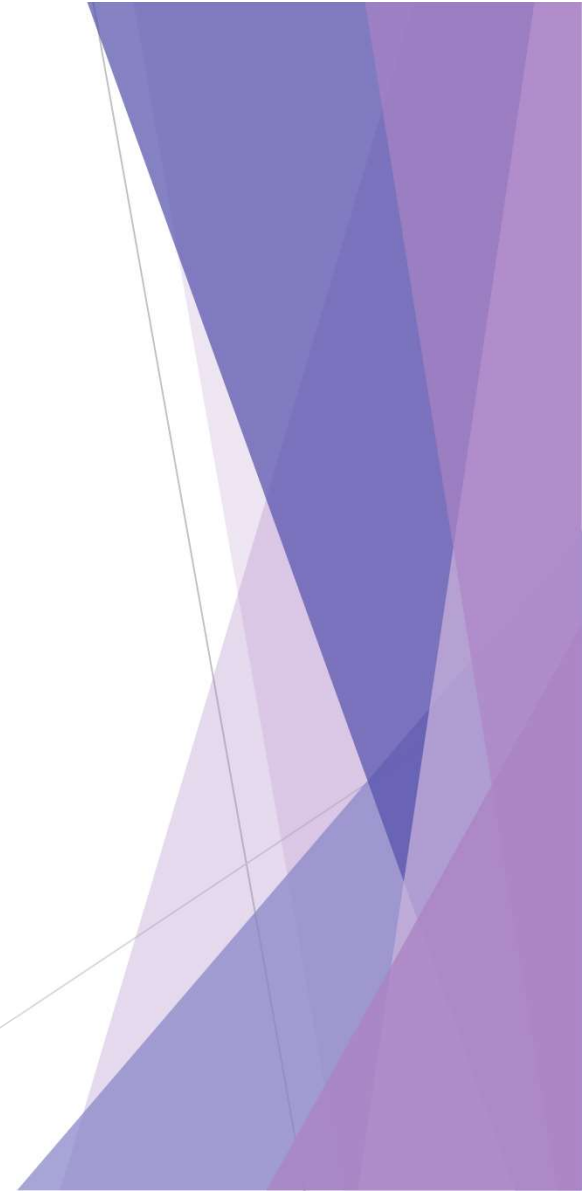


Tonight's Topic

When the news enters the classroom



Why this topic?



From our District's Code of Conduct

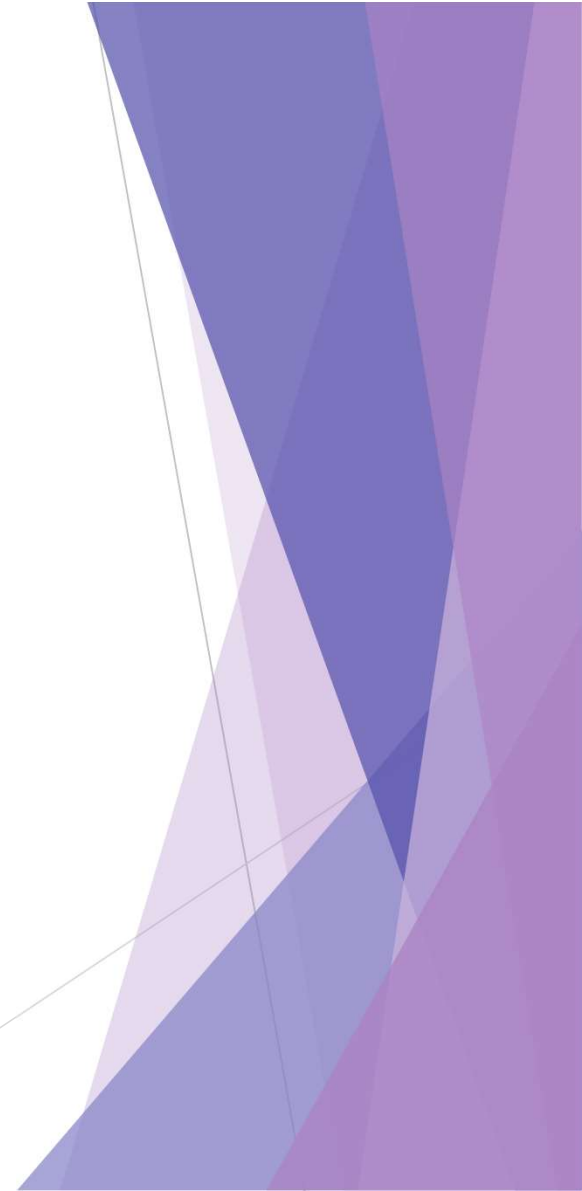
We believe:

- ▶ All students should learn and value their roles as citizens in a global society.
- ▶ All students should embrace our differences and distinctiveness and understand that those characteristics contribute to the greater good.
- ▶ All students, when confronted with issues of intolerance, should challenge such attitudes appropriately.

From our District's Code of Conduct

We believe that as school District leaders, it is our responsibility to:

- ▶ Promote and support open and honest discussion about issues of intolerance.
- ▶ Create a climate of respect for all.
- ▶ Educate our students to appreciate and celebrate differences.



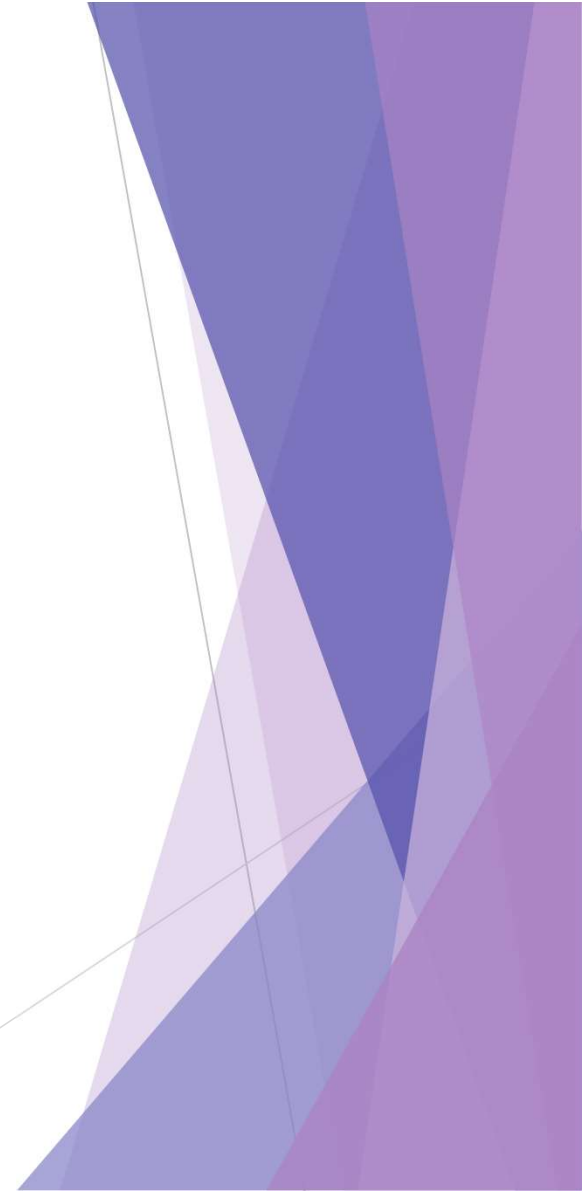
Student Rights (also from Code of Conduct)

Freedom of Expression:

Students have a constitutional right to freedom of expression provided such expression does not disrupt or interfere with education, discipline, or the normal activities of the school.



Why now?





Charlottesville

Las Vegas

September 11th

Charleston

NFL/National Anthem

The Election

Harvey

Irma



Columbine

Sandy Hook

Katrina

Paris

San Bernadino

Swastikas

Katonah-Lewisboro School District Learning Commitment

*In the KLSD, we will strive to create learning experiences for all students that are **engaging, relevant**, and take place in an **active learning environment**.*

- What are **relevant** learning experiences? How do we ensure that lessons have purpose beyond test results and make recognizable connections to the lives of our students?



What do we know of children as learners?

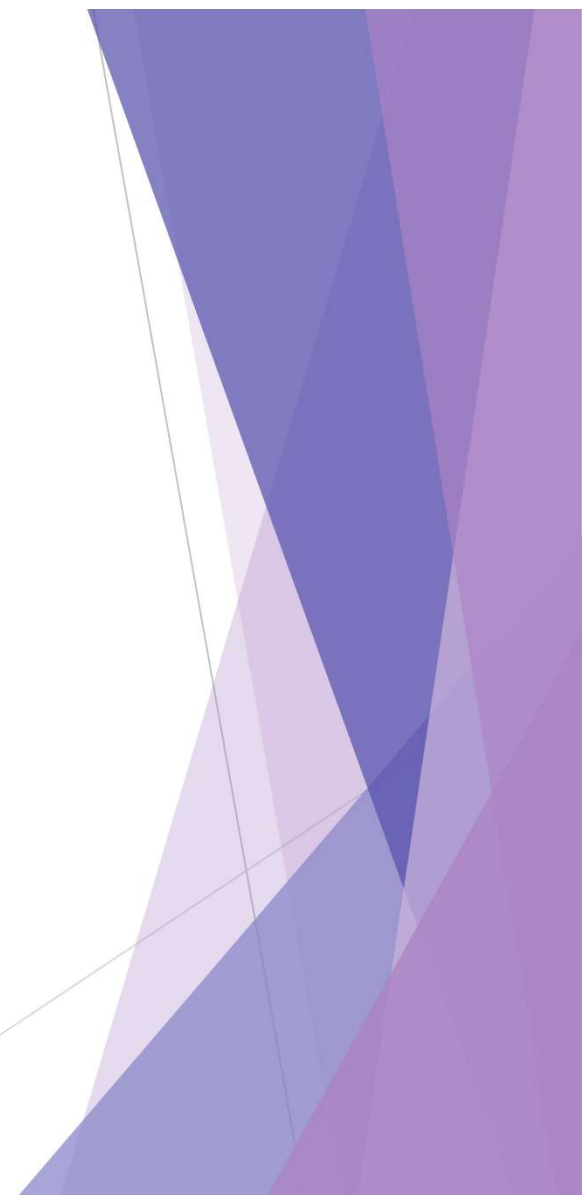
- ▶ They are curious about the world, its connections to them and to what they're learning in school
- ▶ The stronger their connections to their teachers, the more likely they are to learn effectively from them
- ▶ Their emotions impact their learning

Round One

Think about a time in your schooling when events in the world entered the classroom or the school in which you were a student.

- ▶ What was the event?
- ▶ What role did the school play? What was that like for you? What role could the school have played?
- ▶ Why has this moment stayed with you?

Sharing out



It's time to move



September 11, 2001

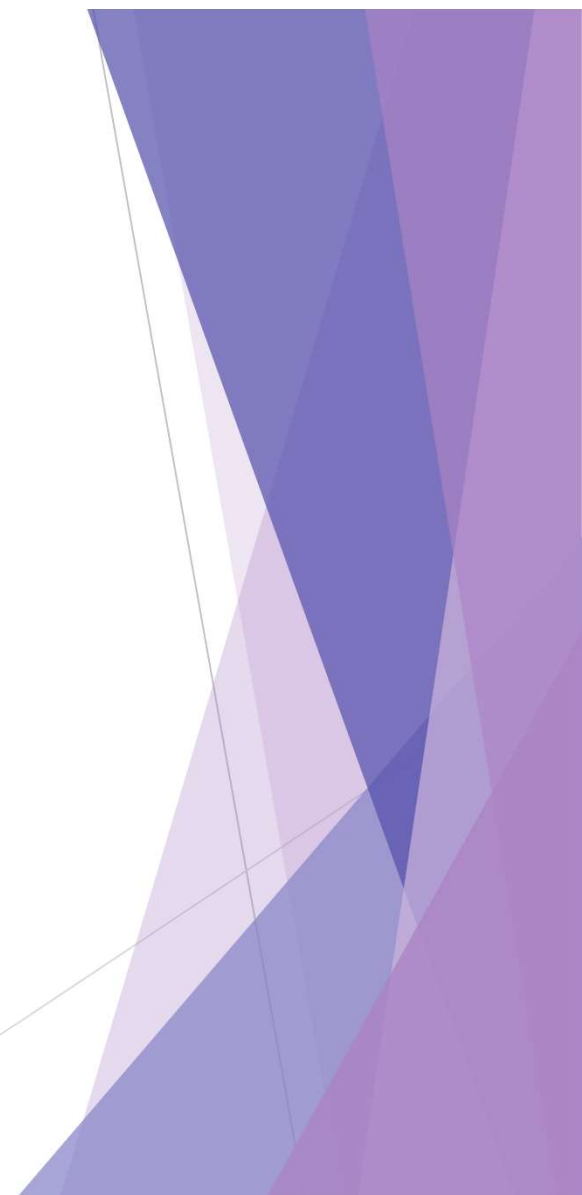
Graham Haggett, now 16, and his
mother

[Story Corps Sound Clip](#)

Imagine your children going to school on
September 12, 2001 ...

What would you want and hope would
happen in their classrooms?

Sharing out



It's time to move

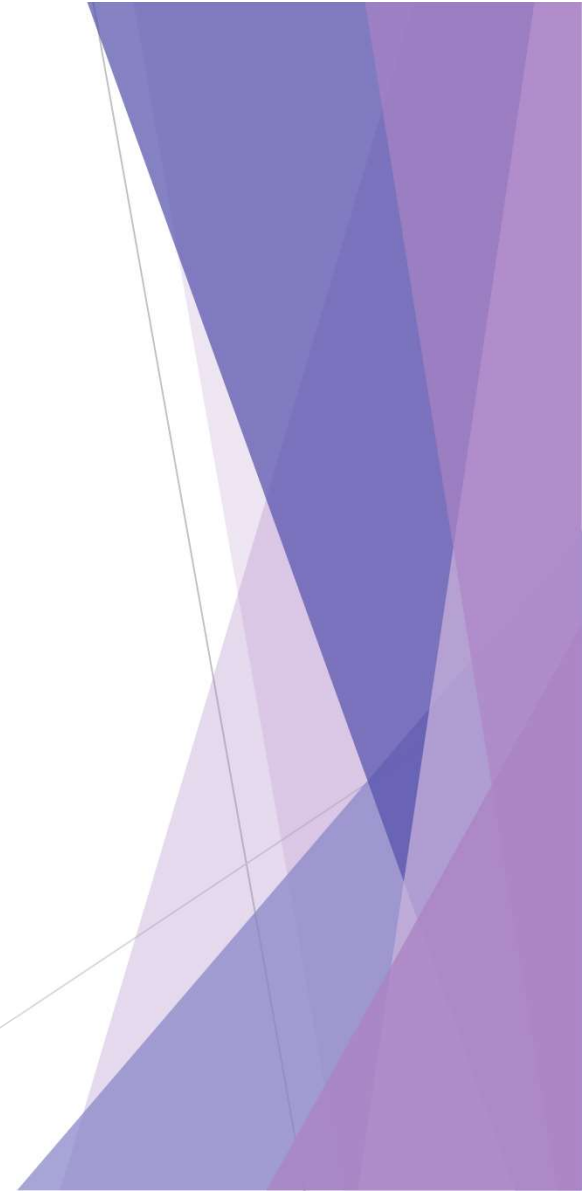


Our teachers' stories ...

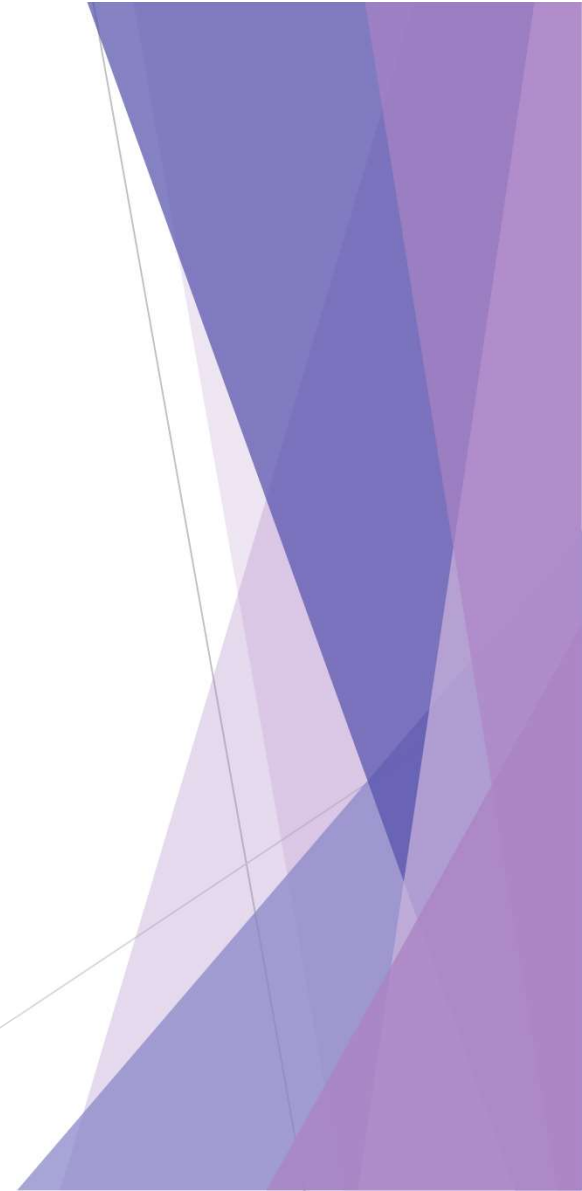
As you listen...

What are you wondering about?

What more do you want to know?



Share your reactions and your questions at your table....

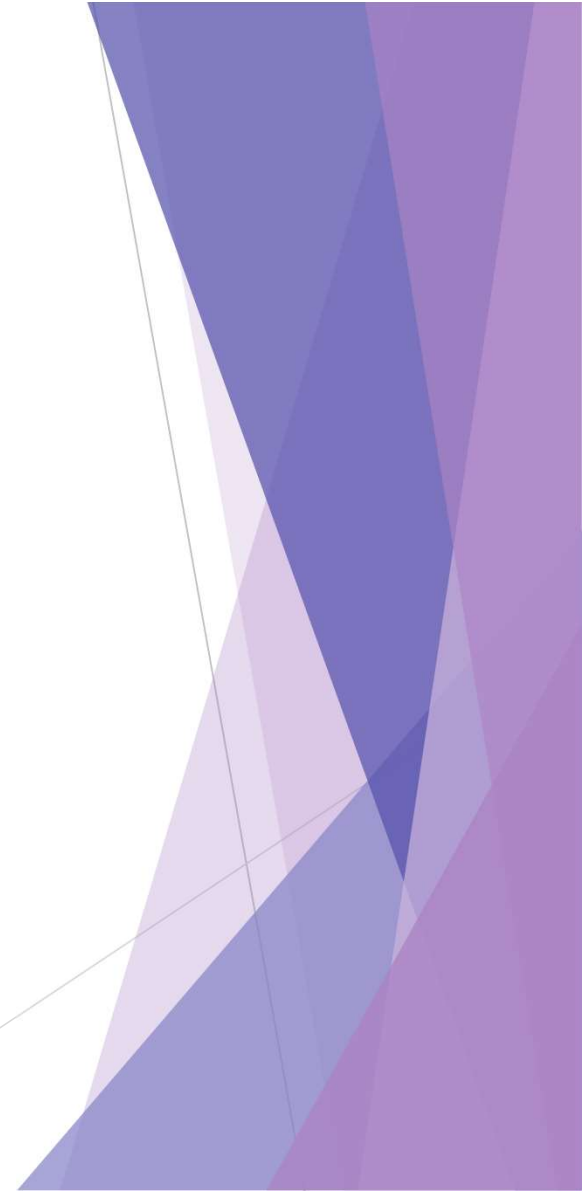


Sharing out: What are your questions?



What we've learned from “experts” and our own practice...

- **Acknowledge the news.** Better for children to hear from a trusted, reliable, compassionate source than somewhere else (i.e. the internet)
- **Take your cues from the children.** Don't tell them more than they need to know, and don't ignore their need to know something. Recognize that each child's needs can be different.
- **Model calm.**
- **Be reassuring.**



Continued...

- **Help children express their feelings.**
- **Encourage children to express, listen to, and empathize with varying perspectives.**
- **Be developmentally appropriate.**
- **Be available.**
- **Help children think about ways to move forward.**



Thank you for joining us tonight!

We look forward to our next Learning Café!

