

LGN: A Focus on Education

“How do you make Facebook?” Dr. Mosely, the Superintendent from Nashua was asked this question while he was in China from young students. They weren’t asking how to make a profile but how to be imaginative enough to create something like Facebook.

Thursdays’ Leadership class was focused on education. We started our day at Velocity Hub and focused on persuasive writing and focused on learning different aspects of how we communicate in our everyday writing. In case you are wondering, emoji’s are only to be used sparingly in the professional world.

The class then headed over to the new Arlington Street Community Center where we heard from several different speakers- we started with Education driven by Economic Development with speakers from the NH Manufacturing Extension Partnership and from the NH Employment Service Bureau. Currently there are 16,000 unfilled jobs in NH. The Manufacturing Extension partnership groups work to match students to internships while in school. Their agency focuses on 5 main areas including, manufacturing, healthcare, hospitality, technology, and construction. The NH Employment Service helps employers looking for workers and helps workers that are looking for work. They host several job fairs through the year to help recruit and fill the jobs in NH. Both of these programs focus on building “soft skills” with potential workers and giving them the tools and education they’ll need to be successful in the workforce.

During lunch Beth Kreick from the Nashua Education Foundation came and spoke with us about their board that *fundraises* so that teachers in the district are able to do projects or activities that there is not typically funding for. Beth mentioned an Adult Spelling Bee as one of their main fundraisers which is coming up on April 19th.

Dr. Mosley, the Superintendent from Nashua, was our next class speaker and he spoke to what some of the challenges were in our district as well as what his plans were to grow. He puts strong emphasis on the phrase, “Believe in achieve”. His goals for Nashua are to bring stability back to the district, focus on the diversity we have, and to bring an environment of creativity to students so they can grow and be imaginative. We asked Dr. Mosley what he thought made a strong leader; he said ones that can say, “I need help”. He said leaders that work together with others and recognize that not everything can be done by one person.

The afternoon started with trends in Alternative Education including three different types of Charter Schools in the area- MicroSociety Academy Charter School- Macs, World Academy, and Gate City Charter School for the Arts. These schools are a much smaller learning environment for students and each of the schools focus towards their mission. Macs focuses on teaching kids the “why” of what they are learning. Students create and operate their own “microsociety” with the help of teachers they have their own currency,

bank, marketplace, restaurant, newspaper, government, and court system. World Academy focuses on the “whole child” from birth to Grade 8 they offer year round learning through 21st century experiences. Gate City Charter School for the Arts focuses on an art-integrated curriculum producing students that excel in both academics and a love for the arts.

The last group we heard from was Higher Education- Rivier University, Maverick Technical Institute, and Granite State College. Each of them spoke about the different opportunities they offer for students. Rivier has their employment promise which if the students finish the program guarantees they'll find employment in their field or the University will pay a year of their student loans or the student can take 6 graduate classes tuition free. Maverick is an eight month program that teaches students hands on skills that will get them workforce ready at graduation. Granite State College works with their students to be able to give them credit for work experience that would transfer into college credit.

Our class is working hard to come up with a class project idea that will not only help us grow as leaders but as be meaningful to Nashua. Education is a strong passion for our class and recognizing the importance of mentoring students and helping them grow has been an ongoing theme that seems to be coming up at every class this year.