Ontario Healthy Schools Coalition Conference

Towards Well-being for All

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Social Well-being

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Ontario Healthy Schools Coalition

The Ontario Healthy Schools Coalition held their annual conference in April 2017. Delegates that attended participated in a world café relating to the domains of wellbeing. An expert in the field addressed each domain. Dr. Ian Manion was the expert facilitating the social wellbeing domain. Participants were provided a series of questions and had a brainstorming discussion about the questions. The delegates that attended the social well being session were asked to respond to three questions, which are listed below.

1. What are the particular threats and opportunities for the promotion of social wellness in your schools?
2. What are the everyday things that your school/ board staff can do to promote social wellness?
3. How does your school/ board work with the community to promote social wellness?

Respondents were able to identify a few threats that could possibly be barriers to the promotion of social wellness in their school. These threats included rural access to resources and the way academic success is currently measured however, respondents suggested checking wellness scores against student success as a solution to this barrier. In terms of opportunities for promotion of social well-being, all respondents seemed to agree on one, technology. They see technology as supportive, social networks create opportunities for virtual hubs and relationships.

In order to promote social wellness, there are always everyday things that schools and board staff can do. Main ideas that respondents came up with were creating relationships with students by doing little things such as holding the door for them, feeding them, and even just engaging them in conversations. Other ideas included encourage risk taking, allow failure and compromise.

Delegates were asked to provide us with insight into ways their schools and boards work with the community to promote social wellness. Techniques most commonly mentioned included social networks and media, utilizing public health's resources, bringing community to schools and vice versa, and parent engagement.