Collaborative Ghost Walk

Developed by Debbie Bambino.

The Collaborative Ghost Walk is a structured process for the collaborative walk through of a school when classes are not in session.

1. School host shares a brief presentation that gives visitors a focus for their feedback, i.e. “Tone of Decency” or “Personalization,” etc. (5-10 minutes)

2. Visitors brainstorm evidence that they would expect to see in a school or classroom where ________________ was a focus. Expectations are charted. (10 minutes)

3. Visitors walk through the building silently, making note of evidence they observe that supports or doesn’t support the host’s focus. (15-20 minutes)

4. Visitors return to meeting room and share their observations, which are charted next to their expectations. The group discusses their findings, looking for any patterns or surprises. The host listens and takes notes. (10 minutes)

5. Host responds to anything that challenged, pushed, and/or added to their thinking. The host does not respond to everything heard. There is no need to explain the school or classroom to the visitors. (5 minutes)

6. Debrief of the process.
   - How might you use this process with your colleagues?
   - What adjustments would you make to the process?
   - Other comments?
     (5 minutes)

This protocol was originally written in the 1990s/2000s. We encourage you to purchase an NSRF membership to access newer materials and to enroll in CFG Coaches’ Training to access all of the updated materials and to develop a more thorough, experiential understanding. Protocols are most powerful and effective when used within an ongoing professional learning community such as a Critical Friends Group® and facilitated by a skilled coach. To learn more about professional learning communities and seminars for new or experienced coaches, please visit the National School Reform Faculty website at www.nsrfharmony.org.