

STAKEHOLDERS SUPPORT AND COLLABORATION

by:

Crazy A. Guevarra

Teacher III, Biaan Aeta Integrated School

Stakeholder collaboration is an undertaking through which groups with similar or different perspectives can interchange viewpoints and search for solutions that go beyond their own vision of what is possible. Collaboration goes beyond people participating in a process. It helps the project team make better decisions and helps drive advocacy throughout the organization. Collaboration improves the way the school works together and problem solves. This provides more innovation, efficient processes, increased success, and improved communication. Listening to and learning from team members can help reach the goals.

Management of stakeholders is important since it is the lifeline of effective school programs, projects, and activities. So as to be positively engaged, stakeholders need to learn the impact of corporate actions and the reasons behind support and collaborations. Communicating with stakeholders effectively requires an understanding of the ways to reach a different group of people that could possibly give support and help to the schools.

The school head together with the adopt-a-school coordinator is responsible for managing stakeholders and donors. They plan for early engagement and managing the relationship with key stakeholders. They are also accountable in reporting to the community and other stakeholders the progress of the program, projects, and activities of the school.

Here are the ways how to develop healthy and positive collaboration with the stakeholders. Actively build strong relationships from the start, involve all the

stakeholders, schedule periodic touch-base sessions, and build integrity, trustworthiness, and respect. Lastly, address issues as and when they arise.

As quoted by Henry Ford, coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is a success. Schools alone can do so little but together with the stakeholders' schools can do so much.

References:

Henderson, A., Mapp, K., Johnson, V. and Davies, D. (2007). Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships. New York: The New Press