

## CADA Leadership Lesson

# "This is Us . . . Making Connections"

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### **Lesson Objective:**

*Students will identify the groups on campus and strategize specific, concrete ways to make connections with the goal of improving campus culture.*

### **DAY 1:**

- *Lesson and Discussion on your school's culture (great resource: School Culture By Design: Building & Sustaining Positive School Culture by Phil Boyte)*
- *Have students answer the questions from Phil's book (see Day 1 discussion questions)*

### **DAY 2:**

- *Assign ASB committees – make sure students from each grade are represented*
- *Committees make a list of all groups, clubs, etc. on campus*
- *Each committee posts their list on the wall, noting duplicate groups*
- *Whole group discussion with the goal of making a finalized list*
- *END GOAL: Make a handout with all groups identified, with ASB in the center.*

### **DAY 3:**

- *Committees use the handout to make connections between all groups and ASB*
- *They should list at least one way (activity/event) that ASB can connect with each group and write on the connecting line. (see example on diagram)*
- *Whole group discussion on ideas for connections*

### **DAY 4:**

- *Divide the groups listed and assign to each committee*
- *Each committee is in charge of a concrete way to connect with their assigned groups and then make a plan to do so.*
- *Committees set target dates for completion.*
- *Committees are graded on completion of their goals*
- *END GOAL: Make large chart that represents every group connection and which committee is in charge. Post chart in the room.*

### **REMINDER**

*Periodically, check to see how ASB is following through with connections, poll groups, hold Open Forums, etc. Students have to know that ASB is for them.*

(over)

## School Culture Discussion

(Day 1)

### School culture “drips in” . . .

*Example: “That’s just the way it is here.”*

Your school culture is anything that you:

1. encourage
2. forbid
3. give celebrity

### DISCUSSION

Brainstorm With Your Class:

- *What do we encourage?*
- *What do we forbid?*
- *To what do we give celebrity?*

### GREAT BOOK

School Culture By Design - Building & Sustaining Positive School Culture

*- by Phil Boyt with June Steckler*

### ACTIVITY

Finish These Sentences (pp.119-120)

- *Our school is successful because . . .”*
- *At our school, the adults . . .”*
- *Students feel like our school is . . .”*
- *One of the best things about going to school here is . . .”*

### ACTIVITY

Silo Culture Checklist (pp. 26-27)

*“A ‘silo’ . . . is people or programs that exists unto themselves only, they are not integrated (nor do they want to be).” (p. 17)*

1. *What happens when someone in our school makes a mistake?*
2. *What are the “sacred cows” at our school (anything that is never questioned or criticized)*
3. *What rules, regulations, and standards are generally followed by the majority? Which are enforced? Are any generally ignored?*
4. *What are the “stories of legend” on our campus? What kind of culture do they communicate?*

***“Cultures are created and changed by the stories we tell.”***

*Tyler Durnham*

Boyte, Phil School Culture By Design Building & Sustaining School Culture

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# \*Diagram

