

Student Well-being: A Collective Responsibility

Debbie Stockton

Integrative Thinking Supports Staff Learning

DEBBIE STOCKTON: We could have staff meetings where one or two people would speak, and their views would be very loud and very clear. I was probably one of those people. And there were a lot of people around the table who wouldn't have a chance to speak at all, or wouldn't want to speak at all. And through the Integrative Thinking, I've seen that every single person has a voice, and everybody participates. There are no wrong answers, there are no wrong ideas. Whatever anyone comes up with, it's put on the paper. It's embraced by everyone at the table, and everybody has a voice.

And I think for that, it's brought our staff together. It's made things -- I think everyone feels more a part of a team, whereas before, we were isolated into our little groups of people who we got along with. Now, I think everybody gets along really well, and it's really led us to this path of listening to other people. I've worked with people who I would never normally speak to at school, because we don't have anything in common. We don't teach the same grades, we don't have the same interests. But now we're on the same committee together, so we work really well together. It's been one of the joys of my last year and a half working with my principal, is the opportunity to work with other teachers in my school who I would never normally work with.