

CONNECT NOW

Engaging our community and schools

February 2010

THANK YOU!

Through Connect Now we have been learning that we can have productive conversations about various topics. Thank you for your efforts to cultivate positive relationships between our community and schools.

There are many, many ways to support schools, to get to know the work of students and teachers and to understand the interrelated success we can have as a community.

It does not matter WHAT one does to help, but THAT one helps. Thanks for your involvement and efforts to encourage others to become involved.

As an organization, The Education Foundation continues to strengthen its work through continued conversations. Click [here](#) to view a short video to better understand building our community through schools and how you might get involved.

Collier County Schools Strategic Planning Update

The District is approaching the end of Phase One of the strategic planning process. The purpose of Phase One is for the school board and district leadership to identify and clarify overall goals and key priorities through a process that is rooted in **Connect Now**. Phase Two will involve the convening of operational teams that include community members to build the action plans to support the strategic priorities in Phase One.

Click [here](#) to read Dr. Thompson's commentary on February 8th in the Naples Daily News. You can follow the strategic planning process at the district's site: www.collierschools.com.

The Education Foundation's role is to conduct community-based sessions and teacher sessions throughout the course of the process and to ensure the collective voice of the community through Connect Now is integral to the process. As the plans are drafted in Phase Two, there will be sessions to get input throughout the process—we encourage you to participate in those sessions.

Create and Embrace Opportunities to Learn

The Education Foundation, in collaboration with others, has been working create opportunities to learn and to continue to share opportunities through Connect Now.

We continue community outreach with opportunities for the Superintendent to share a school update and have discussion about complex issues in smaller forums which provide more flexibility for discussion and building understanding of important topics for education in our community. If you would like to organize an opportunity like this in your organization or local community, please let us know.

Please watch the Naples Daily News for a periodic Connect Now Series, which will illustrate the impact of school-community involvement. If you have examples you'd like to share, please call Lisa Church (643-4755). Here are the two most recent pieces: [January 15](#) and [February 3](#).

The Connect Now site (www.ConnectNowCollier.org) has been reconfigured to give history, and show the work as it progresses. Feel free to direct people to this site as it is now current. It also includes links the various media articles that mention Connect Now!

Students are communicating with other students and mobilizing to help victims of the earthquake in Haiti—and in a Connect Now framework. Students at Golden Gate HS have taken the lead to create a Facebook page ([Collier Students for Haiti](#)) that is serving as a clearinghouse for information on public and private student initiatives.

www.ConnectNowCollier.org

An independent initiative of The Education Foundation of Collier County

Contact Lisa Church at 643-4755 or info@connectnowcollier.org