

WCSD Featured Story



*News Stories from Across Williamsburg County School District
Provided by the Williamsburg County School District Office of Public Relations*

Interview of Dr. Eugenia Latham WCSD Consultant



Q: What roles did you have during this time?

A:

- I began my teaching career at the high school level teaching social studies and then continued my teaching experiences in every grade from K to 6th grade.
- I worked as a building-level administrator in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.
- I worked in the Science Department of Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools, providing staff development on how to teach hands-on science for upper elementary and middle school students.
- I worked for the NC Department of Public Instruction.
- I was Assistant Superintendent in Stanly County Schools.
- I was Associate Superintendent in Scotland County Schools.

I have taught at UNCC, UNCP, St. Andrews University, and Coastal Carolina Community College.
I have done consulting work in NC AND SC.

Q: What are the most important things to consider when attempting to improve student achievement?

A:

- Opportunities for all students to be actively engaged in their learning
- Ongoing and meaningful data that shows us how the students are growing during the year
- Dedicated adults who are intent on seeing students continually grow and improve, who are willing to make changes as necessary, and who understand it takes a village to raise a child.

Q: What are your thoughts about WCSD so far?

A:

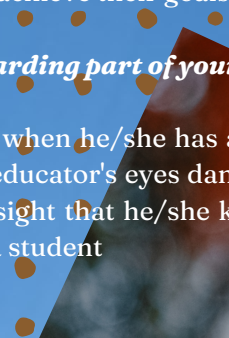
- I see the excitement about the school year in your principals' eyes and voices. They truly are a group of thinkers who are determined to succeed.
- The educators that I have met want to see the students succeed, I have heard a positive tone from those that have talked to me.
- People, in general, are very welcoming.

Q: What role should the district personnel play with principals and schools?

A: I have always believed that district personnel are people who serve and support the principals. They are there to ask how can we help. They are in place in the district to work behind the scenes and to attend to details that will allow principals and schools to achieve their goals.

Q: What is the most rewarding part of your job?

A: Seeing a child light up when he/she has an "ah" learning moment. Seeing another educator's eyes dance when he/she has a "break-through" insight that he/she knows will make a difference in the life of a student.



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Q: Why is it important to view principals as the CEOs of their buildings?

A: The principal and his/her leadership team are the ones who know the children, the parents, the community, and their staff the best. If I were a parent in this county, why would I want anyone other than those who know the school the best to make the decisions about my child's well-being and academic success? Each principal is constantly observing what is happening, what is working, and what is not working within his/her school, as well as intuitively listening to the heartbeat of the school. As the leader, the principal can get input from all the stakeholders and work collaboratively with them to move the school forward. A principal is the closest to the action.

If I am not in the building, day in and day out,
How do I know what is needed?
How do I make decisions about a situation I have not experienced?
How do I monitor academic growth when I am not there to see it firsthand?
How do I look into a child's eyes and say I know what is best for you when I do not know his/her name?

Q: Anything else that you would like to share?

A: Thank you for allowing me to serve alongside you.

