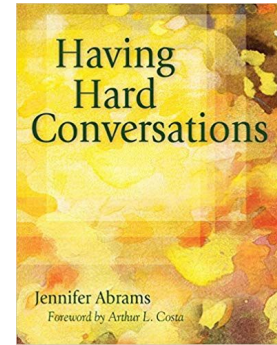


Having Hard Conversations: an evening with Jennifer Abrams



Educators from across the region gathered to hear Jennifer Abrams share thoughtful tips from her book, Having Hard Conversations in the afternoon of October 9, 2019 at Ridgemont Country Club. Jointly sponsored by GVASCD and the Greece Teacher Center, Jennifer Abrams spent a few hours with a mixed crowd of teachers, teacher leaders and administrators providing an abbreviated version of her book, highlighting critical components of the planning required before engaging in difficult conversations.



Abrams shared the research behind critical tensions that may exist before, during and after conversations that come from tensions that surface and competing commitments, chapter 2 in the book. She encouraged participants to reflect on why we hesitate to have those hard conversations and then ask the question, “what wins out when we don’t speak up?”

Abrams encourages all to review a list of questions prior to having the hard conversation. She states that the most important part of the work is the thinking and outcome mapping prior to the conversation. In addition to reviewing the questions, Abrams suggests following the scripting protocols provided in the book to assist in the preparation.

Along with delicious snacks, during the session, participants were provided with a tour of the book, time to reflect and talk with table partners. One participant shared that this professional learning provided “the most practical tools I have received in a PD that I can use tomorrow.”

