Well done. I would like to use your interview as an example of teacher interview for future students.

For my teacher interview, I interviewed my former third, fourth and fifth special education teacher. This teacher is from NAME OF SCHOOL AND. NAME OF SCHOOL demographics consist of low and middle class students and families, and also being a multicultural population which consists of predominately white and African Americans, Hispanics. When I asked the teacher the question “What is the teacher/administrator’s role in understanding children and family values”, my teacher responded by saying “A teachers role is to talk to the child, observe the child, to interact with parents to gain an understanding of the child. You have to get to know the child as “the whole child”. It is very important to be aware of the “whole child” through listening, observations, talking, and interacting with the child. You have to be an active educator. If you do not understand the child, your not going to be able to teach the child effectively or meet the needs of the child if the child may have a learning need.

When I asked the teacher, “What does the teacher/administration do to support their belief”, my teacher explained some examples that she does to support the student’s belief. She said that to support her students beliefs, she would change the name if they were having a Christmas Party to Holidays Around The World so that all of her children can participate at the party in the classroom since she has some students in her class that celebrate Hanukah, Jehovah Witness holidays, and some Kwanzaa holidays. She would
change the name so that none of her students would feel left out, and so that all of her students can be included and can all participate in the party even if they do not celebrate Christmas.

When I asked my teacher “Who is involved in the classroom-families, volunteers, community groups”, my teacher stated that she includes everyone from families, volunteers, and community groups to have them come into the classroom. She as the teacher involves families by having them come in and share their cultural aspects. For example, the teacher has students have come from backgrounds such as being Russian, Irish, and Puerto Rican, so the teacher would have their students families bring in all different types of foods from the different backgrounds so not only the student can share what his background is, but to also teach the students and show that everyone is the same but they come from different backgrounds and that we should all accept everyone who comes from different backgrounds because we are all the same.

When I asked the teacher, “What is the philosophy behind this type of involvement”, the teacher explained that her philosophy is to instill a sense of acceptance at a young age, and that children need to be aware of outside cultures and children’s homes. When I asked the teacher, “Has this level of involvement changed over the teacher/administration’s career”, the teacher said no because she stated that it hasn’t changed because that has always been her philosophy to broaden her student’s awareness and other people. When I asked the teacher, “Are there any special interest groups who influence decisions regarding curricula? If so, is this influence positive or negative”, the teacher said No, not that I am aware of.

Comment [s3]: Very diverse program.
When I asked the teacher, “What could be done to better support the teacher/administrator’s efforts with families and communities, she explained that for when it comes to the families, more teachers need to have a level of interest in getting to know their students and values, to reach out to parents other than just letting the parents know if their child is misbehaving, or good grade on test, etc. By having a level of interest in your students and their values, and by reaching out to the parents many times, that when you develop a positive working relationship with parents and that when you learn their values because it works hand in hand. For the community, she said, from her point of view, public perception needs to be improved about teachers in general because many people complain by saying teacher’s are not worth their pay, their off all summer, etc. People in the community do not realize that teachers work hard and do not just sit at a desk all day. Teachers have to interact with all the students, the parents, their staff and administration. Most teachers put a lot of effort in their work and what they do. I think people, like the school board members, state government needs to be more supportive of teachers because of the hard work they put in. When some parents hear other parents or people complaining about it, other people and parents automatically agree with what the other people say. The value isn’t there anymore when it comes to teachers for example, like you can punish a student, and the parent will fight it and not support it.

Nothing surprised me about the interview up until I got up to the question when I asked the teacher if there were any special interest groups who influences decisions regarding curricula, and if there were, if this influence was a positive one or a negative one. Other than just that one question, the interview turned out to be really well because the teacher answered the questions the way I would of answered if I was in her shoes as a
third, fourth, and fifth grade special education teacher. What was good about the interview was that she was giving some well-supported examples with each question that I asked her.

The teacher/administration’s philosophy on building family and community partnerships would be that with more efforts with families, teachers need to have an interest in getting to know their students and their values by reaching out to parents a lot other than just telling the parents by phone or email or conference that their child is misbehaving or that their child got a good grade on their math test. By doing this, you develop a positive working relationship with parents and the child and that is when you learn their values because it works hand in hand. From the community, public perception needs to improve about teachers in general because a lot of people complain that teachers are not worth their pay, and that they are off all summer. People in the community do not realize that teachers work hard and they think that teachers just sit at their desks all day long and do not work hard at what they do. A teacher’s job is very hard because they have to interact with all the students, parents, administration and staff. Most teachers put a lot of effort in their work and what they do. I think people like the school board committee members, state government need to be more supportive of teachers because the value is not there anymore when it comes to teachers and teaching. The last thing is to have more families and or parents volunteer more to be apart of the classroom such as sharing different foods from their ethnic background, and also having an open house for their classroom by displaying art work done by the students during education week in November so that the parents can see what their child does, and how wonderful and
creative their artwork or other work displayed is. The more that parents or families are involved with their child in school, the more successful the child will be.

The parties that are involved in the classroom are the main special education teacher, the one I interviewed, and also two aids in the classroom. The philosophy behind this type of involvement is that it is a smaller size classroom allowing the students to have more individualized attention regarding their disability. This also allows the students to have them focus on the help they need, and to not be worried so much about being in the main classroom. The reason for behind this philosophy is that the smaller classroom setting helps to better give individualized teaching. Smaller classroom setting helps the learning support child feel comfortable and safe in the classroom which enables the child to flourish and be academically successful. This type of involvement hasn’t changed over time because the teacher has always supported this philosophy and always stuck to this philosophy to help broaden the student’s minds. Statistics show that student’s who have more special attention in the classroom, have a greater chance of mainstreaming back into the classroom.

My reflection on my own philosophy is that I believe that you should get to know your students really well individually and provide a good relationship with them so that it can help you teach them and help them become successful as the teacher and for the student. I also believe that you should have a good relationship with the family throughout the whole school year, so it can create a strong connection between you and the family and help you as the teacher help the student succeed. I would also accommodate any kind of learners that I have in my classroom because I may have average learners, learning disabled learners, and also gifted learners, and I would have to
accommodate every type of student I have for them to be successful in the classroom and with being successful as the teacher. I also believe in that you as the teacher should be supportive of your students in the classroom, care about them so much because you want them to succeed in the classroom, and be there for them in every situation incase they need you or need your help if they are struggling with possibly their schoolwork, a certain problem, etc.

I also believe in that as a teacher, you should have parental involvement in and out of the classroom through out the whole school years so that the parents can see how you teach their students and that if more parents are involved with their children in school, the more successful the child will be. Examples at how you would do this, is by welcoming parents and volunteers to come in the classroom during reading time and have the students read to their parents, have parents come at volunteer for field trips that the class does together, and also have parents come in the classroom and volunteer to bake or cook a certain foods to bring in the classroom whether we are talking about different holidays or cultures families celebrate. I also believe in that along with having a good relationship with the student and the parents/families, you should have an open communication between the student and the parents/families either by emailing, conferencing, phone calls, and most importantly weekly written reports sent home to update and keep updating with the parents about their child in the classroom.

My philosophy compares with the teacher and administrators philosophy in many examples. One of the philosophy examples that connect with mine is when the teacher stated that she feels that you should as the teacher gain and understanding of the child as (the whole child), and be able to interact with the child through listening, observations,
talking, and interactions because it’s important. Its important if you do not understand the child, you can not effectively teach well and be an active educator. To effectively teach well, you must observe the child, and interact with the parents to gain an understanding of the child because you could have some children in your classroom that may have a learning need and may need your assistance and help and if you understand the parent and the child, it makes an interaction. That part of the teachers philosophy connects with mine because I believe too that you should get to know the parents and the child individually to help them become successful and to have an open great communication and relationship with the parents and the child so that you can have a great bond with them, and that it will help the child become successful by constantly keeping in touch with the parents and by also having written weekly updates about the child. She explained that by supporting this belief, she would as the teacher change Christmas parties to Holidays around the world parties in the classroom to support and acknowledge different kinds of cultures and holidays that students celebrate because not everybody celebrates Christmas. Another example of how the teacher’s philosophy connects with mine is when the teacher explained that having families come in and having them be involved in the classroom to either share cultural aspects and ethnics, or either when the teacher has certain events in the classroom. For example to support what the teacher said, is that she would have families and parents bring in baked or cooked foods if students come from backgrounds such as being Puerto Rican, Irish, Spanish, Russian, and either holidays such as Hanukah, Kwanzaa, or Christmas to instill a sense of acceptance and to teach and show that everyone is the same and that you should accept everyone. That part philosophy connects with mine because I believe that parental involvement is important
in the classroom with the students because if parents/families or volunteers are involved throughout the whole school years, parents can see how their child is being taught, and that if more parents are involved with their children in school, the more successful the child will be. Examples at how you would do this, is by welcoming parents and volunteers to come in the classroom during reading time and have the students read to their parents, have parents come at volunteer for field trips that the class does together, and also have parents come in the classroom and volunteer to bake or cook a certain foods to bring in the classroom whether we are talking about different holidays or cultures families celebrate.

The three ideas I would do and come up with to strengthen ties between school, home, and community is that I would have is if the school is having a program called Acceptance Day to help teach students in the school that everyone is the different and unique in their own way, I would help and seek out to the community and parents and volunteers by putting up flyers to all the towns and sending home copies of the event so that the parents can look at it, and I would have the parents come in and also ask the volunteers to possibly come in and speak and be presenters and talk about accepting people, and also too if parents wanted to come and speak too and just come to see what Acceptance Day is like. Another idea is to have every grade in elementary schools donate their time and take local field trips and visit senior citizen places and retirement homes and have the children spend their time whether by reading books to the elderly, interacting with them, and help cleaning up the outside grounds of the retirement home, and either playing games with the elderly. Another idea is to have local fundraisers and seek out to the community and ask volunteers to donate either used books to different
local daycares if some daycares are in need for books or to donate used books to families in need, or local children’s hospitals. Another way is to also donate food to local churches or different food banks for families in need for food, clothing, jackets, shoes or blankets to help and reach out to the community and help those in need who need help.