Leadership Barrow Session 2 September 21, 2022

Today Leadership Barrow Invaded Barrow County Schools. We got to be Principals for a day. We were privileged to see the ins and outs and the challenges and triumphs of being a principal in Barrow County Schools. We met teachers and students when we popped into classrooms to check them out. I can honestly say that every single one of us was impacted that day. “It was a transformative Experience. I saw the love and the care in the classrooms,” said Billy Porter. I must be honest, and coming from Gwinnett County, I didn’t have high expectations. My kids go to Barrow County Schools, and I still didn’t know what to expect really. Many of our Leadership Barrow classmates said similar things. Robin Martinelli lives in Gwinnett County and went to Statham Elementary School, and she had this to say about them. “It was like a private school on steroids, I want my kids to move here so that their kids can go here.”

I spent my day at AIM at CFIT, Arts and Innovation Magnet at the Center for Innovative Teaching. I was completely blown away. Every teacher and staff that I met at AIM was so passionate about what they do and why they are there. Alex Holman Principal said, “Learning should be fun!” That is one of the guiding principals there at AIM. One teacher doesn’t even have desks in her classroom. They are so active and interactive that desks would be a hindrance. So many of our Leaders had similar experiences. Everyone needs to know what an amazing job our schools are doing!

After the half day at the schools, we met up at the Barrow County Schools Central office and Professional Development Center. We heard from Ellen Petree about the Partners in Education Program and Sherry Perry about the mentoring program as well as Superintendent Dr. Chris McMichael. As leaders we need to plug in as Dr. Chris McMichael says **"You need a strong community to have a strong school system. Conversely, you can't have a strong community without a strong school system. The two have to work hand-in-hand to realize true success." If you are interested in the nuts and bolts of our school system, go to** [**https://www.barrow.k12.ga.us/**](https://www.barrow.k12.ga.us/) **and check out the State of the Schools presentation, it’s on the home page. Our school system is truly exceptional. They are looking forward and are really working with the local businesses to meet their needs and in turn meeting the needs of the students in the community as well. Shenley Rountree said it the best “The roles of the schools have changed over the years. It’s not just teaching content anymore. Its about more than that.” Thank a teacher or school staff member and know they are truly making a difference, not just in our children but in our future and the future of our community. Our community will continue to grow and change, and we need to be thankful for our teachers and staff members that are guiding us and our children through those challenges and changes.**