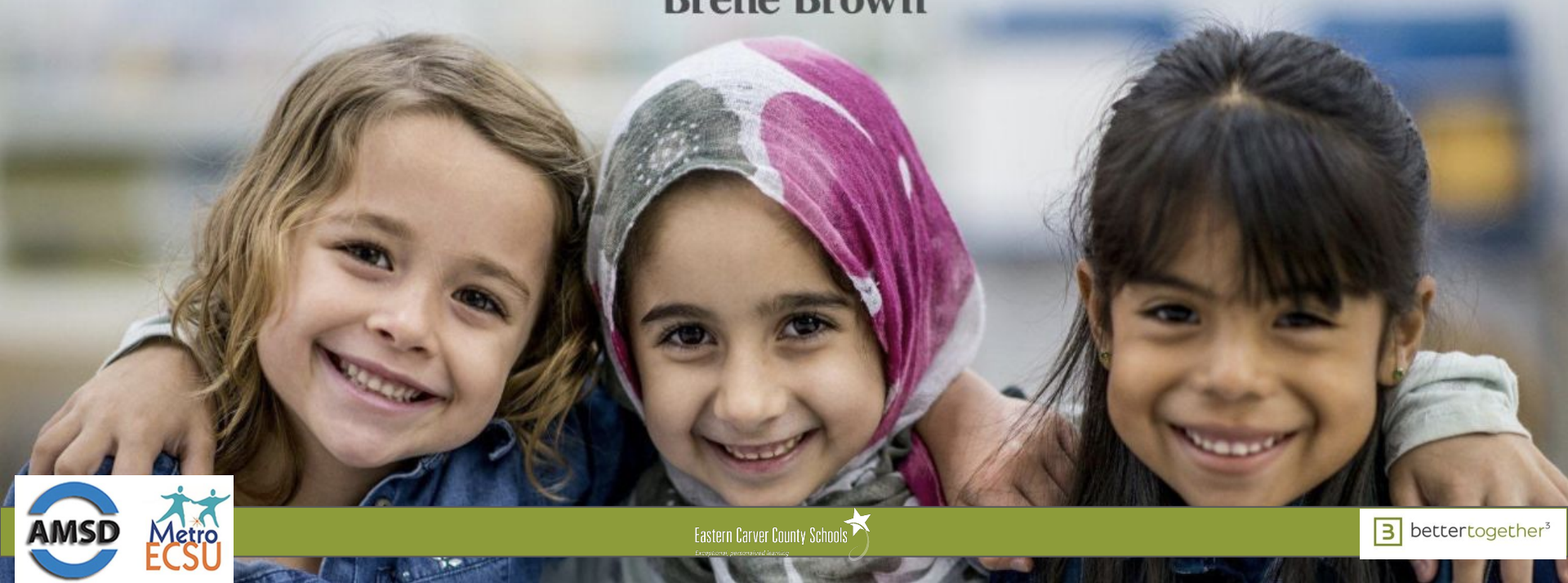


# *Daring leaders create cultures of belonging.*

Brené Brown



# Pam Ryan Mejia & Pete Morse



Certified Global Dare to Lead™  
Facilitator, Educator, Coach, Author,  
Mom of 5



Principal, Leader of Courage and  
Connection, Cancer Survivor, Father  
of 3

# Building Safe, Brave, Soft Spaces



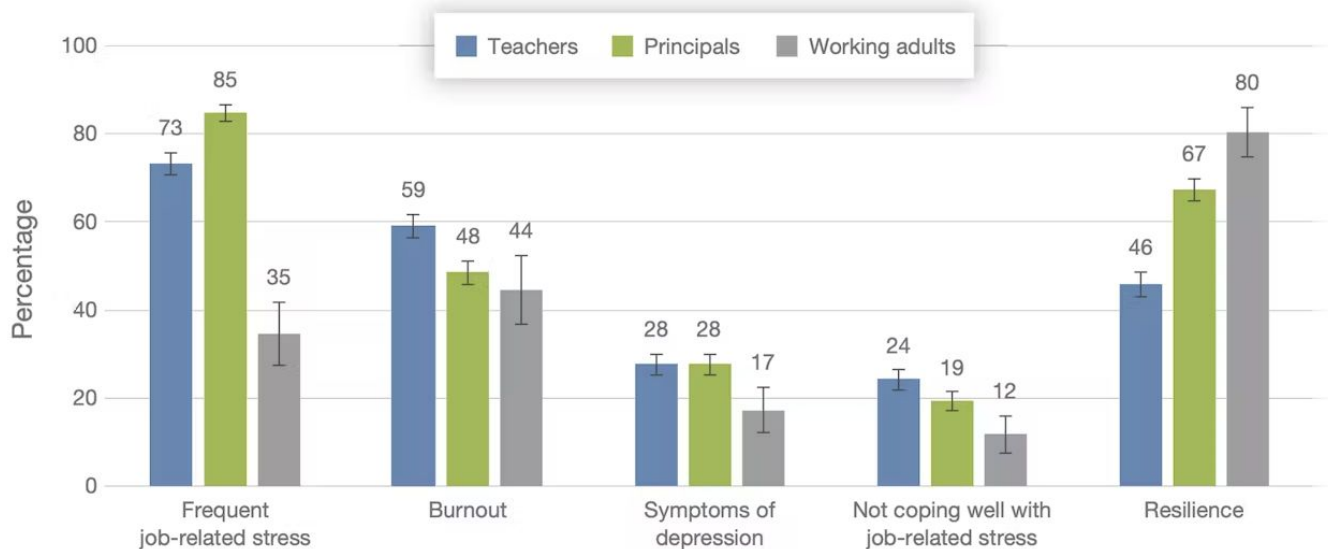
*What we are ethically called to do is create a safe, (brave, soft) space in our schools and classrooms where all students(and adults) can walk in and, for that day or hour, take off the crushing weight of their armor, hang it on a rack, and open their heart to truly be seen.*

Brené Brown (Sonya Renee Taylor)

# The State of Education Right Now

FIGURE 1

Well-Being of Teachers, Principals, and Working Adults in January 2022



Source: RAND Corporation State of the American Principal survey (2022)

# Design Opportunities for Adults to Connect, Heal, and Cultivate Their Own SEL Competencies

- ❑ **Allow space for connection and healing**
- ❑ **Provide professional learning**
- ❑ **Maximize staff connections**

*The pandemic has underscored social and emotional learning as an essential part of high-quality education—highlighting our relationships, resiliency and collective problem-solving as fundamental to teaching and learning.*

*#caselcares*



# Building a Supported School Community



- ❑ Building a Structure for Staff to Connect and Experience SEL
- ❑ Focusing on Student SEL & Well-Being within Current Structures: No Add On!
- ❑ Engaging Parents and Caregivers



# Building Safe, Soft Spaces for Staff to Connect and Experience SEL

- ❑ Belonging and Identity
- ❑ Building Psychological Safety
- ❑ Boundaries and Balance
- ❑ Vulnerability
- ❑ Empathy
- ❑ Self Care
- ❑ Managing Stress and Overwhelm
- ❑ Mindfulness
- ❑ Emotional Literacy
- ❑ Trust





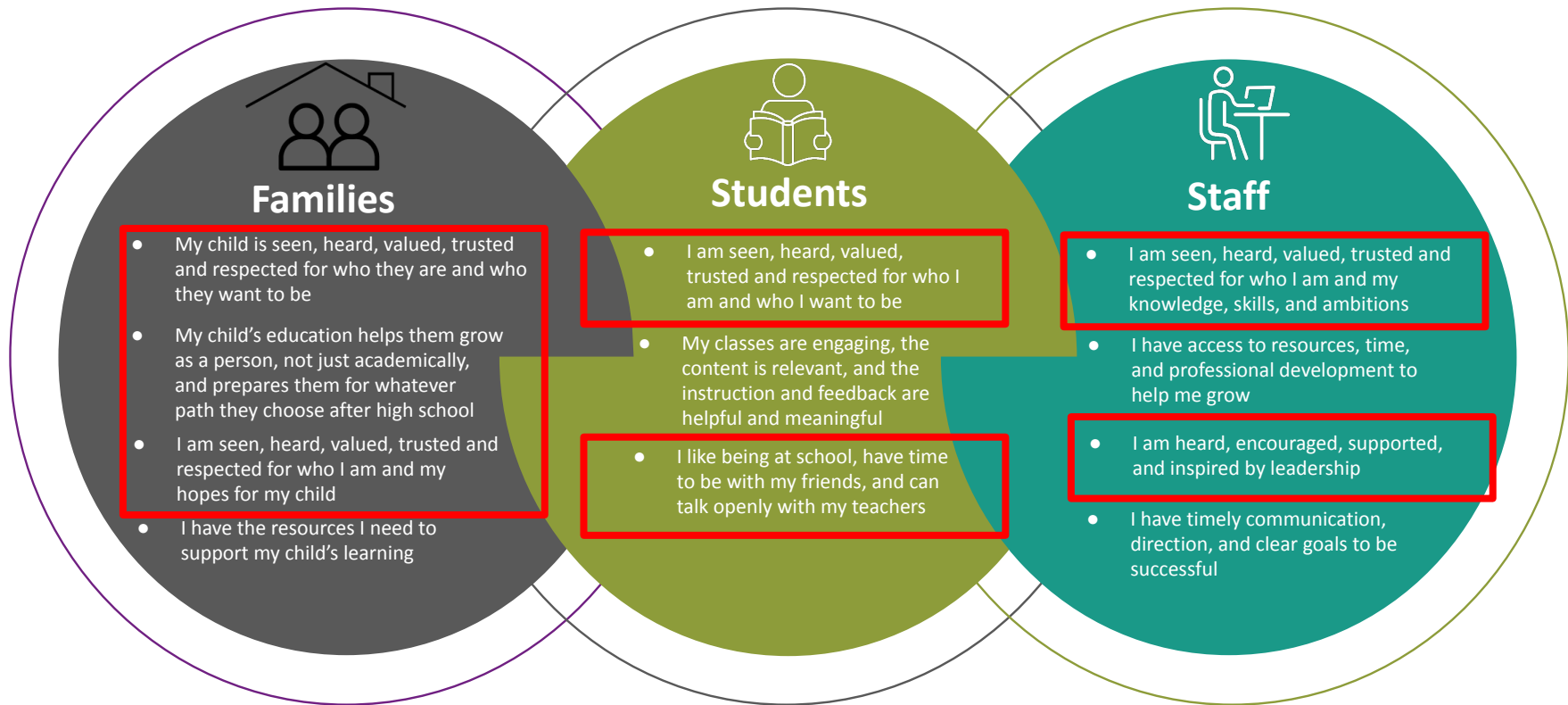
## What is your story? Go way back.



- ☐ What parts feel important?
- ☐ What experiences have shaped you?
- ☐ What positive and challenging relationships shaped how you connect with others?
- ☐ What setbacks and successes belong in your story?



# DESIRED DAILY EXPERIENCE



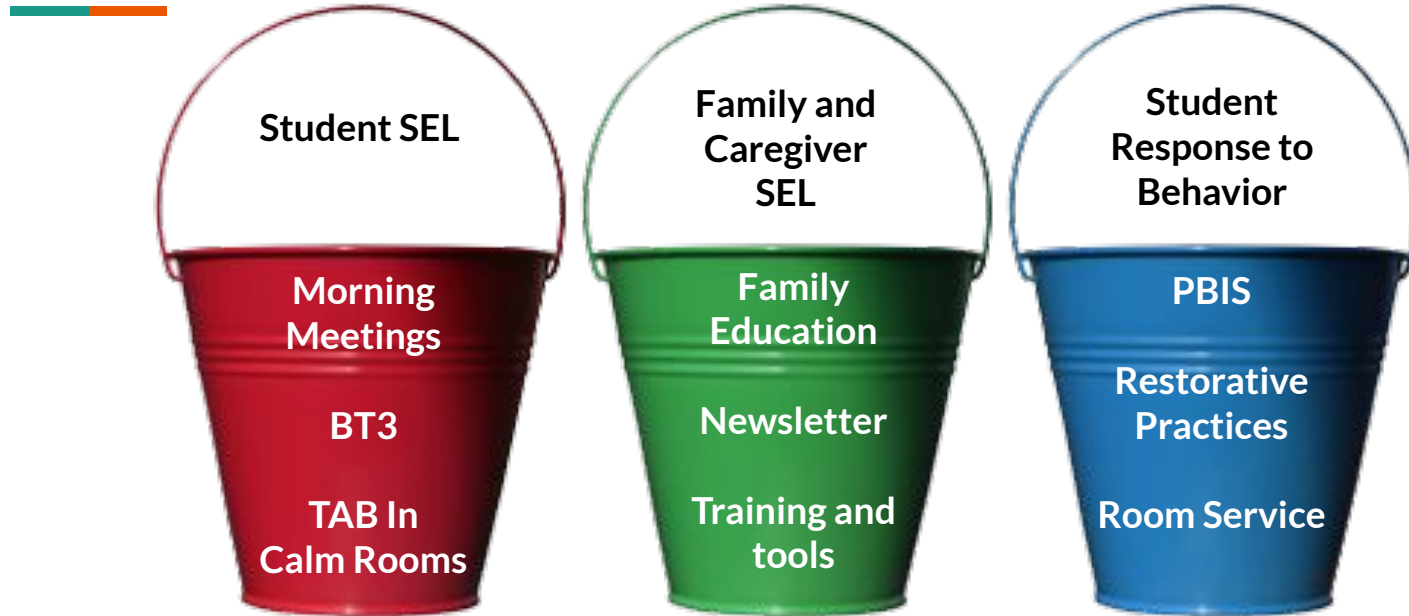
# Not new or more, just improved



**Our goal:**  
**Build Common Language and Tools**  
**Consistent Use**  
**Restorative Accountability**

# Focusing on Student SEL & Well-Being within Current Structures:

## No Add On!



# Questions?

Pete Morse

[morsep@district112.org](mailto:morsep@district112.org)

Pam Ryan Mejia

[pam@bettertogethercubed.com](mailto:pam@bettertogethercubed.com)

