

10-2022 - *What is the Role of Public Education in our Community?*

About 30 local citizens with an interest in public education participated in the Constitution Day Community Deliberative Roundtable on September 17th. The event was organized and hosted by David Hutchinson, president of Constitution Day Centre, who has worked with our branch in the past on educational forums. The goal of this roundtable was to convene education professionals, parents, and community members to discuss the main question: *What is the Role of Public Education in our Community?* Learn more:

<https://www.centredaily.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/article265601756.html>

Three separate groups discussed how well-prepared today's students are for college and career, and whether the schools can do anything differently. Although we didn't have answers to all the questions, we did discuss topics of interest. In my group, there was general curiosity about the state of civics education and whether students are adequately prepared for responsible citizenship. We considered important the development of skills such as critical-thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity to navigate in our more complex world.

We felt it was important to understand how students develop agency, or the capacity to have the power and resources to optimize their potential. Since today's students are likely to have several careers in their lifetime, we felt that education should be broad and prepare students for a multicultural society. The Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Civics and Government are available to the public at:

<https://www.stateboard.education.pa.gov/Documents/Regulations%20and%20Statements/State%20Academic%20Standards/CIVICSANDGOVERNMENT.pdf>

If you would like to engage in discussions like this, join the Education Committee!

--Carol Hodes, Education Committee Chair, carolhodes@yahoo.com