"My question is: Are we making an impact?"

MONDAY, JANUARY 13
What Counts?

Dr. Jim Power, Principal
Upper Canada College
Toronto
What do schools usually count?

• Test scores?

• University placement?

• The success of alumni?
The Lamp Post

• What do we “see”?  

• What is in the dark?
Why Count?

- Accountability
- Guide school improvement and strategic plans
- Engage stakeholders
- Transparency
Who Cares?

• Board of Governors
• Donors
• Alumni
• Parents
And.....

- Faculty and staff
- Students
Quantitative Data

- Test scores
- University Placement
- Number of alumni who finish university
Possibilities and Challenges
Quantitative Data

- Can be limiting
- Tends to measure what is under the light of the lamp post
- The “high scores” you love...the next year the “low scores” ....
Qualitative Data

- Stories
- Case Studies
- Observations
Possibilities and Challenges

Qualitative Data

• Adds a richness to “traditional counting”.

• Values the perspective of teachers and often, students.

• Can be viewed as “soft” and not based in fact.
Communication

- Transparency about the use of survey and other data gathering.

- How to communicate?
What Really Counts?

Dear Dr. Power,

We need to meet. We are not happy with this middle school idea. We want to talk to you about why this is not a good idea. We have a petition.

Zak