CONNECTING NETWORK

by:

John R. Quiroz

School Principal I, Mariveles National High School – Batangas II

Most of the people nowadays are very much aware on the concept of educators being the second parents of the learners in school. Whatever age bracket does a teacher belong, he or she must take the position of being a temporary guardian of all the students. Although learners are really in good hands most of the time while they are being watched over by their teachers, still, the concept of the actual parents being involved in school-related concepts counts more than just having the educators guide their children. Especially today that many of the teachers are still in a low age bracket, parental collaboration is of very much necessity. As parents, they could understand more what the learners may be going through and how they could help in any way. There are also learners who are too undisciplined when it comes to their attitudes and behavior yet parents could really understand where those are coming from. Though it is really impractical to have all the parents be in school everyday, there are ways which can prove that at least few among them can lead the institution hand in hand with the teachers and other staff and here comes the concept of the Parents-Teachers Association (PTA), a small yet functional group present in almost all of the educational institutions.

Making the impossible possible is somehow becoming the battle cry for PTA team as the group is having the involvement not just for the labels but for various beneficial purposes and those actions are evident in most schools. According to Blum (2016), in his letter to the parents, he stated that being able to work with a group of individuals who are very much committed to becoming support managers in each classroom is great. He even cited that those parents functioned differently though as one. Some served as communicators, organizers and some even took the roles of being the eyes and the ears
of the parents of the children studying in that school. Most of the time, what the school needs are communicators. They do not just perform the task as those who do the counseling and the like chores but more than that, they communicate internally (with the educators, student leaders, parents, principals etc.) and externally (possible stakeholders and donors for the programs, alumni, to name a few) and those tasks are very difficult since it may require them to have consistent trips and the like. Moreover, as organizers, the PTA tends to be the chairmen of most of the programs in schools. They do voluntary works so the teachers will have lesser works to do. Community service is one among the things that parents are being involved in when it comes to organizing the school itself. Parents of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) recipients are actually doing community service such as doing gardening and cleaning the school whenever they are asked to do so. This will not just benefit the school for beautification purpose but even the learners not to acquire diseases which may be caused from unhealthy environment.

Alike from how Blum has expressed appreciation over the roles of PTA in the school, Kabera (2018) claimed that the day to day involvement of parents in school reflects the general outlook and performance of the institution itself. He cited various studies indicating the flux in the overall performance of schools compared to schools which do not have PTA as a primary team collaborating with the school officials and staff. In such perspective, it can be concluded that the group has been very significant in other more points such that they were also able to contribute prior to uplifting the spirits of discipline in the school and even in implementing programs for income generation. All those tasks cannot be performed by educators alone thus, a help by a hand or two could really pivot the plans. In the country, one among the prime and foremost chore being performed by PTA team is the solicitation of goods and financial support for the conduct of Brigada Eskwela which is being done yearly before the academic year starts. This broadens the possibility and multiplies the resources so things which may be needed can be fixed and the lack of classroom equipment will gain allocation.
The association moreover caters Parenting seminar for the parents of the learners and this is a very essential program so every guardian will be informed on how they must discipline and guide their kids. Through this, learners even at early age surely will be guided accordingly and will become agents of good quality attitude and behavior anywhere they will go to.

Roles being performed by the PTA are countless but all among which are very significant in nature and could really put the system into betterment in various aspects. PTA serves as the chains that support and strengthen the foundations of a functional school. There are various things that educators themselves cannot do alone and they surely will need some individuals and it will be better if those people will be the parents themselves so they could collaborate and incorporate with the institution while integrating and using their wisdom in nourishing their children. Organized system of educators and school officials means good performance but such with strong and sturdy bond and support from parents would really indicate excellence at all cost.

References:
