CULTIVATING SCHOOL-STAKEHOLDERS PARTNERSHIP

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School never runs out of issues and challenges to be addressed. Although a number of school principals have already exerted efforts to improve the school, their term is not enough to accomplish what are needed to be done. Thus, principals do continue what has been left by his predecessor.

As to what needs should be prioritized and addressed, needs’ assessment should be conducted. Next to it is planning to get things done. Usually needs include classrooms, armchairs, desks, textbooks, tables, chairs, repairs, WINS requirements, and the like. But financial resource has always been an issue because improvements cannot be implemented without fund. This is where partnership comes in. Partnership is one of the keys in creating more effective learning environments for children.

For instance, there have been shortage of armchairs where children have no choice but to bear seated with his classmate indeed, it caused discomfort and distraction that the children could not focus listening to the teacher. Therefore if this issue would not be addressed absolutely pupils would not perform well in the class and it would mean ineffective leadership. To overcome the problem tap a partner that could be of help. Seemingly, it could be an organization, a private individual, local government official, co-school head and others. Whatever challenge that may occur, the school head should already know who he will run to for assistance.

School principal contributes significantly to the success of the school and to the progress of individual pupils. She spearheads finding solutions to issues and challenges. As to sourcing of funds, one effective strategy is partnership with both internal and external stakeholders.
Internal stakeholders are school head’s allies to looking for partners who will adopt a particular project while external stakeholders would be the prospected partner.

To implement the plan, project proposals should be prepared and presented to the target stakeholder and this really takes a lot of nerves and charm. The need and the purity of intention should be felt by the stakeholder to ensure his support or approval. As to winning the support of the stakeholder and assuring partnership, it is important to establish formal relationships and collaborative structures to engage stakeholders. Initiating and sustaining stakeholder participation often requires creating structured opportunities ranging from developing taskforces to creating formal agreements. (Blank, Jacobson and Melaville 2012)

Sustainability is another challenge. After getting the support of a particular stakeholder, sustaining his commitment is another thing to work on. Here are some tested strategies that can be utilized: inviting the stakeholder to see the finished project, submitting accomplishment and financial report of the project, awarding of Plaque of Appreciation, making him feel that he had made a big difference and that he has a valuable contribution in the success of the team and the school, and giving him a copy of school report card. Furthermore, timing really matters because you have to grab the opportunity to get his commitment as a regular stakeholder of the school.

Moreover, “Bayanihan” a Filipino culture and tradition is a result of developed partnership. This is a great solution to problems related to work which requires labor force or financial support. When the school community members feel that you are trustworthy, transparent and eager to build a positive school culture for desirable learning outcomes support will pour out! Surely, parents and the people in the community will be by your side by all means.

“It takes a village to raise a child.” It is an old African proverb that emphasized the importance of partnership. O’keefe (2011) believes the answer to real education/school transformation is strong, authentic community connections and actions. When families, community groups, business and schools band together to support learning, young people achieve more in school, stay in school longer, and enjoy the experience more.

Thus, when partnership is developed, the school principal has allies in overcoming issues and challenges that may occur specifically in sourcing of funds to support the needs of the learners.
References:
