FILLING SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT GAPS AND ATTAINING EXCELLENCY THROUGH TRANSPARENCY

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It is very important for the people involved in an education community to know what are happening inside the school. From school policies to budget spending, everyone must be updated of these matters and other school operations to avoid conflicts such as corruption and misunderstandings among teachers, parents, school heads, administrators and other people who belong in an education community. Questions and doubts would be given answers and clarifications if they will establish a good communication to inform everyone because building trust is one of the major steps to establish a pleasant relationship between each other and this can make school success more possible.

According to Katrina Schwartz (2014), "to meet the challenges of teaching in an increasingly connected world, school leaders, educators and community members could benefit from building a culture of transparency and connectivity, creating a culture of sharing around the successes and struggles of teaching and learning." Uncovering things that people do not know can help everyone understand why such decisions were made, how does the school able to have those outcomes and what operations do they perform regularly to achieve school excellency. Openness to each other can bring out innovative ideas which can contribute a lot for the betterment of the school.
School administration must practice transparency when it comes to finances in able to combat the possibility of corruption and prevent issues related to budget and school funds. As much as possible, every end of the school year, the school must present their financial statement so that people in their school community would have an idea how the budget was spent, where did the fund go and if the expenses were spent properly and there were no loopholes in budget spending. Everyone must be aware of the financial statement to assure if the finances support school programs, activities and operations that prioritize the holistic growth and development of the students and teachers as well.

Aside from this, school's goals and initiatives must also be made available to the public. Doug Johnson (2014) said that "your school's strategic plans, annual improvement plans, and metrics of accomplishment should be available online, with a means for stakeholders to comment on them." It also enables others to be involved in creating vision, plans and goals. Using social media platforms could be a great help, if the school cannot establish a website. Also, they may also provide printed materials, bulletin boards and posters to be displayed in the school so that every one who will visit the school will be informed about their goals and initiatives.

Further, they must also frequently share data about test scores, retention rates, advanced placement participation, and other metrics that indicate progress. There should also be transparency when it comes to curriculum and grading system for the parents to be informed what their children need to know and what to do to successfully comply with the requirements in able to complete the school year without failing remarks. This can contribute so students' academic success because they will be guided by their parents even at home. If the curriculum, grading system and education procedures fail to be communicated to parents, this would jeopardize the students' school performance.
Also, teachers should share their resources and ideas with each other, seek answers to teaching problems and encourage innovation because this kind of transparent collaboration will improve teaching. They must also share in what areas they are weak or need improvement so that other teachers could help them teach better and would be able to provide quality teaching to students. Transparency among teachers could also be practiced by providing the records of the students so that their parents would be able to know how did their children come up to that particular grade. This could also help parents discern on what areas in learning do the students must still be improved.

Through these practices of school transparency, they would be able to know what are needed to be improved, what could be done to solve problems, exploring best options for students’ holistic development and to understand how the school is doing overall. Information dissemination is important in every school. As the International Institute for Educational Planning Policy Forum said, with open data, education officials and the public-at-large can monitor educational progress and identify any bottlenecks and malpractices in the system.

References:

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