SCHOOL LEADERS’ ROLES IN THIS TIME OF CRISIS

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How do school leaders handle the school operations given the existing conditions? What do they need to consider? These are some of the questions that school leaders have to answer in this time of crisis.

School leaders like principal and school heads have big shoes to fill to support school operations and learning. First, they are manned to handle the situation following the standard safety protocols released by the government and the health department to protect teachers, parents, and students from the virus. They should device a concrete program of action for the school in order to fine-tune the whole process, starting from fixing a work schedule for all teachers and classroom program of the learners to the distribution, retrieval, and sorting of the modules. Also, they have to arrange the set-up of other school personnel to continue providing services for the stakeholders.

Another part of the leaders is to make a decision and must act promptly based on the needs of the school. According to Netolicky (2020), when there is a crisis, leaders must act quickly but also they have to consider several options and the effects of the actions. Indeed, leaders have to act wisely when making decision. They have to expect the possible outcomes of a plan and think through some alternatives to avoid any chaos. An example of it is through assigning reliever for every teacher that is tasked to issue and recover modules so that if the teacher-adviser did not make it, there is someone who will take charge of the responsibility.

In addition, since leaders are the ones responsible on making decision, it must be for the safety and betterment of all the members of the faculty. They have to consider the
existing health condition of each teacher, distance from the school, and age. They also need to think of the available resources that the teacher has before giving online synchronous class, such as Internet connectivity and gadgets.

Another role of the school leaders is that they have to be responsive at all time. Being responsive means being approachable, particularly with the school operation and the students and parents’ concern. Schools leaders are tasked to respond appropriately at all times. They should understand the situation to avoid aggravating any problem. When they need to make judgement or decision, it should be for the benefits of the school and the stakeholders. This relationship should be strengthened through the help of the school leaders.

As the website of Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL), effective school leaders should understand and respond appropriately to the different contextual demands that they are facing right now. The education system of the Philippines is facing a lot of troubles. It would be a big boost to the teachers, students, and parents if the school leaders understand it, establish a plan to continue its operation, make some alternatives to eliminate problems, understand the situation of the school personnel to serve the learners, make simple but meaningful decision, and implement it accordingly to have a positive outcome.

At the end, school leaders should act with prudence and should consider all concerns.

References: