THE ABC OF BUILDING STRONG SCHOOL CULTURE

by:
Charles N. Peña
Head Teacher III, Mariveles National High School - Poblacion

How can we say that a school is performing well and good? Most of us would say it’s all about the academic standing of the students and the school itself, the NAT rating, the breed of graduates it produced, the quality of teachers it has and the kind of management the school practices. All of these fall to ---The School Culture.

Is it important to talk about? All of us will agree that academic and social development of students are refined inside the school. But how can we secure the level of commitment of the school to the delivery of basic, quality and accessible education to our children amidst the reform in education? This is how important the school culture is since it stretches its prodigious role in the school and the society. It involves all the aspects needed to run a school well. This includes both written and unwritten policies, instructions, academic status, the school’s performance, teachers and students’ profile and the level of involvement of teachers, parents, students and the administration to the school. Thus, school culture is the overall impression from the community.

How to achieve a good school culture then?

Here is the A-B-C of Strong School Culture.

A. **Accessible.** The school should provide access not only for students but also for the teachers and its stakeholders. It brings sound relationship among its people. Sustained access provides meaningful development of the curriculum, programs, learning, instructions, management and the level of quality of education the school offers. The parents and stakeholders along with the school management should assure that students
come to school ready to study, learn and free from any violence. Valuing accessible education highly would be of great advantage for the progress of our mission towards the delivery of quality education for all.

B. **Bold Policy.** Coherent school policy and its implementation against more diverse and vocal stakeholders, parents and community has been a big challenge to the policy implementers. The top-down perception has been challenged also since Filipinos are practicing more their liberty in expressing their thoughts and inferences. This is where bold and realistic policy plays a vital role. It holds the strong and firm foundation in managing all aspects involving the school. Bold policy ensures positive changes to the realization of the education goal of the institution embedded within the mission, vision and core values of the department of education down to main stream of implementing units—the school. Policies that are appropriate to address the range of needs of the 21st century learners without compromising the standards of education. Bold policy that ensures safe, secured and environment friendly school. The authorities should ensure that the policies correspond to the kind of students the school have with coherence and consistency in the implementation.

C. **Consistency.** How can a school be true to its goal in building strong culture if its actions are constantly inconsistent? Consistency is one of the keys in sustaining reputable and influential school culture especially to the community, stakeholders, students and parents. They entrust their children to school which practices good and strong culture of excellence and values. We are producing the miniature of us in the lives of our children. Many times, whatever morals and values these young individuals see from us would be their morals and values too. This is how imperative consistency in building strong school culture to better serve quality and accessible education for all.

It is the role of the school to engineer student’s scholastic success, responsible on the formation of good values and be a productive citizen of this country. This starts at
home and be enhanced in school thru strong foundation of values and excellence. As a leader, one should be a firm believer of the positive effect of a consistent, honest and realistic school culture. By this, we can say that we are producing quality and valued miniatures of us from this generation.

References: