THE PRINCIPAL AS A VISIONARY

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Webster Dictionary defines a visionary as one who is seeing, or disposed to see visions, sometimes fanciful or not practical, but with the possibility to be realized. While, according to McGinnis, to be an inspiring leader you do not have to be the smartest or even the hardest-working person in the group. What it does require is that you be firm – firm in your dedication to excellence, even if it makes you temporarily unpopular. Leadership doesn’t mean winning popularity contests. The role of the principal in the country’s school system is being redefined by the Department of Education. At present schools are being prepared to be “autonomous” to give way to the different qualities of the principal that can be utilized. Like tapping resources from different government agencies and private organizations, the PTA and also private individuals for the progress of the school. This is done by the school principal because of his/her vision that funds coming from the government alone are not sufficient and he/she needs to make ways for the needs and projects of the school.

One of the benefits of being visionary is that the principal is now empowered to infuse plans, dreams, and systematic change than simply manage the school and the people in them. To be a visionary, one is expected to be dynamic and progressive mover, unlike the olden days, wherein the principals are just capitalizing on discipline. A visionary principal is one who finds ways to patch up odds with his/her people including the community. He or she must be entrusted with the formation of the intellectual as well as the general well-being of the child and the teachers.

One of his/her vision is to remedy the underachievement of the learners. This is the all-encompassing role of the school head. The highly-esteemed author, Michael Fullan, describes a principal with good visions. First, she develops knowledge, skills and dispositions. Second, he/she is expected to establish a culture characterized as a professional learning community. Third, he/she must promote program coherence. Lastly, the principal must provide access to materials, and physical aspects of the school.

A good visionary is one who is always ready for his/her moral purpose. He must prioritize students’ learning. He/she is required to commit to a vision of the school as a “community of learners” and develop a workable approach to meet this vision. The visionary principal should believe that students can learn at a high level. He/she can lead his/her teachers in reducing the achievement gap between high and low-performing students. He can produce students who are globally-competitive and foster improvements of the school in general.

A visionary principal sets high expectations and standards not only in achieving the good name of the school, but also for academic and social development.

Are you preparing your school through your firm visions?