THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL IN THIS TIME OF PANDEMIC

by:
Nixon A. Ramirez
Teacher III, Mariveles National High School – Poblacion

As many people know school is a learning center for the students. School is a vital sector of the community not only in terms of teaching and learning process, but also in times of calamity and health crisis. That is why it is a must that school has always some personnel to take charge to run its usual operation and to assist the people who need help.

But the question is: how do schools contribute to its stakeholders and in the community in this health problem? In most areas of the country, specifically those provinces and municipalities having Corona Virus Disease-19 (COVID-19) cases, schools have been used as quarantine facility and testing area. It is also used as an isolation facility to separate those infected from the people in the community to avoid the spread of the virus. When it comes to calamity, let say having a strong typhoon, it is relegated as an evacuation center for the residents who are living from the most affected areas. These individuals have to stay on the schools to ensure their safety.

How about the school personnel, like teachers and staff, what are their roles? Since the school used as a multi-purpose facility, the school leaders are the chief of the operations. The principals, as school leaders, have to be in the campus to lead the operation of the school to maintain its smooth flow of transaction and to continue serving its stakeholders. They have to explain the present condition to the stakeholders and how teachers, parents, and students can adapt to the sudden change in the system. Likewise, the head teachers serve as the stewards of the institution. Their presence is also needed in the school campus to answer the concerns of the parents that will go to the school regarding the school operation in the new normal setting of education. They have to be
there because anytime individuals and concerned people may come to school for variety of purposes like enrolment or students who will transfer for schooling, receiving donations for Brigada Eskwela, and asking the data and status of the school. Both the principal and the head teachers also serve as a front liner in this trying times. School leaders are like artists that need to be flexible whenever a change has arrived.

Let us take a look on the roles of the teachers. Teachers are the persons in-charge and assigned in the learning process so they have to do things that will benefit the learners. Teachers are dispersed to sort the modules coming from the Department of Education (DepEd). They are tasked to give modules to the parents, and then recover them on the scheduled date and time. They are manned to segregate the answer sheets of the students in every learning area. Also, they have to check the answers of the learners to assess their performance. Teachers portray a critical role in delivering quality instruction and assessment process to ensure quality education among all students in this trying times.

How about the other personnel like the security guard, clerk, and the people in the maintenance department? These individuals also play an important role for the school and for the children. The security guard is in front to check the temperature of the people who arrive at school. They have to make sure that no individuals will enter on the school campus with fever or high fever. The clerk has to continue doing their clerical job because there are some reports and documents that have to prepare and pass to the division office on time. The registrar, who is in-charge of the records of the students, has to be there because there are some students who need to get their credentials. The property custodian needs to receive the modules and to process the acquisition of supplies, materials, and equipment that will be used in this time of health problem. The janitor and janitress have to be in the school to help clean and disinfect all areas of the school.

These are only some of the tasks that school and its personnel do in this time of pandemic. They may not be the front liner like a nurse, a doctor, or a policeman who
always in the stations, but they do their job with utmost effort to serve the parents, students, and other stakeholders. They make sure that the operations of the school will continue and learning will occur in different modalities.

References:
