The School Principal as a Good Leader

by

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An anonymous writer said, “Change is inevitable. Progress is certain.” The reality is that the future lies in the school today. Much will depend on how people are being educated. The present day principal must realize that in a fast-moving world we live in today, the organization or community that unleashes the genius of its people through the best possible management, education and leadership will move forward at an unprecedented rate. Unfortunately, the organization or community that does not unleash the genius of its people through the best possible education will fall backward.

The challenge is clear for a school leader, the principal, who is creating a future in the essence of leadership. The principal is a true leader when he/she sees the bigger picture no matter what their responsibilities are. He/she must see and remind his/her fellow teachers that they should see themselves as leaders because of the critical role they play in society.

The principal as true leader should strive to be an intellectual leader who can see ideas, events and even well-disciplined camaraderie. As Sussmeth (1998) puts it, “the future-capability of society… involves rethinking in the educational sector, above all among those doing the learning and teaching.” The principal must realize that education is majestic, touching every aspect of human endeavor. He/she must prepare his/her schools and students for the future and must be connected with the complex, fast-moving world around them. The principal of the 21st century are clarifiers, critics, optimists, implementers, managers and nurturers. The present phenomenal changes include social, political, legal, economic, technological and environmental existence. For the social factor, the principal must be aware of the pulse of the society that includes the individuals, families and communities including their beliefs, separations and traditions and practices. He/she must be also aware of the political factors, which include the government, both national and local. Environmental factors include the global community that a principal must know. Equally important is the local environment like environmental degradation and other ecological damages. All these qualities must be possessed by a high school principal to effect change.

Apart from these, he/she must maintain a learning organization. Change demands learning, the principal must be ready for this. He/she must prepare his/her teachers to be ready with their upgrading of knowledge, standards and understanding; also to properly manage their time and stress and knowledge.

Based from these, a principal can really be a good leader if he/she chooses to be.

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