

Position Statement: Personal Philosophy of Curriculum Development

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No one person educates a child. It takes a team with a common vision that is willing to trust in each other and make decisions that are best for the child. Education happens when we embrace many different points of view and an open and honest forum for dialogue move forward. “School leaders need to remember that they are in this business because it’s important. Students deserve educators’ best efforts, from the principal on down” (Good, 2008). As rapidly as the world changes around us, the field of education is constantly evolving to meet the educational needs of our students. It is expected that each school support a curriculum that focuses upon rigor and critical thinking. Collaborating with various stakeholders, but particularly the teachers is imperative. Professional development workshops and professional learning communities must be in place to support teachers in developing the curriculum, while meeting the standards, multiple assessments, lesson design, and the core and foundation of supporting the school’s mission and vision. “The need for teacher understanding and efficacy when implementing a new curriculum is apparent, especially considering the impact of these factors on student learning” (Nevenglosky, Cale & Aguilar 2019). Creating a conversation with productive feedback will enhance the process, while supporting the learning community.

In developing a challenging curriculum that supports and follows the standards and state guidelines, an educational leader must continue to develop and grow both professionally and personally. As a leader, I must embrace the changes of the educational system in order to successfully support staff, students, and community. “Literature suggests that one of the major challenges is infusing technology into the curriculum” (Ugur & Koc, 2019). In response to the changing demands and expectations placed on schools, infusing technology into the curriculum

is imperative. As technology evolves, administrator skill sets must change to remain current (Ugur & Koc, 2019). Through technology, educational leaders can support differentiation, create multiple assessments, but also enable teachers to have a sense of autonomy in their classrooms. My role as an educational leader is imperative in creating a culture of change and a culture of excellence that supports the curriculum. “Study after study points to the principal as the single key to a strong school culture. Having an effective principal in a school is nearly as important as having an effective teacher in the classroom” (“Achieve”, 2012).

Design, development and implementation of curriculum means listening to the constructive and appropriate suggestions of all members of the learning community. Students and parents should be involved in the development of the mission and goals for the school. Involving stakeholders in the planning and development process will ensure that all involved are supporting college and career readiness for students. A whole-school well-being intervention would be any approach to human flourishing that is designed to train and impact every stakeholder within a school’s ecosystem—including teachers, students, administrators, superintendents, family members, and greater communities (Bradley, Cordaro, & Zhu, 2018). By recruiting dedicated and skilled teachers, with strategic focus upon teacher retention, we can empower, improve, and strengthen the already rigorous curriculum. Providing learning support programs for students with special needs and concentrated upon authentic assessment and balanced reporting of student progress. It is critical that programs preparing those who will step up to lead our nation’s schools are grounded in principles that create equitable learning opportunities for all children (Woods & Hauser, 2013). Through the involvement of the learning

community, the school will be values driven, supporting the high standards imposed by the state, and will focus upon excellent teaching, learning, and continued growth. Collaboration and courage are the cornerstones of success.

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