

Alejandro Juarez

June 1, 2015

English-9

Mrs.Hesse

Administrators in schools only help themselves. Some administrators will get blinded by money, and the students grades, rather than what the students need to really learn, and become successful. Over the past few decades there have been several cases of an administrator not doing their best to provide for the students.

Atlanta was home to one of the largest school cheating scandals in history. This started in the early 2000's, and was recently discovered with the help of a third grade teacher. She became a witness in the case and, "admitted to Mr. Hyde that she was one of seven teachers ,nicknamed "the chosen" ,who sat in a locked windowless room every afternoon during the week of state testing, raising students' scores by erasing wrong answers and making them right"("Ex-Schools Chief in Atlanta Is Indicted in Testing Scandal"1). This unraveled to something more than just a few teachers trying to get a bump in pay. while investigating this case, prosecutors found that over 30 administrators and teachers were involved.("Ex-Schools Chief in Atlanta Is Indicted in Testing Scandal"). It was stated in the article that,"Dr. Hall, who retired in 2011, was charged with racketeering, theft, influencing witnesses, conspiracy and making false statements. Prosecutors recommended a \$7.5 million bond for her; she could face up to 45 years in prison"("Ex-Schools Chief in Atlanta Is Indicted in Testing Scandal"). This is a prime example

of how an administrator can be punished for such crimes like cheating. Sadly this retired superintendent died and never served her sentence. Her death was sudden and she will be remembered not for being a great superintendent, but a cheater that took the spoils of her actions. Some may argue that requirements make superintendents go to such lengths, but cheating can never be justifiable and is morally wrong.

On the other side of bad administrators are those who take advantage of the power that is given to them. An example of this could be a case at Largo High School, where a principal was harassing teachers. The principal's name was Angelique Simpson-Marcus, and she became the principal in 2007(“School board settles 2nd discrimination case involving Largo High School principal”). She was accused of harassing a teacher by, “discriminating against him because he is white”). This was not the only allegation that teachers at Largo High School brought up. She told children and parents that a teacher was,”was a bad teacher . . . poor white trash . . . and would be fired,” (“School board settles 2nd discrimination case involving Largo High School principal”). This is an obvious play of an abusement of power by a high ranking official in the education system. Instead of abusing the power to settle arguments with teachers, a principal should communicate with the teachers to have a strong school.

Not all administrators are rotten apples, and some can really make a difference in students’ lives. A great example of this is a high school principal in Newburgh, NY named Mr. Rothman. He is the house principal of a program called Excelsior Academy. He is known for visiting classrooms often, and offering help and advice to students in need. Mr. Rothman has also helped in making a group of students’ dream come true. He helped in the creation of the

Excelsior robotics team. With his help and support of the team, the freshman, first-year team made it to the semifinals of the competition. The students even named their robot after him, and called it the “Rothminator”. This is just one example of an extraordinary administrator that wants nothing more than to see his students succeed.

Administrators in the education system can become sour. Maybe they lose sight on why they got the job in the first place, or maybe they get caught up with all the numbers and forget about the students. There will always be a few bad administrators, but the ones who truly make a difference, are the ones remembered forever.

Works Cited

Dorff, Victor. "Cheating in Atlanta: A Teachable Moment." The Huffington Post.

TheHuffingtonPost.com, 7 Apr. 2013. Web. 4 June 2015.

Wiggins, Ovetta. "School Board Settles Discrimination Case Involving Largo High Principal Who Allegedly Bullied Staff." *Washington Post*. The Washington Post, 16 Sept. 2014. Web. 4 June 2015.

Winerip, Michael. "Ex-Schools Chief in Atlanta Is Indicted in Testing Scandal." The New York Times. The New York Times, 29 Mar. 2013. Web. 4 June 2015.