

Field Experience E: Strategic Leadership and Management Functions in Practice

Discussion

Schools must join forces with their community partners that can help with the needs of the school. Local grocery stores, restaurants, department stores, organizations and law enforcement agencies are just a few examples of supportive partnerships. For instance, my sorority has a backpack initiative where we purchase and fill backpacks with supplies, then donate them to school with a large number of students in need. At almost every school I have taught, they have a partnership with local churches that often donate supplies to the school and sometimes even treats for staff.

Another strategy for developing productive community relationships is to invite local agencies to come and volunteer within the school. For example, many retired teachers and lawyers within the county serve as reading buddies for some of our struggling readers, and come at least once a week to read with their buddies. Also, members of our local sheriff and fire department visit the school and eat lunch with students, in efforts to build a positive rapport with them at a young age.

Our ultimate mission is to teach our students, making sure that they have access to the best resources and learning materials that we have to offer. When allocating resources, administrators have to put the mission and vision as priority, keeping it about the students. As much as we want to order nice things for our staff, or order a nice new marquee for our school building, it is our ethically our responsibility to put the needs of our students first.

PSEL Standards 2& 8/ Future Practice

All elements of PSEL Standard 2 and 8 relate to the responsibilities of school administrators when dealing with school resources. I used to think that school resources were only in terms of school supplies, but I not understand that schools require resources on many levels to function- human resources, materials, and stakeholders. Effectively managing resources means considering all areas of the school and utilizing them to the benefit of the school's mission and vision. There is power in communication, remaining transparent with my school community about decisions that are made, but also remembering our purpose.

National Policy Board for Educational Administration (2015). Professional Standards for Educational Leaders 2015. Reston, VA: Author