

Kayde Ries
July 24, 2013
ED 6510
Dr. David Booth

Field Experience Interview

On Tuesday July 23, 2013 I interviewed the superintendent of Taft Grade school district 90. Going into this interview I had a pretty good idea of what type of leader our superintendent is but I did learn more about his style and skills through this interview.

Through out the great discussions that we have held in class I was always looking back on my school and how things are working. There were several times that I immediately thought of my superintendent. Most of his leadership skills and characteristics are very evident just by his presence. After talking with him he had also brought up a lot of the same things we had talked about in class, I took this as a good sign.

One thing that I saw in his leadership style and he confirmed was that he is a servant leader, and also a needs-based leader. He is that person who will walk through the hall and pick up the paper that is lying on the floor, demonstrated integrity. He does this in hopes that it will show the students and staff the way he expects us to behave. He likes to give other empowerment and ownership. This is a big need in our school; once the teachers take ownership for what they do they can pass it onto the students. He believes that when the students take ownership it will help with positive behavior, which will help with positive performance.

Another positive leadership characteristic he demonstrates is his method of communication. Communication is a very important thing to have in a school. It is his belief that administrators should have a sense of openness and be welcoming. Too many teachers now are living in fear to ask questions because administrators see it as challenging authority. In reality teachers are asking these questions for pedagogical reason not to challenge. With a leader who is open and willing to explain things to you, you will feel better going in a talking with them. This will help with the communication through the entire school.

I have never noticed the weaknesses of our superintendent. There were so many strengths that he has they have overshadowed the weaknesses. In reality that is what we would all like the ability to do. Know our weaknesses but not let them show. I really enjoyed this part of the interview because he was so honest with what he considers to be his weaknesses. One of the weaknesses would be he gets very emotionally involved in everything that he does. An example of that would be he gets wrapped up in one family's story that he does not fairly spread him self around to others. Another weaknesses that he has in that he becomes very frustrated when his staff does not meet his very high expectations. He holds his staff to the same expectations as himself. It is a good thing for him to do this but he can't get frustrated that not every one is as achieving, or motivated as he. Instead of getting frustrated he should try and motivate his staff to want to do more, to want to be better.

I have learned a lot from interview experience. I am very glad that I got the opportunity to do this, because I see what strengths and skills I want to have as a

leader. The fact that he was so honest and open with his answers was an unusual experience. I hope that he stays around for many years so that I can continue to learn from him.