Public Education & The Crisis in American   Schools

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    - *Too Important To Fail*

The challenge of education is to teach the children who come, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, socioeconomic background, or gender, how to read, write, compute, appreciate the arts, speak well, and behave in socially acceptable ways, so that they can become economically independent, contributing members of society."

Lorraine Monroe

- Roots of early public education began in the 19th century with groups of families hiring private tutors for their children
- When states enacted compulsory attendance laws for students 7-16, they became more active in promoting education
- Brown v. BOE 1954 sparked the need across the nation that a strong equitable education was for **ALL** children

History in a Nutshell

- Russians launch "Sputnik" 1957 As a technical achievement, (first man-made satellite) Sputnik caught the world's attention and the American public off-guard.
- Outcome: National Defense Education Act which promoted education in math, science and foreign language.
- Creation of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- 1964 Civil Rights Act –Title I +
- 1965- ESEA –war on poverty-education vital to a child's ability to lead a productive life

Catalyst for Education Reforms

1983-Nation at Risk- *the educational foundations of our society are presently being eroded by a rising tide of mediocrity that threatens our very future as a Nation and a people.*

Goals 2000   NCLB 2002   RTTP-2009
ESEA Reauthorized 2011

38% of schools in Us are not meeting AYP goals

Thirty Years Later

- *The US failure to educate its students leaves them unprepared to compete and threatens the country's ability to thrive in a global economy.* Task Force Foreign Relations

- *There is a widening of the achievement gap between the US and other developed nations* Linda Darling-Hammond

Alarming News

- 73% of US students graduate HS
- (dropped US rating to bottom half of other countries) OECD av =84%
- 37% only are college ready
- Only 1/3 of young Americans earn a college degree

- PISA (2006) =Program for International Student Assessment:US ranked 21/30 science 25/30math
- PISA (2009)17th in Science 25th in math

Startling Statistics

- # *Student Achievement*

Focus of School Governance

- *Globalization is changing everything about how we work, how we communicate, and ultimately, how we live*. (Tom Friedman)

- Are we, educators, parents, community, state and federal government preparing students for a new world.

- Are we visionary thinkers?
- Are we ready for change?

Fast Forward

- Increased mandates at both the state and federal level
- Decreased aid and funding sources
- Increased demands for high student achievement
- Increased demands for high teacher quality
- Increased demands for quality leadership

School Governance Concerns

- Establish effective lines of communication between/among governance team and community
- Secure community support for the initiative
- Acquire knowledge/expertise on the initiative
- Quell fear in the school community
- Work with the union leadership to support the change
- Comply with state/federal regulations
- Allocate necessary resources
- As a governance team, support the initiative

Building Capacity for Change

Focus areas for boards:

- Where do we want our district to head, and what do we want to become long term
- What do we want our school district to be now and short term
- How well is district performing: educationally, administratively, and financially?

Doug Eadie

Governance as a Leadeship Tool

- Partnership= key word
- BOE/Supt
- Supt/Admin
- Admin/Staff
- All /Community

- Planning Cycle
- Clear Board Role
- Time Commitment
- Executive Support
- Board Planning Committee

Partnership

Relational trust states among teachers, parents, and school leaders improves much of the work of schools and is paramount to school reform.

Relational trust according to Bryk and Schneider are the social exchanges of schooling: teachers with students, teachers with other teachers, teachers with parents and all groups with the school principal.

When school professionals trust one another and build support in the school, a culture for learning and experimenting with new practices to improve student achievement is developed.

Principals play a key role in developing and sustaining relational trust.

Trust Building

- Build leadership from within the schools with top notch teacher leaders
- Support principals who will nurture and encourage their teachers to assume the role of leadership
- Set clear high goals for student /teacher performance
- Set time for reflective practice
- Invest in professional development-create a culture of ongoing learning that is research-based

Recommendations:

- NY 2002- NYS legislature turned over control of the city school system to the mayor
- 32 local school boards were abolished
- One central board was established
- Local v. central control
- Article by Diane *Ravitch-Why Public Schools Need Democratic Governance, Kappan,* March 2010

Thoughts to Ponder

- *To ensure that children learn what they need to know to support themselves and act in their own interests in a complex society.*   *Epstein*

GLO –Governance Learning objective

- http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2012/09/11/new-report-shows-us-lagging-on-education-indicators
- http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/series/16
- http://ourtimes.wordpress.com/2008/04/10/oecd-education-rankings/
- http://www.hks.harvard.edu/pepg/ (Program for Educational Policy & Governance)
- http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2011/graduates/

Statistical Websites

- 1) National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), administered by the U.S. Department of Education; 2) Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), administered by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); 3) Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), administered by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA); and 4) Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS), also administered by IEA.

International/National Data Sources