Ian Eddy

Final Reflection

Over the span of the leadership project I have learned a great deal about what it means to be a leader. Early into the project I felt it would be extremely difficult for me to complete projects that extended far beyond my job title. As a new teacher it was extremely hard for me to learn the innermost details about my new context and gain the trust of teachers. I worked to gain the trust of my colleagues so that I could work collaboratively with them to construct projects that would help to enhance the culture of the school.

I learned a plethora of new tools that I could use within a leadership role. Early this school year I learned that a leader must be able to develop relationships. I developed relationships by offering my time to assist teachers and by making myself available to the staff so that I could spend as much time as possible with my new colleagues. As a result I was able to build quality relationships with several members of my staff based on trust, mutual respect, teamwork, and cooperation. These relationships allowed me to broaden my role within the school and become an agent of change.

I learned that a leader must be a good problem solver. As a classroom teacher I was able to identify key areas for improvement. First and foremost I selected the issue of tardiness due to the fact that it directly affected students classroom performance and access to curriculum. I felt that students were missing too many instructional minutes per week and I wanted to develop protocols that would encourage students to come to class on time. Even though I did not solve the problem of student tardiness I identified tactics that teachers could use to limit tardiness. I felt that my project was fairly successful due to the fact that the protocols that I developed were eventually pushed campus-wide by administration.

Lastly I learned that a great leader must have vision. This individual must have the insight to envision what is possible if the proper tools are put in place. Many of the projects that I have worked on over the course of this school year will take more than a single school year to solve. Some projects take patience and the collaborative work of a team.

Since the beginning of my leadership project I have learned that it takes a great deal of patience to run a school as it may take a significant amount of time to improve a school. I will continue to work on the projects that I have started in order to continue to find new and effective ways to combat issues that have an affect on the school on a daily basis.