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Case Study: Chapter 3 – Decision Making without Information Research

**Standard 5:** A school administrator is an educational leader who promotes the success of all students by acting with integrity, fairness, and in an ethical manner.

This case study revolves around a quick decision made by a superintendent that seemed to be a simple solution and as a result of the decision there were many ramifications that would have been avoidable if a little more research had been done before a decision had been made.

A bus driver came to the superintendent to ask permission to change his bus route because he kept getting delayed by a train which the bus driver stated was scheduled for that time every day. The delay made him late to drop the students off for school. The bus driver’s solution was to reverse his route in the morning to avoid the train. The superintendent felt this sounded reasonable so he gave his ok. Unfortunately, the problem was much more complex; the district has a transportation supervisor, there was no regularly scheduled freight train, the route was created so children could access the bus safely without having to cross a highway, and the bus driver was having a feud with several of the parents on his route.

The most important lessons to be learned from this case study are to keep in mind that taking time to make a decision can help avoid mistakes that can anger and alienate employees, fellow administrators, and parents, and having a framework for decision-making which includes who makes the decision in certain situations (transportation issues are handled by the transportation supervisor) can be helpful for making timely and appropriate decisions.

I chose to use standard #5 for this case study because I believe that when an administrator makes decisions by acting with integrity, fairness, and in an ethical manner more often than not the decisions will be appropriate.