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EDAS 6220

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Guest Speaker: Aretha Dixon, Elementary Prncipal; Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators Chairperson for Advocacy Committee

*Pre-Presentation Questions:*

The SAIL program seems to be a significant part of the OAESA. What is your experience with the SAIl program and do you recommend involvement in the SAIL program for principal candidates , first-time principals and/or teachers?

What do you believe are the most important skills a principal needs to be able to increase the educational achievement of the students in his/her building?

*Post-Presentation Summary:*

Ms. Aretha Dixon was the guest speaker for class today. Ms. Dixon, who is an elementary school principal and member of the Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators, presented on three main topics; SAIL, school administrator contracts, and advocating for your profession. She followed up her presentation with a Q&A session.

**Standard 1:** A school administrator is an educational leader who promotes the success of all students by facilitating the development, articulation, implementation, and stewardship of a vision of learning that is shared and supported by the school community.

SAIL, which stands for Standards-aligned Instructional Leadership, is a two-year program for aspiring and entry-level principals and teacher leaders aimed at improving instructional leadership. Ms. Dixon states that some of the advantages of SAIL are it blends face to face and online learning, it provides training in real-world activities of principals, and it provides an opportunity to build relationships with other school administrators to help with problem-solving and new ideas.

Ms. Dixon spent the second part of her presentation discussing various aspects of ORC 3319.02 which is the basic law regarding the employment of school administrators. Highlighted in the presentation were contract length (initial can be 1-3 years followed by renewals of 1-5 years), important dates for evaluations of administrators, non-renewal, and contract provisions such as salary and other compensation, workday #s, holidays/vacation time, and duties.

**Standard 6:** A school administrator is an educational leader who promotes the success of all students by understanding, responding to, and influencing the larger political, social, economic, legal, and cultural context.

The third portion of the presentation was based on advocacy and professional involvement. Ms. Dixon emphasized that it is vitally important that school administrators be involved in their professional organizations so that they are informed of what is on the horizon in regards to the laws relevant to school administrators, teachers, personnel, students, and instruction. As a professional, you should be aware of the laws and policy that are and/or will affect your profession.

Q&A:

Q: How do you increase parental involvement?

A: *Ms. Dixon increases parental involvement from many different approaches including:*

* *Multiple events at multiple times*
* *Establishing a rapport with parents and making them feel warm and welcome at the school*
* *100% participation in parent-teacher conferences*
* *Requiring all teachers to make a positive phone call hom or send a postcard for each student each quarter*

Q: Name a characteristic necessary for an incoming principal to possess?

A: *“the ability to build relationships with the teachers and a good understanding of curriculum”*

Q: Is SAIL more important for a first-time principal or is it beneficial to a prospective principal candidate?

A: *“It is definitely beneficial to both an entry-level as well as a prospective principal. It provides a real-world view of school administration, and the materials from the program are extremely useful.”*

Q: What do you attribute to the success of your school in regards to OAA performance?

A: *“Intervention! Intervention! Intervention!”*

Q: How much control have you had over the hiring decision in your building?

A: *Over the last two years it has been very open. I have done most of the legwork of the hiring process. Human Resources is stating to become more involved and having a good relationship with H.R. is very helpful when it comes to hiring decisions.*