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Case Study: #13 “Back to Basics”

**The premise of this case study is that the BOE of your school district has decided that the schools need to get “back to basics” and therefore have eliminated the budget for prevocational education in the junior high and greatly reduced the budget for fine arts and physical education throughout the district. The junior high has a full-time career counselor that is an asset to the school but her teaching license is history (overstaffed) and Latin (no current course** **offerings). The superintendent wants to the staffing plans and budget proposal in two weeks.**

**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.

**This is a difficult situation for the principal because ultimately the BOE controls the vision of learning for the school district as well as the budget. The principal must adhere to the BOE’s decisions while trying to also appease the staff and parents of the building.**

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**In this situation, the cuts and reduction of budget are going to result in the reduction of class offerings. To avoid more students in study hall and the loss of a good teacher, the full-time career counselor could possibly be split between part-time in guidance to help reduce the load on the other counselors (who are concerned that now all career counseling will fall upon their shoulders) and teaching a few Latin classes which could be offered as an elective. The case study does not provide enough detail in regards to if any staff reductions have occurred in the fine arts program or physical education department which makes it difficult to develop a realistic staffing and budget for this scenario.**

**Standard 4**: A school administrator is an educational leader who promotes the success of all students by collaborating with families and community members, responding to diverse community interests and needs, and mobilizing community resources.

**School board elections occur frequently because the terms of the members often overlap. The principal may not be able to override the current BOE’s decisions with regards to prevocational education and the fine arts but in talks with the parents I think it is important to make sure they understand who has driven the changes that occurred with regards to curriculum because ultimately voters who are dissatisfied with the BOE’s decisions have the power to influence the current board by voicing their opinions to the current board members and/or voting for change.**