

THE 8TH ELEMENT OF SUCCESSFUL LEADERSHIP

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Leadership is not something learned once and for all. It is an ever-evolving pattern of skills, talents, and ideas that grow and change as you do as what Sheila Murray Bethel said.

Some may claim that they are destined to be leaders, while others may claim that they are capable of becoming leaders. Whatever their motivation for achieving that position is, it is clear that leading is a process that involves learning and changing. For me, the best illustration of leadership is a human body functioning with its organ systems. A healthy body must have functioning organs in order for a person to be physically fit. These organs pertain to the seven essential elements of successful leadership. First is transparency. Transparent leaders do not monopolize; they give credit to others when things go well and accept responsibility when things that go wrong.

A school leader can authorize and empower others to do things for them to learn, but accountability cannot be delegated. There is a risk on the part of the principal, but it opens the door for others to learn. Second, learn from failure. Failure has the potential to shape a leader. It is a powerful learning resource that teaches survival, renewal, and innovation. Leaders gain a unique perspective on people and who they can rely on as a result of this process. The present pandemic has posed unprecedented challenges and affected educational sectors, with no one knowing when it will cease. To address the emerging problem, most school leaders resorted to trial and error practices in order to lead the entire school community through the threat of the pandemic. There are no examples, manuals, or plans to guide school leaders through COVID-19's current storm (Harris & Jones, 2020). Common practices might not work this time, however,

delivery of quality must be kept constant. A leader's primary responsibility is to create and maintain the finest possible teaching and learning environment.

Third, leadership must be built on trust. A leader is a trustee in any organization, and to be effective, they must be trustworthy as well as willing to take the risk of placing trust in those around them. Teamwork is based on trust. The level of trust in the workplace has a significant impact on how employees collaborate and work on the same projects. Because most employees still work from home these days, school leaders have begun to recognize the importance of building trust. Fourth is confidence. A good leader exudes self-assurance. People can see through a robust facade, and no one would follow a leader who is not confident. Leaders who can articulate their goals and stand by their decisions are far more effective than one who hides his or her insecurities behind an arrogant mask. Fifth, is decisiveness. A good leader carefully considers all options before making a decision, but once made, he or she does not back down. This demonstrates dedication, which breeds consistency, both of which are beneficial traits in leadership. Leadership decision-making, leadership style, and leadership change flexibility are all keys that must be struck to keep up with the fast-paced, never-ending changes in the environment. (Rashid et al., 2016). Sixth is humility. This characteristic is essential for keeping leaders grounded and connected to the people around them. Being truthful, having integrity, and listening to employees will only help you gain their respect, which will pay dividends when it comes to time to make a decision. The best leaders have an open mind and are adaptable to new ways of thinking or alternative methods as needed. Lastly, creativity. Teams frequently look to a leader for innovative thinking, so being able to draw on previous experiences as well as a great source of new ideas will benefit any leader. The incorporation of these essential elements will cause the entire organization to work in unison just like a human body that functions well if all its parts are in good shape. In case of illness, it can easily respond and keep everything in order.

At this point, may I add another takeaway from my readings that leaders who are effective maintain a sense of humor. For those of us in education, leading is a serious business. We must maintain a sense of humor as we deal with critical issues affecting the lives of our students, teachers, and systems, as well as the quality of life we experience on a daily basis within them. Humor reduces friction and stress, shows others that we and they are human, and serves as a pause to refresh our minds (Notar et al., 2008). It does not mean that one must take everything easy, it is just that humor makes lot of people happy and being happy means keeping positive vibes in the organization.

“If we have the necessary elements, we can lead an organization and win the game...but do not forget to keep a happy spirit” – Odissa P. Dasilao, OIC-ASHS P II.

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