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Digital Portfolio

Leadership Philosophy: Building a World for Our Children

I keep a small framed quote by Sitting Bull in my office that reads: “Let us put our heads together and decide what kind of world we will make for our children”. That quote captures the essence of my philosophy as an educational leader. Education, unlike the world of business to which we are so often compared, deals in the world of children, and children are best educated and cared for in an environment that mirrors a family, where caring, knowledgeable adults collaborate on determining what is best for the children.

Families rely on each other and take advantage of each member’s skills and talents; this is how I envision myself as a school leader. While I bring to my leadership position specific skills and talents- my bricolage, I recognize that each staff member also contributes unique aptitudes to our school community. Sergiovanni refers to this as “moral leadership”, i.e. helping everyone make connections so that they communally recognize their importance, their purpose, and understand the significance of their contributions as we fulfill our commitments and move toward our goals.

I believe in a paradigm that integrates respect, trust, participation, ingenuousness, and ownership from all stakeholders in the educational center to work with the school leader toward the common goal of collaboration and continuous improvement. Popkewitz refers to these as “the human values in education” and “social constructivism”. As the school leader, I am ultimately responsible for guiding and gauging that improvement, while supporting and encouraging the collegiality that will sustain improvement and move us toward learning and applying new knowledge and skills. Martin Buber described this work: “All great bricoleurs are

pushers and pullers of achievement”. This continuous constructivism will produce an environment and culture that will make a world within the school of which Sitting Bull would have been proud; one that is nurturing, collaborative, and committed to continuous improvement.