Strengthening the Principal-Counselor Relationship

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January 20, 2016
Session Overview

• Characteristics of an Effective Relationship
  • Communication
  • Trust and Respect
  • Leadership
  • Collaborative Planning

• Panel Discussion

• Questions and Answers
Communication

• Open communication that provides multiple opportunities for input to decision making

• Educate by sharing:
  • Your successes
  • The benefits of a comprehensive program for all the stakeholders
  • The ways your school counseling program helps the school fulfill its mission
  • Appropriate school counselor roles and duties that allow you to successfully implement this beneficial program
  • Duties that hinder your ability to do the aforementioned with suggestions for implementing changes.
Communication (cont.)

• When presenting a problem, share solution(s). Principals can be inundated with problems, often presented as complaints or blaming. Establish your reputation as a problem solver, a success maker, not a dream breaker. Anticipate difficulties and present proactive solutions.

• Advocate for regularly scheduled meetings to keep administration informed, assist in problem solving, work toward mutual goals, etc.
Let’s Talk…
SAMPLE School Counselor & Administrator Meeting Agenda
Quality vs. Frequency

I. Individual Student Concerns (academic, personal/social)
II. Classroom / Staff / School Climate Issues
III. Review of the Calendar (plans for school-wide activities, events, parent/guardian workshops, faculty meeting agenda suggestions, inservice ideas or scheduling, professional development, etc.)
IV. Parent/Guardian Issues
V. Advisory Council and/or Community Collaboration or Issues
VI. Discussion of Data Aggregated & Disaggregated (test scores, core curriculum unit summaries, surveys, attendance, discipline, etc.)
VII. Professional Development/Training Needs
VIII. Budget Items
IX. Miscellaneous
Trust & Respect

• Mutual TRUST between the principal and school counselors
  • Do what you say you will do.
  • Be genuinely curious and LISTEN – We don’t trust others who we don’t feel listen or understand us.
  • Be honest – When others know your feedback focuses on attaining the same goal, they’ll trust you to not spin or sugarcoat.
  • Work transparently – This enables others to understand your motivations and your thinking, as well as contribute and add their input when appropriate.

• Mutual RESPECT between the principal and school counselors
  • Professional respect for principal’s vision and goals
  • Personal respect for counselor and their expertise
Leadership

• School counselor participation on school leadership teams

• A shared vision of what is meant by student success

• Shared decision making on initiatives that impact student success

• A collective commitment to equity and opportunity

• DATA: Can you take the data that you have and implement some sort of initiative that will impact student success?
Collaborative Planning

- Opportunities to share ideas on teaching, learning and schoolwide educational initiatives

- Sharing information about needs within the school and the community

- Joint responsibility in the development of goals and metrics that indicate success
DATA: Making Your Principal Look Good

• Collect data on counseling sponsored or schoolwide initiatives that can be presented to stakeholders that not only shows how valuable you are as a school counselor, but also makes the principal (and ultimately the school) look good.

• Can be related to: bullying, behavior, school climate, attendance, etc.
Panel Discussion
Panelists

ELEMENTARY

• Dr. Dion Jones, Principal
• Roberts Elementary
• Years as a Principal: 12
• Years. With Counselor: 6
• Stacey Miller, School Counselor
• Years as a Counselor: 10

HIGH

• Steven Cummings, Principal
• Lakeside High School
• Years as a Principal: 2 (at current school)
• Years With Counselor: 2
• Donnie Burch, School Counselor
• Years as a Counselor: 20
Panelists (Middle)

- Dorothy Jarrett, Principal
- Summerour Middle
- Years as Principal: 6.5
- Years With Counselors: .5 - 6.5

- Eva Miano, Asst. Principal
- Floyd Middle
- Years as an Asst. Principal: 2
- Years With Counselor: 2

- Summerour Middle Counselors
  - Robin Blackwell - 6.5 years
  - Pam Griswell - 6.5 years
  - Yunilda Nunez - 1.0 year
  - Kim Blackshear - .5 year

- Floyd Middle Counselors
  - Tanyika Butler – 11 years
  - Kim Gray – 18 years
February Webinars

**February 10:**
ALL Levels...
Understanding the Counselor’s Role in Building School Morale
2:00 PM

**February 17:**
New Elem Counselors…Using Art in Your School Counseling Program
2:00 PM

**February 17:**
New Middle School Counselors…Academic Achievement Initiatives
11:00 AM

**February 24:**
Middle School Counselors…Empower & Inspire to Avoid the Drama
11:00 AM

**February 24:**
New High School Counselors…College Entrance Exams Resources for Your Students
2:00 PM

TO REGISTER:
Click on the blue hyperlink.
You have Questions
We have Answers