

6. Ethics and Leadership (Discussion)

Q: Read all of the materials and codes of ethics under the D2L content.

After reading the lengthy article, "Breaking Good" (ESPN magazine article), think about what your decision on hiring Coach Joe would be if you were an Athletic Director, Superintendent, Principal or School Board Member.

Respond to the following topics in your post:

Do you think Simms High School did the "right" thing?

A: This was definitely a difficult choice for the high school to consider. On one hand, you have a clear cut felon who not only used a popular and harmful drug in methamphetamines, but distributed them as well. The usage was more of a personal problem, but the selling or "mule-ing" of the drugs was another. If this weren't about an excellent football coach, but were about a "teacher-of-the-year" candidate, there is no way that the teacher would keep his/her job, let alone be offered one. So my position on this hiring would be to, at best, wait several more years before considering hiring him. Otherwise, I would simply say, "no" and move on because the ethics involved would be too contrary with him. I believe they did not do the right thing in hiring him. "A school administrator shall not accept gratuities, gifts, or favors that impair professional judgment, nor offer any favor, service, or item of value to obtain special advantage," was taken from BOSA. I believe that the promise of a good football coach that will increase your school's income, and provide more favoritism with public "football" appeal is the same as accepting a gratuity.

Q: Reflect on what it means to be an ethical leader.

A: Even though the BOSA ethics begin with, "A school administrator shall provide professional educational services in a nondiscriminatory manner," I believe this would be a case to discriminate. I only believe this because the story involves harmful and addicting drugs. Second chances are part of our society great, but it takes time. I feel like the hiring should have been after many more years of "proof" to ensure that he would be a safe and productive choice for the school.

With all of this said, I feel like second chances are crucial for administrators to have. Do we not provide second, third and fourth chances for our teachers, students, parents and more? Do we not think outside-of-the-box in order to make all parties happy or accepting? Being an ethical leader means doing the right thing, but sometimes we forget about executive function, or a divorce that just happened, or a death in the family – all of which make life turn upside down and crazy. I plan to be an administrator that is as flexible as possible without damaging my ethics. I am an admin-to-be who thinks outside of the box when needed.

Q: The situation in the article called for ethical decisions and in some cases altered people's relationships, career etc. Why are ethics in leadership so important?

A: They are needed in order to be fair and equal. However, fair does not always mean equal. There are teachers and students who can make the grade without jumping through every single

hoop given to them and there are teachers and students who are extreme rule followers. Judgement is an incredible idea that can either feel fair to all or destroy the very fabric that is being built by admin, teacher and student. Ethics in leadership are terribly important because all look to you as the messiah of how to act, think and proceed with action. Like an attitude, choices are contagious.

How does the Administrative Code of Ethics fit with your decisions?

A: This was the main statement to my decision, "A school administrator shall take reasonable action to protect students and staff from conditions harmful to health and safety." I believe that the conditions could be harmful to health and safety based on the coaches' previous actions. More time before the hire would have satisfied that ethic that we admin-to-be need to adhere by.