

A Leadership Interview

with Ms. Drew



Reflection:

Before the interview I felt nervous, because I was scared. What If I'm do something wrong? But during the interview I felt better because it's really easy to talk and communicate with Ms.Drew. I think the interview went good! I asked all of my questions and she answered them. Also, I recorded the interview. I wouldn't have done anything different because I think everything went great!

What do you like most about your job?

I'm not stuck in an office and don't get see anybody. I get to go in classroom and see what kids are doing, or I get to go into the lunchroom, or talk with teachers. I love working with teachers and with students.

Do you think anyone could be a leader?

I think everybody has the ability, if they have a passion. I think everybody has different skills, but if they don't love it, if they don't want to be that then they shouldn't be a leader. I think yes, you can be a leader, but you have to want to be a leader. Some people are very good at following, and that's not a negative. If you want to follow and be a part of a group that's great. You will be better at doing that.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OTHER PEOPLE OF YOUR TEAM THINK ABOUT YOU AS A LEADER?

I hope it's all good stuff! I think they believe that maybe I'm a good listener. And that I really get them and their ideas, without taking my opinion only.

I like really collaborating and working in groups. I think that's really important! I'm trying to make them feel like they are a part of the decisions, or changes, or the projects that we do - that is not just me saying "Everybody bring a dog to work today!" (Which personally I would love!) But, I let other people come and say "What do you think about this idea? Is it good idea?" Maybe they would say, "What about the kids that are allergic to dogs? Or teachers that are allergic to dogs? Probably not a good idea to bring dogs to school." So it's collaborating and working with everybody. I hope they think that I'm that kind of person - collaborating and working with everybody.

Have you always wanted to be the head of a school?

I always wanted to be a teacher. I always knew I loved being in the classroom. After I was a teacher for many years, I really wanted to do big projects in schools. I wanted to start a charity in a school or do a big drama production for all students. Then after about 20 years of teaching, I think I really knew that I loved working with teachers as much as I loved working with students. That helped me understand that I wanted to be a head of school.that I wanted to be a head of school.

What are some qualities you need to be a good leader?

I think you have to be very very organized. So you really need to know what the top 10 things you need to do that day. Have you checked them off? Phoned and emailed everybody? I think you have to be very very organized. I think you have to listen to people, and I think you have to be happy. If you are not a happy person yourself, it's really hard to be a good leader. Because when you are happy, you try make other people happy. So I think trying to be someone that really loves other people and working with other people, inspiring other people is important too.

WITH WHAT LEADERSHIP STYLE YOU LEAD WITH: DEMOCRATIC, AUTOCRATIC, OR FREER REIN?

I would like to say I'm democratic most of the time. 95% of the time I really try to get other people's opinions like I said before, so we all make the decision together. Sometimes decisions can be really tough, and under those situations I can be a bit autocratic because I don't want other people to have to do tough decisions or make the difficult things happen, and so as a leader, I have to talk to students because they have been bad - and that's my job. That can be a difficult discussion but I don't think 10 other people have to help me do that.

What do you feel most confident doing as a leader?

I feel most confident about public speaking. I really like sharing the Dwight story, or sharing great thing students have done or great things teachers have done. And I feel very confident getting up in front of parents, in front of students, in front of teachers, and telling everybody about Dwight. It could be 10 people, it could be a thousand people, and I feel pretty confident.

Do you think you inspire other people to work better and if yes, how?

I really hope I inspire people. I never think I have because once you believe you've done it, then you wouldn't keep trying. So my job is to keep trying in different ways to inspire people. One of them is to make people realize that anybody has the opportunity to be a leader. Everybody has the ability to be a leader. I really hope that I inspire everyone to do it.

TO BE A GOOD LEADER, WHAT DO YOU THINK IS MOST IMPORTANT: PASSION OR TALENT?

I think definitely passion. If you don't love the place where you work or if you don't like the project that you are working on, then you're really not going to do it well. You could be very organized, you could be a very good listener, you could collaborate right with other people... but if you don't like what you are doing, you're not going to be a very good leader because you are pushing yourself too hard. So I think that passion is really important.