Recent Conference Presentations

Student Centred Assessment Iqaluit, Nunavut (2011)
Cause Causit: Staff Development Council of BC Vancouver (2006)
ProD for Administrators School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast)
With Staff and Community Introduction to Restitution School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast)
Using the Four Frames (Bolman & Deal)

Leadership Experiences and Awards

2010-present Educational Leadership Consultant, Nunavut
2009 Faculty of Education EdD Graduate Fellowship
2001 Effective Behaviour Support Coach
1994-1999 Chair Roberts Creek Community School Council

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

ORAL EXAMINATION
ANN SKELCHER
FOR THE DEGREE OF
DOCTOR OF EDUCATION
EdD

Tuesday, December 13, 2011
SFU Vancouver, Room 2200 at 10:00 AM

EXAMINING COMMITTEE

Chair: Dr. Allan MacKinnon
Senior Supervisor: Dr. Milton McClaren
Co-Supervisor: Dr. Byron Robbie
Member: Dr. Robin Brayne
Internal Examiner: Dr. Geoff Madoc-Jones
External Examiner: Dr. Erich Schellhammer,
School of Peace and Conflict Management, Royal Roads University
From Crisis to Renewal: One School’s Journey

ABSTRACT

This case study describes a time period of 6 years in the history of a school. This period was marked by crisis recovery and organizational response to a mandated large-scale reform. Despite its challenges, when speaking of this period a number of the staff reflected on it as a kind of magical moment in time. Twenty years later, I began to wonder what forces and factors were in play that had evoked these memories of this period. The research questions that directed the study asked participants what their experience was and the factors they saw as contributing to the school’s success, if the crises, the reform or the somewhat simultaneous presence of the two, played a role in the school’s development. I also sought to understand my own role of principal in the development of the school. The goal of this dissertation was to ascertain how the responses of those both internal and external to the school facilitated and impeded the school’s ability to recover and restore its legitimacy in the eyes of its community and the school district within which it operated. The research findings revealed significant themes in the collected stories and determined that both crises and reform played a role in the school’s development. This research has implications for educators seeking to resolve crises and increase the capacity of schools to better meet their future—one sure to bring change, reform, and perhaps even crises.

Keywords: Crisis recovery; reform; school development; school culture; communicative action; phronesis

Academic Record

1980 – Bachelor of Education, Simon Fraser University

Professional Experience

2007-2010 Principal, Kinnikinnick Elementary (School District No. 46)
2004-2007 Vice-Principal, Chatelech Secondary School (School District No. 46)
2003-2004 Principal, Halfmoon Bay Community School (School District No. 46)
1999-2003 Principal, Kinnikinnick Elementary (School District No. 46)
1995-1999 Principal, Roberts Creek Community School (School District No. 46)
1988-1994 Principal, Langdale Elementary (School District No. 46)
1984-1988 Coordinator of Gifted Programs (School District No. 46)