FACULTY OF EDUCATION

ORAL EXAMINATION

Jeremy R.J. Morrow

FOR THE DEGREE OF

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

EdD

Tuesday, August 28, 2012
SFU Vancouver, Room 2200 at 10:00 AM

EXAMINING COMMITTEE

Chair: Dr. Geoff Madoc-Jones

Senior Supervisor: Dr. Milt McLaren
Member: Dr. Keven Edler
Member: Dr. Harry Janzen
Internal Examiner: Dr. Byron Robbie
External Examiner: Dr. Paul Shaw, President, Southern Cross Educational (Canada) Inc.
Through the Lens of the Rural Lifeworld: A Phenomenological Investigation Into the Rural Principalship

ABSTRACT

With approximately 86,000 students in British Columbia’s public education system attending rural schools, it is worthwhile to examine the role of school leadership in these places. A British Columbia rural education task force was put together under then Education Minister Christy Clarke to explore and make recommendations on improving rural education in the province. Of the 20 recommendations, there were no recommendations that were connected to the rural principalship.

Although the focus of this project is not a prescriptive list of recommendations for rural leaders, it is intended to investigate the lifeworld or the lived experience of leading in a rural British Columbia school. Recognition of this lifeworld is the rural school as the “heart of the community” and the many ways that the challenges of the local community present themselves in the lifeworld of rural school leaders.

The lifeworld is both the philosophical and methodological framework for this study. Investigating the lifeworld lends itself to a phenomenological investigation. Phenomenological interviews were conducted with rural school principals in British Columbia.

Academic Record

1998 – B.ed, Trinity Western University
2002 – Ma.Ed, University of Phoenix

Professional Experience

2011 - Present, Principal, Southgate Middle School
2009 - 2011, Principal, Cortes Island School
2007 - 2009, Vice-Principal, Thomas Haney Secondary School
2005 - 2007, Vice-Principal, Enver Creek Secondary School
1999 - 2005, Teacher, Clayton Heights Secondary School