

# Pedagogical Leadership in Practice: Three Important Lessons

Dr. Dorit Tubin

Ben Gurion University of the Negev Israel

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	Cyprus	Israel
Capital	Nicosia	Jerusalem
Official languages	Greek & Turkish	Hebrew & Arabic
Independence	1960	1948
Area	9,251 km <sup>2</sup>	20,770 km2
Population	1,190,000	8,050,000
Students K-12	100,000	1,650,000
teachers	11,000	165,000
Schools	455	4,580



## Pedagogical leadership

Developing social and academic capital for students, and Intellectual and professional capital for teachers

Thomas J. Sergiovanni (1998) Leadership as pedagogy, capital development and school effectiveness, *International Journal of Leadership in Education*, 1:1, 37-46,



## Competing tasks and goals



Parents and community

Professional development



## Lessons learned from successful school principals

- 20 Israeli schools
- 150 schools from 25 countries in the ISSPP -International Successful School Principals Project

### School success defined by:

- 1. High academic achievement
- 2. Nurturing school culture
- 3. High reputation



## Three important practices

 Choosing and developing the right mid-level leaders

Someone to work with

Mapping student improvement



### Toward pedagogical goals

Follow-up and interactive feedback



For learning from success and failure



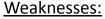
## Mid-level leaders

Choosing mid-level leaders based on shared values and skills, requires:

- Clarifying role definitions
- Providing pedagogical reasoning
- Supplying resources (time, place, etc.)
- Reward and backup

#### Benefits:

Elaborating and strengthening the school's shared vision Developing a culture of trust Working together toward the same goals



Can takes years

Principal overload when the right mid-level leaders can't be found





## Mapping student improvement

Promoting students' learning by providing them with a suitable learning environment, requires:

- Mapping each student's mastery of the skills and subjects learned
- Analysing the reasons for problems and challenges
- Developing and applying proper teaching methods
- Rechecking each student after given period

#### Benefits:

Promotes teachers' Intellectual and professional capital by enhancing their abilities to:

- Develop evaluation tools (test, exam, assignment, etc.)
- Analyse problems emerging from students' outcomes
- Diversify and improve teaching practices for adjusting different students' needs
- Develops students' social and academic capital by:
  - Personal interaction in which teacher sees them, cares for them and believes in their potential
  - Succeed in academic tasks
  - Enhances students' motivation and self-confidence

#### Weaknesses: Teachers have to:

- Learn new knowledge about teaching and learning
- Work in teams
- Invest time to develop new methods and change their lesson plan



## Follow-up and interactive feedback

As teachers are required to follow-up their students, the principal should follow-up the mid-level leaders by:

- Requesting data and evidence of students' improvement
- Using the data on interactive feedback for:
  - Discovering what succeeded and what went wrong
  - Making data-driven decisions on the next steps
  - Setting a further meeting for reviewing the changes
- Self-reflecting about your part in the process

#### Benefits:

- Developing a learning organization that uses problems as opportunities for growth
- Empowering the mid-level leaders
- Improving the ability to lead from students' achievements back to teachers' and principal's practices

#### Weaknesses:

- It takes time
- It exposes participants' and teachers' vulnerability







Dorit Tubin dorittu@bgu.ac.il