Reflection Paper

My internship experience proved to be valuable in terms of exposure and knowledge. Attending the principal’s meeting was very rewarding. I was able to observe administrators interact with their peers and superiors. It is important to learn how to exhibit professional but courteous behavior at all times. Some of the principals expressed concerns and issues to the Chief Academic Officer. I got a glimpse of what it must feel like when teachers and other school staff express concerns to the principal. I was somewhat hesitant to attend the meeting initially because I felt that I would be out of place. I didn’t want principals to feel that I was “invading” their ranks. My cooperating administrator helped me to feel comfortable and many of the other principals welcomed me.

I have learned to see things through the eyes of an administrator. Teachers and other school staff often have complaints and comments about the way that things are done. Principals have guidelines and protocols that they must follow that don’t always allow them to exercise complete control in their building.

There are so many facets of the school system that the administrator must monitor. First and foremost are instruction, then budgets, the building, busses, to name a few. I engaged in frequent conversations with my principal throughout this internship. She commented to me that “a principal never stops thinking about work”. When considering the vastness of the job of a principal, I tend to agree with the possibility of this statement.
Assistant principals have a tendency to be perceived as villains. This is probably because a large portion of the job is dedicated to handling student discipline. However, I have obtained a new appreciating for assistant principals. I observed the assistant principal facilitating ARDS, developing tutorial schedules, and gathering resources for teachers. The assistant principals are often the first to arrive and the last to leave.

This internship served as a good stepping stone from teacher to administrator. These activities afford the opportunity to examine the details associated with everyday occurrences that are often taken for granted.

Attending the student government meeting served as a reminder that a principal must take the time to listen to students. Students are the reason that schools exist and they must remain the central focus. Forming relationships with students is crucial for teachers and administrators. The principal shoulders huge responsibilities for students, staff, and the school building. From the time the student steps onto the school bus, the school/school district is accountable for any actions that occur.

I have taken this opportunity to self reflect in order to ensure that I possess the qualities necessary to effectively lead. The principal must be able to lead others by delegating authority and providing the support necessary for others to achieve. This experience was well planned and the activities supported the overall goal of the leaning experience. My recommendation is to continue to provide support and guidance to mid management interns and to stress the importance of self reflection.