

REPORT ON DANIELSON'S BOOK – ENHANCING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT: A FRAMEWORK FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

After carefully analyzing Danielson's book, I have selected two of her ideas that I like. The first idea being the one which states that; "The teaming structure allows teachers to work together for the maximum benefit of students; the schedule has been organized to allow for common planning time" (p49). I like this idea because I can relate to it in a practical way, in that it is synonymous to what happens in my school. The schedule of my school is structured in such that, school dismisses every Thursday at 1:30 p.m., to facilitate a common planning time among the teachers of each grade. During these planning sessions, the planning of lessons reflects the same topics, content and objectives which are drawn from the curriculum. Although the topics, content and objectives are the same, each teacher within his or her specific class, has to draw on his or her virtue of understanding and imagination in using creative ways to deliver the content in a manner that will enable each child to have meaningful learning outcomes. This is important because students' level of intellectual competence and learning style vary. For example, a teacher might choose to use music, dance or drama to drive the delivery of his or her content, another teacher might choose to use a PowerPoint presentation, while another might choose to allow students to carry out experiments etc.

Doesn't it also require strong character to implement a lesson that requires the teacher to do extra work in preparation for the lesson to be presented? And doesn't it require generosity to go ahead with planning the new lesson, knowing that it might not be as successful as the one that did NOT require extra effort?

The second idea that I like is the one that states that, "The school has developed an extensive program of collaboration with the business community, resulting in valuable opportunities for both students and teachers" (p74). I like this idea particularly because, I think it is an excellent one that we can adopt to improve the learning environment and the teaching learning process of our school community. Presently, our school's computer lab is in need of new computers as most of the computers are old, outdated and are not functioning. As a result of this, students are unable to access the lab which has been closed for an extended period of time. If our school collaborates with the business community, then the business community will demonstrate their virtue of generosity and help us to solve this problem. We have an honor roll system at grade six, where students who have made the honor roll are being recognized in the form of their names and pictures being placed on the honor roll board, and the students are being called out to stand in front of the entire school at the general devotional exercise. In addition to these forms of recognition, the business community could assist with providing tangible incentives in the forms of bursaries, trophies and school supplies for these students. We also have an annual reading competition at our school, which is geared towards assisting students in developing their reading skills. Winners from each grade are usually awarded trophies and medals for their performance. However, sometimes finding funds to purchase medals and trophies can be a bit challenging. Hence, a program such as this could benefit greatly from sponsorship of the business community. Another valuable opportunity that students could gain from collaboration with the business community is that of mentorship. Some of our students, particularly our boys have lost their fathers or their fathers are not

present in their lives. Hence, male members of the business community could impact the lives of these boys by providing them with positive role models and appropriate guidance.

In addition to the benefits that students can obtain from this kind of collaboration, teachers can also derive benefits through incentive programs. The business community could partner with the school's administration and staff members to create a teacher of the year award program, in which the successful teacher could be awarded in a tangible way such as a plaque and a cash award. This could help to boost the morale and performance of teachers. They could also offer scholarships to teachers who are upgrading themselves through further studies. Presently there are some teachers who are studying and are finding it difficult to pay their tuition fees; the scholarship program would be a good means of assisting some of these teachers to accomplish their goals. In addition to the scholarship program, they could also create a special system to assist teachers to access loans to offset their tuition fees. Teachers could also benefit collaboratively from the business community, in terms of having a comfortable staff room. Presently, our staffroom is not aesthetically appealing and as a result of this, teachers rarely make use of it.

Good report. Your grade is 3.