

Dr. Ben Levin – January 2006

Dr. Ben Levin, Deputy Minister of Education, Ontario Ministry of Education

In this address, Dr. Ben Levin expresses appreciation for and the importance of the work that principals in Ontario are engaged in. He discusses the successes and challenges experienced by all involved in education. He then encourages questions and comments from principals in the audience. Levin ends with his thoughts about collective agreement and professional development.

Contact:

For more information about Dr. Ben Levin and the work that the Ministry is doing, visit www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/biography/edu_dm.html

Segments:

- 1...Introduction
- 2...Importance of the Principal's Role
- 3...Comments and Questions
- 4...Collective Agreement and PD Issues

1...Introduction

(Length: 1 minute)

Synopsis:

Levin thanks the audience for the work that they are doing.

Look for the following:

- The focus of Ontario's educators

After viewing Segment 1:

- What, according to Levin, is the broad focus of education in Ontario today?
- Would you add anything else to Levin's comments?

2...Importance of the Principal's Role

(Length: 5 minutes)

Synopsis:

Levin highlights the successful implementation of several initiatives across Ontario and some of the challenges that are still being faced.

Look for the following:

- Initiatives by the government to promote an open climate, develop partnerships, and increase resources

After viewing Segment 2:

- How has the present government attempted to develop respect for partners in the system?
- Levin notes a number of challenges facing education in Ontario today. Do you agree that these are the most significant challenges? What challenges would you identify? How is your school board handling these challenges?

3...Comments and Questions

(Length: 9 minutes)

Synopsis:

Levin answers questions posed by the audience. He focuses his responses on labour issues and professional development.

Look for the following:

- The importance of accountability when it comes to the principalship

After viewing Segment 3:

- Levin talks about how a board can have 96 schools doing well, but 4 with issues and how this creates problems for the entire board. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

4...Collective Agreement and PD Issues

(Length: 4 minutes)

Synopsis:

Levin discusses the impact professional learning communities can have on student learning.

Look for the following:

- Professional Respect and its impact on leadership

After viewing Segment 4:

- Levin asks principals how Principal Learning Teams have made a difference to their lives and the lives of their students. How would you answer this question?
- Share a story that shows the impact that these teams have made on student learning?
- Should more funding be invested in these kinds of initiatives? Why or why not?
- What questions do you have for Levin and the Ministry of Education?