

Our Path to First Choice No.22
2018/19

Everyone,

We are in the grips of winter. It is pretty nasty out there. Stay warm! By the way, I hear it is warmer in Anchorage, Alaska today.

Our Path Topic

Over the last several months, we have discussed strategic objectives and the progress made so far this year. In addition, we've looked at best practices for organizations and other initiatives WASD has taken on this year. This week, let's look at ways we can work through the cabin fever days and day-to-day organizational stress in order to make progress.

Our attitude is one of the biggest influences on our success. The definition for attitude is a settled way of thinking or feeling about someone or something, typically one reflected in a person's behavior...a, sort of, state of mind or mental state.

Debra Searle and her husband set off to cross the Atlantic Ocean to Barbados in their plywood boat. Only after two weeks into the adventure, her husband, Andrew, had to be rescued. She decided to continue without him. The rescue boat sat not far from her boat after she continued. They believed she would change her mind, but she did not. Debra said it was her attitude that got her through. She pictured what the end of the journey and its celebration would look like. She thought about that moment of celebration throughout her 111 days on the water. Debra finished the journey, and she credits her positive attitude that she was going to make it through and be successful.

Research has shown that attitude is much more of a factor in success than skill. The Carnegie Institute has shown that skill accounts for 15% and attitude for 85% when factored in to one's success.

As we venture and, sometimes, plow through these cold, snowy and dark days of winter, it is critical we maintain a positive attitude. Attitudes can be contagious, and will only help those we work with each day. Nonetheless, our attitudes will have a positive impact on our most important commodity, the students.

Hang in there!

Information from our Business Office

As noted before, from the results of our last "Are We Making Progress?" survey, it indicated that staff would like to learn more about how our budget and finances work. Mr. Holtzman has prepared another newsletter from the business office. Attached is your February *Dollars & Common Sense*.

Board Information and Policy Updates

- Next School Board Meeting—February 12, 2019 at 7PM in the Clayton Avenue Board Room
- Next Policy Committee Meeting—February 4, 2019 at 1PM in the Clayton Avenue Board Room

You may check out District policies by going to this site: <https://www.boarddocs.com/pa/wayn/Board.nsf/Public>

Piece of the Puzzle

This week's Piece of the Puzzle is Summitview's own Cinnamon Singrey. Cinnamon has been nominated as a Piece of the Puzzle for her amazing job working with all of the students, including the kindergarten friends. Additionally, she took the initiative to locate a low-cost CPR training for all general education paraeducators. This was especially important to the Summitview staff because of a choking incident that happened in the cafeteria last year. Thanks to Cinnamon's research and contact, all elementary buildings are able to offer this training to their general education paraprofessionals. Congratulations, Cinnamon. If you see her today, give a kudos for being the Piece of the Puzzle.

*Review for You

What is "empowerment" when thinking about an organization?

Events

- February 12th—Early Dismissal
- February 18th—Presidents Day—No school students and teachers

*Review Answer (Important to Know)

Good leadership and great organizations provide mechanisms for empowerment. Empowerment is giving people the authority and responsibility to make decisions and take action. When people are empowered, decisions are made closest to students and other customers (the front line), where work-related knowledge and understanding reside. The purpose of empowering people is to enable them to respond to students' needs, satisfy students and other customers on first contact, improve processes and increase productivity, and improve student learning and your organization's other performance results. An empowered workforce requires information to make appropriate decisions; thus, your organization must provide that information in a timely and useful way.

Final Thoughts

- *Each day, I come in with a positive attitude, trying to get better.*—Stephon Diggs
- *A positive attitude can really make dreams come true—it did for me.*—David Bailey
- *A strong and positive attitude creates more miracles than any other thing, because life is 10% how you make it, and 90% how you take it.*--ILikeToQuote.Com
- *You cannot tailor-make the situations in life but you can tailor-make the attitudes to fit those situations.*—Zig Ziglar
- *Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see a shadow.*—Helen Keller
- *Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference.*—Winston Churchill

Enjoy the rest of your week!

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