How’s Your Vision?

AWSP offers vision coverage for members who have set their sights on improved culture, systems, and learning.

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For leaders, vision is critical—and we aren’t talking about eyesight.

Vision, by a school leader’s definition, is seeing culture, systems, and learning through a lens of hope. What’s current reality, and how can it be improved? What can be done to maximize student voice, innovation, and family engagement? In the wake of COVID-19, vision is even more important than ever.

For example, we couldn’t pass up the opportunity to give our 2020 Summer Conference a vision theme. For one, there are too many good puns. (We have your prescription for a great year!) But more importantly, this is a critical time in education for focus, clarity, and insight. Our virtual conference sessions will address social emotional learning, inclusionary practices, strategic communication and engagement, and more. We hope you’ll join us online June 29-30 for a time of planning and renewal.

Our vision doesn’t end at Summer Conference. The AWSP team is working on a five-year-planning tool to help members use the School Leader Paradigm to improve culture, systems, and learning in their schools over the course of five years. (Learn more at www.awsp.org/paradigm.)

This issue of the magazine includes fresh perspectives on inclusion, diversity, key relationships in the school, and leading in unprecedented times. We also highlight the leadership of North Thurston Public Schools and River Ridge High School (my alma mater!) Assistant Principal Mike Smith. They’re making sure the relationship between the Nisqually tribe and the schools who serve their students won’t be overlooked.

We’ve seen tremendous examples this spring of what leadership looks like and how vital your roles are. With so much uncertainty about next school year, it’s never too early to envision how you’ll take what you learned this spring and apply those lessons this fall and beyond. What will school look like next year? How will you address equity gaps made wider by the pandemic? Where do you see yourself as a leader this time next year? Five years from now?

Keep your eyes on the prize as this school year draws to a close, but keep thinking about the future. As a former hockey player, I’ll leave you with this quote from hockey legend Wayne Gretzky, who said, “I skate to where the puck is going, not where it’s been.” So I ask you dear reader, “What puck are you skating to?”

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