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Case Study #7: Which Textbook Will It Be?

**Standard 2:** A school administrator is an educational leader who promotes the success of all students by advocating, nurturing, and sustaining a school culture and instructional program conducive to student learning and staff professional growth.

I think one of the central issues in this case study is the need to decide on a textbook that will be adopted by the social studies department. The school board requires one adopted text series so as principal it is important to ensure that this is accomplished. The fact that the department is divided on which text to choose and has been unable to make a decision represents a second issue. The third issue is the dissatisfaction of one of the top-rated teachers who is threatening to leave because she is unhappy with her more conservative colleagues, and wants to see a bigger emphasis of the multicultural nature of society which is not emphasized in the current textbook series.

As principal, my inclination in this situation is to meet with the social studies department to help facilitate a decision on a textbook series emphasizing that everyone’s opinion is important, and that while a textbook series must be adopted that does not limit the use of supplemental materials. As a former social studies teacher, I can use my knowledge of the subject and required state standards to provide some opinion on what I feel is lacking from the current textbook series. Hopefully, this will stimulate a critical discussion of choosing a textbook series that will be most useful in meeting the standards we are required to cover, and also address some of the topics lacking in the current series such as multiculturalism and the contributions to society by minorities and women.

Addressing the third issue which involves the dissatisfied teacher will probably be best suited for an individual conference where I can listen to her concerns. Ideally I would like to meet with her prior to the department meeting so I have an idea, not only of her concerns in general, but also her opinion on the text book series, in particular, because she does not currently use a textbook.

Brainstorming ways to increase multiculturalism within the department as well as the school as a whole through professional development, interdisciplinary units, cultural events, etc… may be a start toward creating more multicultural awareness. Acknowledging this teacher’s concerns and working to resolve them without causing a rift in the department by providing a gentler push toward becoming open to alternative views of teaching social studies through PD and IDUs will hopefully appease this teacher while educationally enhancing the social studies department and the school.