



Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals

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MoASSP Update April 7, 2017

Video Version: <https://youtu.be/v67vYYHRxAs>

MoASSP Principals,

MoASSP Opening Keynote - In case you missed our inspirational and motivational speaker Tiffany Anderson, here are a few quotes from her presentation:

"Take time to understand the story before you judge the behavior."

"What does your school system & culture say about you?"

"Trust through relationships, Systems of Support, & High Expectations are keys for a successful system and culture."

"The farther you are from schools, the less you know about them!"

Final Four – A great education quote from South Carolina coach Frank Martin when asked about the pressure of coaching in the final four: "I used to be a high school math teacher... 35 students, 24 desks, 14 textbooks, 180 days. That's pressure! This is nothing!"

March Madness is over and April Anxiety is underway. For a high school principal, the next six weeks are full of fretful days and nights. There are only a few things on your plate: Can I hire my number one choice teacher before someone else? Are we ready for the adventure of prom and what just might happen? The ACT test is April 19 and May 3 make-up, are we organized and have we prepared our students for the four hour sequester? Who is not going to graduate and have we kept everyone informed (or will I get blasted?) Where are we on graduation preparation? Is the schedule for next year done? When are the handbook changes due? What about all of these rainouts and what kind of impact is that going to have on the end of the year? Are the A.P. test locations arranged, the times set, and the monitors notified? What about the budget, supplies, textbooks, and equipment? And yes, there is more and it is all rolling around inside your head. PLEASE NOT ONE MORE THING! But there will be a few more bombshells dropped in your lap, and you will handle it because you are the Principal of the Thing.

Mental Health Issues – As we travel the state it is evident mental health issues seem to be concerns in nearly every school. In an article by NPR they claimed: "Up to [one in five](#) kids living in the U.S. shows signs or symptoms of a mental health disorder in a given year. So, in a school classroom of 25 students, five of them may be struggling with the same issues many adults deal with: depression, anxiety, substance abuse. And yet most children, [nearly 80 percent](#), who need mental health services won't get them." MoASSP is acutely aware and we have principals serving on a committee and would like to help address the need in a collaborative effort this summer. We will keep you posted.

Ten Things Strong Leaders Do that Weak Ones Don't – (*Liz Ryan is CEO/founder of Human Workplace and author of [Reinvention Roadmap](#). Follow her on [Twitter](#) and read Forbes [columns](#).)* These are found on the second page and more explanation accompanies each number.

1. Strong leaders share their authority.
2. Strong leaders reinforce people rather than breaking them down.
3. Strong leaders understand that people move through waves of fear and trust. They role-model trust-based leadership and avoid getting mad, yelling or (worst of all) threatening their team members.
4. Strong leaders say "That was my mistake" as easily as breathing.
5. Strong leaders know that change is hard for themselves and other people.
6. Strong leaders know that change is even harder when it's imposed on you from above. They bring their teammates into the planning and design of any changes they have in mind.
7. Strong leaders ask for help.
8. Strong leaders say "Thank you" all the time. They don't assume that because someone draws a paycheck, they don't also need acknowledgment.
9. Strong leaders know that their new ideas will create ripples in the pond. They want people to become comfortable navigating through ripples.
10. Finally, strong leaders know that all of life is learning. They are ready to make mistakes and learn from them. They expect to take steps all the time, fall down often, get back up and take another step.

Mindset - I have always been fascinated with psychology and how the mind works. I often read the magazine *Psychology Today* and articles in other magazines and books that talked about mental preparation. An article in Forbes Magazine caught my eye about Mindset. Dr. Stan Beecham says that the primary determinant of success is not talent or experience; it is mindset. If you think of people who consistently win, you would say, "Well, they win all the time because they want to win, right? They want it bad enough." The reality is that's not true at all. It's that people who win and succeed at a high level don't actually think about winning. They simply believe they're going to do well." They love what they do, they love to practice or gain knowledge to use it unconsciously. You have seen the great teachers; it looks effortless. How can you assist your teachers to adopt a mindset that allows them to embrace doing their best in the moment?

April and May are hurry-up months for the legislators – We watch closely because a good bill often becomes a vehicle for amendments that are concerning.

Education Budget- Next week the Senate will take up the budget passed to them from the House. At question will be fully funding the formula. We will watch and keep you abreast of changes and additions as they become available.

Voucher Bills – SB32 might be dead because it was not a good bill, but SB313 could be moving ahead and it has been changed. The Missouri Senate is likely to take up soon a revised version of [SB 313](#) (Koenig). It remains a voucher bill that would establish a tax credit program for families with special needs students or children in foster care (may include up to 40% of public school students because, 504 students are eligible.) Under the bill, taxpayer money could be used for expenses at private schools. **But, now the bill includes provisions that would have the state accredit schools by buildings (big change)** rather than by school districts, and allow students to transfer from unaccredited buildings to private schools using taxpayer money. The bill:

- This bill attempts to funnel public funds to unaccountable private schools and home schools
- It is estimated the tax credit will cost the state at least \$25 million a year.
- There is no accountability required of the schools receiving these funds. The bill is silent on any type of oversight of the schools actually receiving the money.
- These schools are not required to administer the MAP, identify or educate students with disabilities, be accredited by any organization, or teach to the Missouri Learning Standards.

[Are Charter Schools good outside of the Cities?](#) (New York Times, By SUSAN DYNARSKI NOV. 20, 2015)

Social scientists, like medical researchers, can confirm only whether, on average, a given treatment is beneficial for a given population. Not all charter schools are outstanding: In the suburbs, for example, the evidence is that they do no better than traditional public schools. But they have been shown to improve the education of disadvantaged children at scale, in multiple cities, over many years. What do our President and Education Secretary think? [US News](#) “Charter schools are another thing people are talking about a lot,” Trump said in answering the question about how to better prepare students. “The charter schools of New York have been amazing. They’re doing incredibly well. People can’t even get in.” He continued: “I don’t call it an experiment anymore. It’s far beyond an experiment.” Trump proposed an additional \$168 million for charter schools in his fiscal 2018 budget request – part of a \$1.4 billion increase for a whole umbrella of school choice proposals.

Digital Leaders: Stand Up and Be Recognized: Can Missouri be honored to have a selection two years in a row? [DPOY APPLICATION CLOSING APRIL 30.](#) David Geurin, principal of Bolivar High School, was one of three selected for 2017, and he had to be coaxed into applying by Teresa McKinsey of Logan Rogersville High School. It is always worth the effort to fill out applications; you learn a great deal about yourself and the progress of your building.

I hope you had a great week! Most of you have been down the April and May downhill slide before and know that it really is the ***Principal of the Thing*** that makes it look and feel easy for the students and the staff.