Task Force Meets with State Board of Education

Dr. Paul Ziegler, Superintendent of the Northwest School District, is the MASA 2016 Pearce Award recipient. MASA asked Dr. Ziegler to share his thoughts on some of the things he believes is important to leadership.

What’s the best advice you ever received regarding being a superintendent/leader?

The best advice I have received as a superintendent is to surround yourself with great people and give them the support necessary to do what you hired them to do. In other words, don’t micromanage.

Tell us about a time where a good plan just didn’t work out. How did you and your team handle the situation?

First, you have to be a good leader. To me, a leader is the person who can inspire others to achieve things that they didn’t think were possible. I can think of two occasions when we didn’t achieve our objectives.

1. The Board of Education was clear on its expectations of what it wanted the Northwest School District to do in terms of technology, student achievement, and many other areas. The Board of Education wanted us to achieve these goals by the end of the year, and we were on pace to achieve all of them.

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