

UNPRECEDENTED: Escaping the Ghost of Education Past

by Dr. David Miyashiro and Ed Hidalgo: February 6, 2021

Symposium Reflection Paper

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When sitting in a virtual room waiting for any seminar or webinar to begin, there is always an uneasy feeling about whether this will be worth one's time or not. Will I get something out of it is always the most important factor for me anytime I participate in any seminar platform. To my surprise I was engaged from the moment it started. Dr. David Miyashiro said that his school districts vision/mission is, "Best place to live, work, play & raise a family, with the vision for our students to be happy kids, engaged in healthy relationships, on a path to gainful employment". What a powerful statement to begin with. It allowed me to focus on that statement as a reference point on the past, present, and future of education that both Dr. Miyashiro and Ed Hidalgo focused on throughout the symposium.

Listening to Dr. Miyashiro and knowing his educational background gave me the incentive I needed to take away as much from him as possible. He wasn't a presenter who had no educational experience speaking to an audience of educators about what you can or cannot do in our profession. It is coming from a person who has been in our shoes, who has taught for a certain amount of years, and who currently is in administration as a Superintendent. For myself that made this symposium even more interesting. It was nice to see the relationship that he has with Ed Hidalgo and how his expertise allowed them to work together in order to support the staff and students of the Cajon Valley Union School District.

The two points that impacted me the most from their seminar was building unity within schools and districts and the framework for career development. After listening to Dr. Miyashiro, it just gave me more to think about regarding what I would need to focus on when I

enter the role of a principal or vice principal. His passion for building unity not only within his district, but as well as the community was remarkable. For us to understand how to get there we needed to take a venture into the past of education. Dr. Miyashiro posed a great question, “What are we doing to our students in the name of test scores?”. As he went through time and what accountability looked like through history it was interesting to see how it changed over time. So much of education is focused on how our students test at the end of the year and then looking at teacher performance as a baseline for testing. Does that number define how well our school and district perform compared to others? But, is that what is helping build unity, trust, and respect within our schools and communities. That made me begin to reflect on the “who and how” I would lead in that capacity as an administrator. What makes change grow is trust and support. When it comes to change, trust and credibility rank high as two of the most important factors in building trust.

That led the conversation to the present. Dr. Miyashiro discussed how the board; his “bosses” have been some of their biggest supporters in building unity within their district. How do they compete against other districts who may have more to offer their community? This led to his board members to ask, “how do we get to a digitally advanced system? How do we get computers into the hands of our teachers and students”? I loved that he used a Steve Jobs quote regarding how to ask what the community needs. Do they ask the community what they want? No, according to Steve Jobs, “A lot of times people don’t know what they want until you show them” and that is what Dr. Miyashiro had to do. By having town hall meetings, he was able to show the types of curriculum and technology that is available for their community to use and what is needed. Getting not just his staff involved, but students, parents, community members

helped his district meet the necessary goals by providing equitable access to all students and staff.

It is obvious that Dr. Miyashiro, along with the help of Ed Hidalgo have been able to successfully have employee engagement in Cajon Valley. This takes me to the next topic that peaked my interest, career development. Dr. Miyashiro said, “shouldn’t we be looking at the happiness and well-being of our students?” Yes, would be the obvious answer. Allow them to choose what makes them happy while they are at school in order to be successful. In a video shown to us Sean Aker, a psychologist and expert in happiness said that the Greeks defined happiness as “the joy you feel moving toward your potential”. It’s not about the destination but rather the process of the journey and it needs to be built into the school system in order for it to work.

From this point forward Ed Hidalgo spoke about career development and how it helps young people connect to their vocation. It allows them to go on a journey that is “The mission of me”. What I love about this is that it gives students the opportunity to go on an academic and career journey at a young age. It allows for students to gain the experience, education, and skills needed to put them on the path to gainful employment. It allows for them to be self-aware of their strengths, interests, and values. Allowing for students to have a voice gives them the opportunity to find their passion and lead them to life of happiness as they go through their life finding their calling and reaching their potential. One of the ways that Ed Hidalgo has helped Cajon Valley Unified is by providing the support needed for teachers to help their students reach their potential through the use of the RIASEC. To be honest that was the first time I have heard of this method and found the themes extremely interesting. It is definitely something I would have to research more about, but from what Ed Hidalgo said and how successful it has been in

Cajon Valley I can see how this is just another layer of providing unity and support within their district.

As a future administrator, I only hope to be as strong, passionate, and patient as Dr. Miyashiro. He has done so much for his district and the overwhelming response from his employees and community speaks volumes to the type of administrator that he is. As a teacher I love what I do, and I can say that I am good at what I do because I love my job, so I can only hope to be as great with unifying and supporting my staff, students, and community. As the symposium came to an end, I couldn't help but feel a sense of confidence, that I too can be a successful administrator one day. Do what the greats do! Build a culture of collaboration, empower others, make the most of my time, give away the credit, listen, and show you care. Such simple concepts and suggestions, yet for me a huge eye opener. Not only did they leave me feeling that applying for an administrative position is within my reach, but they gave me the necessary tools to help me prepare for the position I want.

References:

Miyashiro, D., & Hidalgo, E. (2021, February 10). UNPRECEDENTED: Escaping the Ghost of Education Past. Retrieved February 14, 2021, from <https://www.cui.edu/en-us>