

RSS Update

Don't be a bobblehead!

By Susan Martin, Central II Regional Service Specialist (RSS)

Happy New Year! Welcome back to work after a much-deserved break. It is time to get settled into your daily routine. Let's take a moment to reflect.

Did you know that yesterday, January 7, was National Bobblehead Day? I am sure you are all familiar with bobbleheads. According to Dictionary.com, a bobblehead is "a collectible doll with a bobbing oversized head representing a celebrity or cartoon character" (<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/bobblehead>). Many of you, or your children, have bobbleheads that you have collected over the years. Some people attend sporting events to collect the bobbleheads of their favorite athletes. In addition to the bobbleheads we have in our homes, there is a National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum located in Milwaukee, WI. Who knew?

The Wiktionary (an online free dictionary) records a second definition of bobblehead as "a thoughtless person" (<https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/bobblehead>). Reading this second definition has caused me to take a moment to think about how a bobblehead is reflected in our educational leadership. As I look at the bobblehead, I can't help but think about how, as a principal, I was faced with many decisions and requests each day. At times, it was overwhelming. It would have been very easy to stand in the hallway (or staff meeting) and bob my head as my staff tried to talk with me. I would have been noncommittal to anything that was said.

As a principal, we need to be committed to our school improvement goals. We need to take a stand and make decisions that are for the betterment of our students and school. Our decisions must be based on where we are educationally headed, our school improvement goals. We cannot randomly decide a course of action and hope things will work out. A "thoughtless person" is one who bobs their head without giving a true answer. A "thoughtless person" does not take the time to think through requests and decisions. As we stand and bob our heads, time moves forward. Precious time is lost that we could have used weighing the pros and cons of a decision or considering how honoring a request will affect our school improvement goals.

As we move into the last half of the school year, let's take the time to re-evaluate our school improvement goals. Let's make a recommitment to those school improvement goals by taking the time to think about the requests made by others and the decisions we are asked to make. We planned at the beginning of the school year to meet our school improvement goals. When you are faced with a request or asked to make a decision, reflect on that plan and those goals to determine the best course of action.

Don't be a bobblehead!