

Professional Development Activity on Teamwork

This introductory professional development activity helps team members practice engaging as a team for meaningful growth. The activity builds on the rationale that effective boards pursue professional development and that vulnerability is necessary for optimal teamwork.

Time Frame

The team needs approximately fifteen to thirty minutes to complete the activity.

Materials

The team needs a facilitator and the quotable quotes contained in figure I.2 (available online at go.SolutionTree.com/leadership). Figure I.2 should be distributed to each member or displayed publicly.

Process

The superintendent or one board member should volunteer to serve as a facilitator. The facilitator should:

1. Ask team members to view the list of quotes in figure I.2 (available online at go.SolutionTree.com/leadership) and ponder the following question: “As you think about the school board and superintendent as a team, which quote best describes the team from your perspective and why?” Please note that if team members have a quote they would prefer to use instead, they may do so.
2. Ask each team member to volunteer his or her answer and rationale. (Other team members may ask questions for clarity, but no answer should be judged.)
3. Restate the common areas of strength, challenge, or both that team members shared and how this information might help the team in the future.

Results

Participating in this activity strengthens trust among the team, encourages truthful disclosure, emphasizes team members’ differences, and contributes to stronger relationships, which builds a more effective team.