



How to lead when the path isn't clear

April 16, 2020

Chat box dialogue

Link to slides:

https://learningforward.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Webinar_4-16-20-Final.pdf

Contact information for the panelists:

- Katherine Eska kwanserski@dallasisd.org
- Mary Elizabeth A. Davis maryelizabeth.davis@henry.k12.ga.us
- Beverly Hutton huttonb@nassp.org

Resources and links from the panelists:

From Katherine Eska

- Developed ND Online Learning Campus Expectations:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/18V078TAu7ZQOtJOF__HTuB2GrpNsYlluscVq4FcLuRjXc/edit?usp=sharing
- Create a one stop shop for students and parents: ND Online Virtual Classroom Reference Sheet
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13Wpgr5FSnbXUQoWfTMmo9bIXBCv9FR5TAgkxCVcX3Bo/edit?usp=sharing>
- ND Online Weekly Virtual Distributed Leadership Meeting Cycle
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LwWYQzchQCMY73L3wgXTF2b9oUHxin271mgKphBt5_k/edit?usp=sharing

From Mary Elizabeth A. Davis

- Instructional and Operational Continuity Briefing
https://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/cms/lib/GA01000549/Centricity/Domain/15825/HC_S_Instructional_and_Operational_Continuity_Briefing_CoverPlus.pdf
- End of Year Processes
<https://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/cms/lib/GA01000549/Centricity/Domain/15825/EOY%20Process%20Guide%20for%20Students%20and%20Families%204-3-2020.pdf>

From Beverly Hutton:

- NASSP COVID-19 Resources: <https://www.nassp.org/news-and-resources/covid-19/>
- [#MaslowBeforeBlooms](#) (Twitter hashtag)



Learning Forward resources:

- [Wallace Foundation Knowledge Center](#)
- [Wallace Foundation research report](#)
- [COVID-19 online resource page](#)
- [COVID-19 online community](#)
- [COVID-19 webinars](#)

Participants' responses to the question, "In what ways will you and/or your district be stronger as a result of this crisis?":

- I think our kiddos will be stronger students because they're beginning to understand that every situation can be a learning experience.
- I think schools will be more INTENTIONAL in their partnerships with families. Likewise, parents will have more targeted questions about their role.
- I think everyone having an even deeper understanding of all our roles (parents, teachers, students, administration, etc.) in a student's academic, social/emotional, and physical growth is bringing us closer together. Parents are truly more appreciative of the teacher role in their child's lives.
- It opens options for teachers that we knew were there, but we may not have accessed as readily - recording lessons, using google meets, etc.
- I think everyone will look at change differently and how we are able to make changes and we need to trust ourselves that we will do what is best for our students.
- I'm not a fan of the term grit — but I do think teachers are finding a deep vein of resilience and drawing on it.
- I think that teachers and students are finding value in NON standardized ways of assessing/understanding.
- I believe that the school district will be stronger in partnering with parents to strengthen learning and meet social emotional needs.
- Our community has really come together to support each other - I think the parent/teacher/student relationship has never been stronger.
- I think there will be a better understanding of the importance of the home-school connection.
- Our Diocese (district) will be stronger as a result of the Professional Learning teachers had to undertake out of a sense of urgency around online learning and the pedagogies that go along with this. Some of our teachers have really been challenged because the techniques they relied on for the past 15 years were no longer effective. The majority of our teachers are learners but those who were not had to change and adapt.
- The silver lining of this situation will indeed foster courageous conversations.
- I think parents have a much greater understanding of the importance and all-encompassing role of classroom teachers than before schools closed.



- Forcing us to focus on skill development using content as a medium to impart that information, rather than the mindset of having to teach specific content.
- I foresee ZERO snow day make ups in the future!
- That is SO true - no more snow days and we might get out of school before the middle of June!

Participants' responses to panelists' comments and strategies:

- Thanks for the description of the difference between "consensus" and "command" - you're right, trust is the key!!
- Thank you for mentioning the re-entry of students and staff.
- Be Ready!! I had not thought about responses to natural disasters as an approach to respond to trauma.
- RE: Connectivity - our district has parked busses in several neighborhoods to serve as Wi-Fi hotspots.
- Our district is having a Zoom session just for parents tonight.
- We have provided internet access and devices to all students in our district.
- Xfinity is offering free 60 day Internet access to low income families without a subscription in areas with Comcast service.
<https://www.internetessentials.com/covid19>
- Our superintendent is holding Parent Academies weekly to update our parents and they enter questions into the chat and he answers every single one of them.
- Thank you, Beverly. I love the #maslowbeforeblooms
- Charter & Spectrum offering free internet in our area until close of school year; Ss w/o devices were assigned school devices (we are not 1-to-1).
- We need more outreach to parents during this time... Zoom meetings and academies are terrific ideas.
- Yes!! Buildings are closed!! School is open
- Love the perspective of buildings are closed but school is open and, even more importantly, learning is still happening!
- We have thought too long about school building is the learning place. Now is the time to expand learning beyond the school building... and to continue that practice when the buildings reopen.
- Learning virtually is tough when you teach very young children with disabilities. Yet, we are continuing to teach the best that we can.
- Speaking as a former homeschooler - EVERYWHERE is a classroom, EVERYTHING is a resource.
- Empathy with Purpose!



- Yes, teaching the best we can is all we can do while being there for our students and their families.
- I like your attitude. Change can be good.
- Stronger knowledge of the importance of SEL Focus and understanding learning is not just in brick and mortar buildings.
- When student interest/activity begins waning - I approach them by asking if they're feeling well - I turn the conversation toward them and away from assignments, reaching out to see if they need anything, or have any questions, ask them how I can help them.
- I think the struggle is in getting parents and students the technology they need and helping them get connected.
- This is definitely the time for professional development to be just in time and job embedded. I've noticed that teachers are truly becoming a community of learners and leaning on and teaching one another. Connectivity at work!
- Empathetic leadership! Top priority for school leaders.
- Dare to Lead, Brene Brown. Excellent leadership book I am reading! :) Thank you for offering this webinar.
- Thank you so much for providing this webinar :) We are all in this together!
- Thank you for this opportunity to spend time together!