





Navigating the Rough Seas of the Superintendent and Board President Relationship Board Presidents' Retreat

24 August 2013

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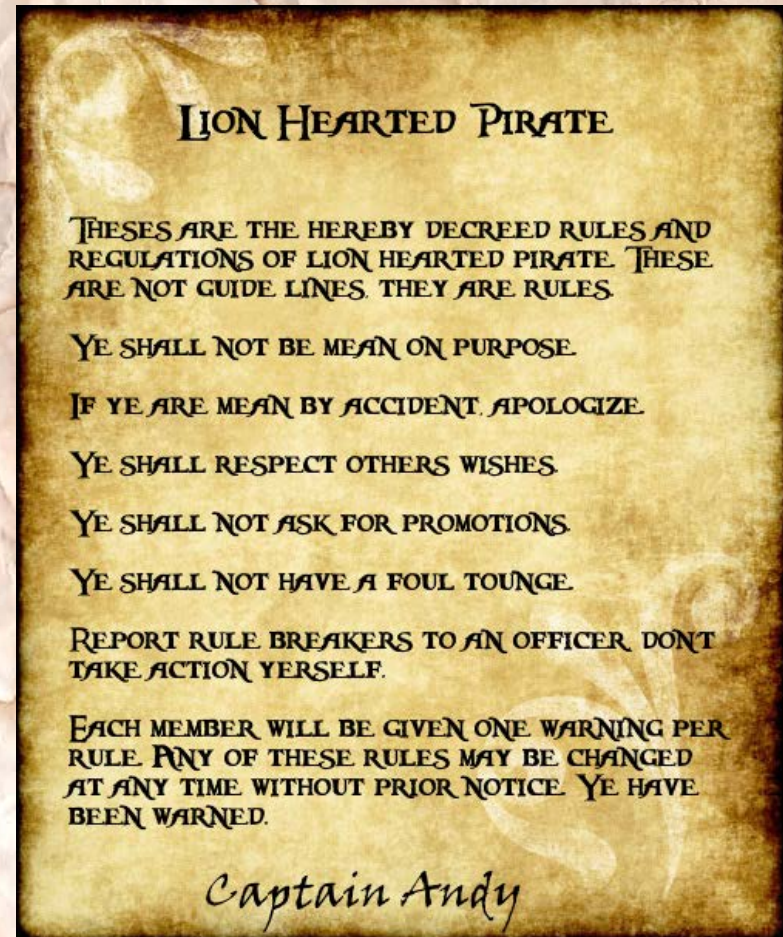
Presentation Purpose

The purpose of today's presentation.....

- ◇ Motivate a desire to better your relationships
- ◇ Share examples of what works
- ◇ Inspire professional development
- ◇ Facilitate discussion

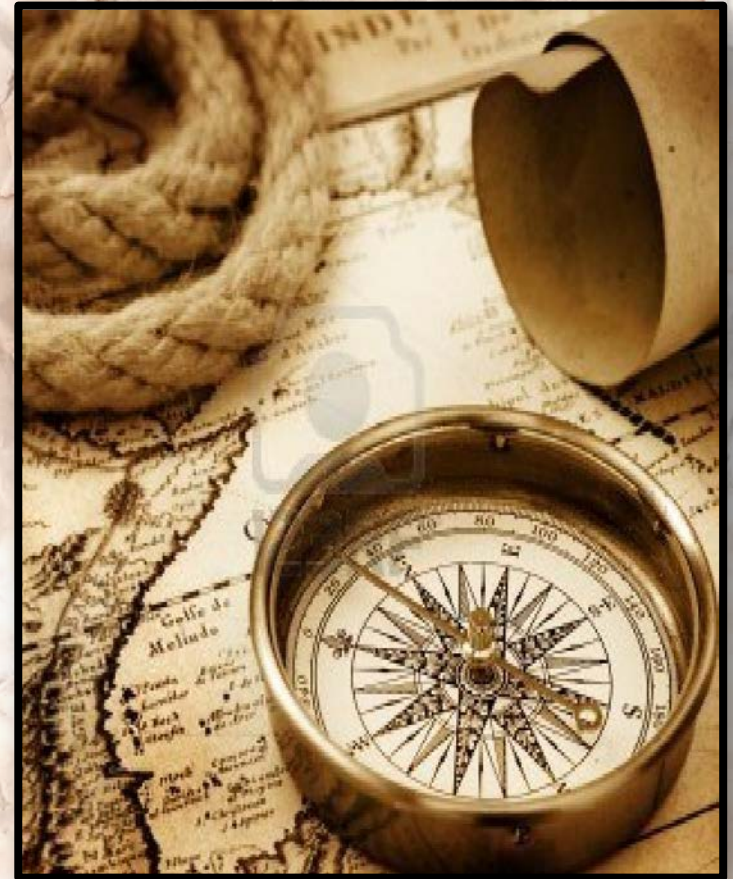
Articles of Agreement

- ◊ We have an hour together (30-30)
- ◊ Encouraged to ask questions
- ◊ Allow others to speak when called upon
- ◊ Find one thing that works for you



What Be Our Heading?

- ◇ Introduction
- ◇ Rules for this morning
- ◇ Components for navigation
 - ◇ Know where you are
 - ◇ Know where you want to go
 - ◇ Know the details of the route
- ◇ Summary
- ◇ Conclusion



Introduction



- ◇ 23 years of service
- ◇ US Army Airborne Ranger
- ◇ Two deployments
 - ◇ Bosnia-Herzegovina 1997
 - ◇ Iraq 2004
- ◇ Father
- ◇ Husband
- ◇ Student advocate
- ◇ Five years as board member

Introduction



- ◇ Teacher and school administrator 30 years
- ◇ Service leadership through involvement in local, regional and state organizations
- ◇ NCA/AdvancED School Improvement Quality Assurance Review Visits
- ◇ Interests: Travel, Outdoor Sports, History

Words to live by—

“If you limit your actions in life to things that nobody can possibly find fault with, you will not do much.”

Lewis Carroll

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Three Key Components to Navigation

- ◊ Know where you currently are
- ◊ Know where you want to end up
- ◊ Know the details of the route you will follow



Know Where You Are

- ◊ Know and follow the rules
- ◊ Know and understand how a school district operates and who is responsible
- ◊ Establish roles and responsibly as a team
- ◊ Bring a positive attitude
- ◊ Know yourself
 - ◊ strengths and weaknesses



Follow the Rules or Walk the Plank!

- ◊ Know and follow the rules
 - ◊ Open meetings
 - ◊ Conflict of interest
 - ◊ State and federal mandates
- ◊ You are president to lead
 - ◊ Efficient business meetings
 - ◊ Police fellow board members
 - ◊ Responsible for board development



Navigating the Rough S

Who's the Captain of the Ship?

- Who's responsible for running the district?
- Must make conscientious effort to develop partnership
- Don't assume it will work out
- Typically involves two large egos
- Selfless service - look for personal compensation rather than political, financial, etc.



Know Your Respective Roles

- Establish division of labor early in relationship
 - Instructional leadership
 - Setting agendas
 - Running meetings
 - Policy making
 - Fiscal matters
 - Public relations
- Avoid micromanagement and overreach



When on a Pirate Ship – Sing Along with the Other Pirates.

- ◇ Bring a positive attitude to the relationship
 - ◇ Focus on strengths
 - ◇ Praise in public - criticize in private
 - ◇ Always be welcoming
 - ◇ Speaking with one voice
 - ◇ Be honest and real
 - ◇ Demonstrate empathy
- ◇ Words mean something
- ◇ Everyone is watching you



Know Where You Want to End Up

- ◊ Know what right looks like – AdvancED standards
- ◊ Develop, publish and follow your strategic plan?



Pirate King Inspection

a.k.a. AdvancED External Review

1. Purpose and Direction
2. Governance and Leadership
3. Teaching and Assessing for Learning
4. Resources and Support Systems
5. Using Results for Continuous Improvement

Follow the Plan or Suffer the Consequences

- ◇ Policy
- ◇ Strategic Plan
- ◇ Tech Plan
- ◇ Crisis Plan
- ◇ Budget Plan
- ◇ Bad things happen when you don't follow the plan



Know the Details of the Route

- ◊ Prepare for sea monsters – let someone know when you see one.
- ◊ Keep a look out for targets of opportunity
- ◊ Know that you are allies



What happens if you see
a K raken?



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Communication

- ◇ Meet an hour prior to meetings to discuss agenda
- ◇ Heads up call goes both ways
 - ◇ Personnel
 - ◇ Students
 - ◇ Activities
 - ◇ Parents
 - ◇ Rumors
- ◇ Surprise = Bad
- ◇ Publically support one another
- ◇ Always support board decisions
- ◇ Follow chain of command



High Payoff Targets

- ◇ President needs to be involved in school events
 - ◇ Back to school events
 - ◇ Awards ceremonies
 - ◇ Assemblies
 - ◇ Present for student activities
 - ◇ “Read to first graders”
 - ◇ Graduation
- ◇ Ask to be given opportunity
- ◇ Ask how to support
- ◇ Always prepare and rehearse



Allies

- ◆ Get to know each other

- ◆ Kids
- ◆ Jobs
- ◆ Important events
- ◆ Interests

- ◆ Trust

- ◆ Honesty
- ◆ Humility
- ◆ Humor



Summary

- Hard work – it's expected
- Know your role
- Bring your A-game and a smile
- Be involved outside the board room
- Build trust and mutual respect
- Stick to the plan
- Follow the rules
- Communicate
- Remember what it's all about – the kids!

Questions?



Condusion



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