Assignment #1: Connecting a Philosophy of Education with K-12 Historical Events

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There are many things that an educator has to be aware of to be successful in the education field. One of the most important things that an educator needs to be aware of is their philosophy of education and have a clear understanding of it. One way for an educator to have a clear understanding of their philosophy of education is to know how it might have been shaped by the historical events that have taken place over the past seventy years. It is also important to understand how current trends in education impact leadership strategies, classroom practices, and student outcomes. By understanding this it can allow an educator such as the writer to be able to formulate a philosophy of education that successfully manages the strategic planning process in today’s time. The purpose of this paper is to connect the writer’s philosophy of education with the major historical events and political issues that have influenced K-12 education over the years.

**Major Historical and Political Issues**

For the writer to be able to connect his philosophy of education to the historical and political issues that have taken place it is important for there to be an understanding of the major changes that have taken place in the education field that would help shape the philosophy. The largest change in education is one that has been done gradually over that past fifty or more years and that is how local school boards and school administrators have lost power on how to run the schools (Kirst, 2010). Previously the education that was being offered in the classroom setting was one that was based upon the decisions that local school boards and even the administrators in the schools felt would be best for the community in how the school was run and what classes would need to be offered and how to decide how to monitor how the classes were successful or not (Kirst, 2010). With the passing of the No Child Left Behind that was put into place in the early 2000s and signed into law by President George W. Bush gave a lot more power to the federal government in regards to how schools would be funded and thus meaning more oversight in how schools would be run as a result (Heise, 2017). The No Child Left Behind Act was meant to ensure that every student was getting an equal education to other students and no one was being treated differently for any reason (Kirst, 2010). The No Child Left Behind Law is one that put an emphasis on testing and changed the thought process of education to that of being one that was based upon test-based accountability within the schools across the United States (Ladd, 2017). The No Child Left Behind Act also caused more classroom instruction time to be given to the subjects that were tested which were math and reading than in other subjects (Carlson, 2019). Then in 2015 there was another law that was passed that replaced the No Child Left Behind Act and that is the Every Student Succeeds Act which only modified that testing requirements of subjects schools across the nation (Heise, 2017). It is also important to note that the Every Student Succeeds Act also requires states to ensure that everyone is getting an equal education (Heise, 2017). One of the components of the Every Student Succeeds Act is to ensure that students are getting a good education in reading, science, and math (Carlson, 2019).

A major historical event that has taken place gradually over the years that has had a major impact on the education field is the use of technology has grown over the past ten to fifteen years (Mercer, Hennessy & Warwick, 2019). At the time that the writer first started attending schools there was very little technology being used in the classroom setting. The teacher would be in the front of the room teaching and using a projector to teach. In today's time teachers can use various techniques to help teach students the subject at hand such as a computer program that is set up to help students get a firsthand account at what they are learning about (Wood, Mirza & Shaw, 2018). A lot of school districts even have it set up where each student that attends is given some sort of technological devices such as a Chromebook or IPad to help students keep up with notes, to use to research the topic they are learning about or do other stuff in the classroom setting (Bailey, 2019). The use of technology has also allowed teachers to be able to collaborate more together and plan together on how they will teach their classes that they have (Domingo & Garganté, 2016).

**How Current Trends Impact Education**

As an educator it is extremely important to understand how current trends impact the education system. The three main trends that have impacted the education system recently is ensuring each student is getting a quality education, the growth of technology, and the push to project-based learning that is supposed to be taking place in each classroom. Recently there has been a large push in ensuring that each student is getting an education that is fair and equal regardless of if they are special education students, have a learning disability, or any other reason they might be different or learn differently (Coleman, 2019). The way that ensuring that every student is given a fair and equal education has impacted current leadership strategies is that the leadership within a school has to ensure that they are educating every child in a fair and equal manner (King, 2017). Some schools have taken steps to ensure that when teachers are being evaluated the leadership will evaluate the equity of the instruction for every learner in the classroom setting (Hatch & Roegman, 2017). The reason why ensuring that every student is given equal access to a strong environment in regards to instruction is that it has been found that students are more likely to perform better academically speaking (Hatch & Roegman, 2017). The leadership has to ensure that every classroom is given equal resources and one class is not given more than another classroom setting. Students have been found to have a higher level of academic achievement when they are treated fairly and have access to instruction that is engaging for the students (Aragonés-González, Rosser-Limiñana & Gil-González, 2020). The way that providing equal education to every student has impacted classroom practices is that it has caused teachers to learn how to differentiate their lessons in manners that it would allow them to teach the material to every student that they have in their classroom (Swanson, Ficarra & Chapin, 2020).

Another trend that has a large impact on the education field is the use of technology. The use of technology has grown and teachers are now using technology to help teach lessons to have students complete projects using various types of technology (Collins & Halverson, 2018). Teachers are also able to use technology to allow students to video conference with someone across the world and show real-life examples of what they are coving in a class by the use of technology (Domingo & Gargante, 2016). There have been some studies that have been carried out that show that when students are using technology it can increase the amount of engagement that the students have in the classroom setting (Bailey, 2019). Some states now require teachers to get so many hours every few years on new technology that is available that can be used in the classroom setting (Bakir, 2016). As a result of there being a push in using technology in the classroom setting many school leadership teams have started to offer professional development on different types of technology to teachers (Norton, Creghan, Creghan & Maninger, 2017). The way that leadership strategies have changed in regards to technology is now teachers are evaluated concerning how the use of technology is being used in the classroom setting (Lai & Bower, 2019). Administrators are making sure that teachers are using technology and offering ways to help them better learn technology by offering professional development when something new comes out or if there are teachers in need of learning how to use some sort of technology.

The last trend that has made a major impact on the education field is the push of project-based learning in the classroom setting. Recently there has been a push for teachers to use projects to better teach their students in the classroom (Kokotsaki, Menzies & Wiggins, 2016). As a result of the push many teachers have been creating more projects for students to complete and work together on to have students be more hands-on and better learn the material at hand (Hugerat, 2016). Teachers have taken steps to build lessons and use project-based learning as a result. By using project-based learning it has been found to help increase student academic achievement in the classrooms because it can help the students be more engaged in the lesson that is being taught to them (Fischer, 2017). The way that this trend has affected leadership strategies is that it has caused leaders in schools to be more supportive of teachers to use project-based learning in the classroom setting (Edmunds, Arshavsky, Glennie, Charles & Rice, 2017). At the writer's school the administration team has experienced teachers that use project-based learning come in and help teachers plan lessons that incorporate project-based learning into the lessons that are going to be taught to the students. All three of the above trends have made major impacts on the education field as a whole.

**Philosophy of Education**

Educators must have a good philosophy of education in a place that will help guide them in their teaching endeavors. The writer's philosophy of education is that every student is different and they must be given an environment in which they can successfully succeed. It is the desire of the writer that an atmosphere is created in which students can truly reach their full potential. Historically speaking it can be seen that each student is indeed different and they need to be taught in ways that each student can understand. The writer believes that students should be in an environment that supports the use of technology to help students better understand the material and to use project-based learning to help students learn the material at hand. The writer further believes that as an educational leader and inspires the associates that report to them and that they must lead by example and create an environment that fosters the relationship of equity within the school building. By doing this it will ensure that the associates within the school are given the ability to create an environment that is based upon offering every student equity and being fair with every student involved. By creating an environment that is leading by example and inspiring associates will allow the writer as an educational leader to successfully manage the strategic planning process. Being a leader that has good equity and leadership can help lead to higher classroom achievement. The reason is that when students are treated fairly and with respect it helps lead to a safer and secure learning environment for them to learn in (Darling-Hammond & Cook-Harvey, 2018).

**Working With Others with Different Philosophies**

An educational leader needs to be able to work with many different stakeholders such as teachers, administrators, school board members, and many others. By being a school leader that works towards providing an environment that is based upon equity would allow a leader to be able to easily work with others. The reason is that a leader that is working towards providing an environment that is based upon equity it one that is trying to be fair with everyone. A leader has to understand that no matter how they act and carry out behaviors within an organization it will have an impact on many different stakeholders within and even outside of the organization (Ramay, Majeed, Javed, Saeed & Ismail, 2017). When a leader is being fair and providing equity to all associates and students within an organization it helps create an atmosphere that associates are expected to be fair and respectful with their peers and even students. Being an ethical leader and being fair can also lead to having more engaged associates within the organization (Lam, 2017). One of the advantages of having a more engaged school staff is that it can help lead to higher academic performance for the students that attend the school (Hebert, 2019). In other words, having a leader that is concentrating one being fair and ethical within an organization will make it easy for them to work with many different stakeholders because they will be approaching the stakeholders in a manner that is being fair in working with them.

**Conclusion**

There are many things that an educator has to be aware of to be able to be successful in the education field. Having a good philosophy of education in place is one of the things that can help an educator be more successful in the field of education. An educator has to understand that many things can have an impact on a philosophy of education such as events that take place within the community and also the political world. By understanding this and know how this can have an impact on a philosophy of education can help an educator know what to expect and what is going to be expected of them.

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