



Improving life and leadership of assistant principals

Five for Friday Outline

Hello colleagues and welcome to the Assistant Principal Podcast. I'm your host Frederick Buskey. The goal of this podcast is to help improve the life and leadership of assistant principals. Today's episode of Five for Friday recaps the strategic leadership emails for the week of December 5-9, 2022.

Imagine setting a leadership intention at the beginning of each day. That's what many readers of the daily email do. For some, it has become a ritual: Pour a cup of coffee, open your email, read the Strategic Leader Daily, and set one intention to be aware of or execute for the day. The daily email is a powerful leadership practice so if you aren't already a subscriber, I hope you'll consider joining the list. It's just one more way to include me on your leadership journey, and that would bring me joy. You can find a link on my homepage at <https://www.frederickbuskey.com/>

Recap...

I didn't do it intentionally, but there is a lot of A-B this week!

Begin with **Wednesday**: the origin of A-B

Strategic leaders work A-B. We identify a small change that will make things a tiny bit better immediately and we execute that change. Immediate small improvements are worth more than big future promises.

Working A-B helps us stay focused and make immediate improvements. And if the situation doesn't improve, maybe because we misdiagnosed the problem, we haven't wasted a huge amount of time or effort.

Today's intention: Think about your change initiatives. What can you do to make them simpler? What can you do to create A-B improvements for people right now?

Monday: : **Avoid distractions and focus on what is important.**

Greenhouse evolution and chasing shiny objects.

Returning to this on Friday!

Tuesday: **The first step to making a situation better is to understand the problem**

On a few occasions we've had trouble getting the podcast out on time.

We have had four different breakdowns:

1. I was late getting an episode recorded
2. Lance went to edit the episode and the audio file had not uploaded correctly
3. I recorded the episode, but nobody realized it
4. Managing the podcast was at the bottom of someone's priority list

In each case, the symptom was that the podcast barely got done in time for release.

However, each time the root problem was different.

Because we invested time in each instance to understand the root problem, we were able to take small actions that should eliminate or at least decrease the chances of being late with future episodes.

Today's intention: When you have the urge to jump into action, first consider what the problem might be.

Wednesday: already did that

Thursday: What's the difference between swimming and drowning?

Is the new teacher trying to figure out how to align activities with learning standards, or is he just throwing out activities because he is overwhelmed with all the facets of the job?

It can be hard to tell just by watching, which is why being present is so important.

5-minute coaching session?

1. I'm so glad to have you in our school!
2. Your first year of teaching is going fast, what's going well?
3. What have been the biggest surprises?
4. Is there anything you would have done differently?
5. I appreciate you sharing, and all of the hard work that you've invested into our students.

In that five-minute conversation, you will know whether they are drowning or learning to swim.

Friday: **Go make a positive difference by coaching someone today!**

Two weeks ago, I was in a school talking with a middle school math teacher. His students were working on a big genetics project. I went through the 5-minute coaching process with him and asked the three questions about the genetics unit:

1. What went well?
2. Were there any surprises?
3. Would you do anything differently?

Reflect on your week:

- What did you do as a leader that helped someone grow?
- In working to develop the people around you, were there any surprises this week?
- Was there anything that you would do differently to have a greater impact on growing your people?

I hope you saw what I did there 😊

The shiny object I really wanted to chase...

Takeaway

Focused on three of the four principles of strategic leadership:

- Problems instead of symptoms. There is a process, but for now just ask why
- Progress through incremental change. Avoid shiny objects and grand plans and focus on A-B
- People through 5-minute coaching

Strategic leadership: Nothing complicated. Nothing time-consuming.

This wraps up this week's Five for Friday rendition of The Assistant Principal Podcast. If you enjoyed today's show, please subscribe and rate this podcast. Rating the podcast really does help other people to find it.

As I mentioned earlier, I really want to do the five-day 5-minute coaching challenge. Consider emailing me and either talking me off the ledge or giving me a push! You can reach me at frederick@frederickbuskey.com.

If you'd like to find out more about what I'm doing to support assistant principals, you can head over to my website at frederickbuskey.com/theassistantprincipal.

I'm Frederick Buskey and I hope you'll join me next time for the Assistant Principal Podcast.