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Critical Strategies on Dealing with Demanding Parents

According to Prilleltensky (2016), dealing with challenging students or parents is inevitable for any educator. School administrators and teachers must understand that they will not always make everyone happy. The reason is administrators and educators find themselves in positions where they find it necessary to make difficult decisions. In most instances, parents challenge such decisions, especially on grade retention and student discipline. In this regard, I must be diplomatic in my decision-making and think before making any hurried decision. There are different strategies that I have learned on dealing with demanding parents which would work best for me.

I have learned that dealing with a difficult parent is easy if I can start by being proactive in building a relationship with them before experiencing any difficulty. As a teacher or school administrator, this relationship is essential because if the parents are on my side, it becomes easy to deal with any situation. By being proactive, I can go out of my way and reach out to those parents with a difficult reputation. My goal here is to be friendly and personable to them. Furthermore, my goal is to show these parents that I make decisions in my students' best interest. In addition to that, I have to be open-minded because most of the problematic parents who complain may have a genuine concern that their child is the victim. Though it is common for the parents to be defensive, I have learned that it is essential for me to be open-minded and listen to what the parents have to say. It is essential for me as an educator to see things from the parent's perspective, hence the importance of being open-minded. These parents might be frustrated and are yearning for someone to listen to them.

In short, in the future, what I will do differently is to be prepared both physically, emotionally, and psychologically to deal with difficult parents because it is inevitable. I will encounter them, and I must be ready to deal with them while applying the class strategies.

Reference

Prilleltensky, I., Neff, M., & Bessell, A. (2016). Teacher Stress: What It Is, Why It's Important, How It Can Be Alleviated. *Theory into Practice*, 55(2), 104-111.

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