

## **PROFESSIONAL OR REFLECTIVE DIALOGUE**

With new or inexperienced teachers, it is important that administrators confirm that minimum expectations are being met. With experienced and successful teachers, we want to celebrate your successes, encourage you to continue to reflect on your teaching, and support you in your continued professional growth.

In a March 1996 article in PHI DELTA KAPPAN called *Learning for All*, the authors suggested that continued teacher learning:

- Occurs most often when concrete classroom examples and experiences are used to ground an inquisitive, respectful and discerning conversation about practice.
- Depends on experimentation and ongoing reflection.
- Will occur if people come to the table from different parts of the education system, only if because their experience, commitments, worries and energies will vary.
- Does much better when those who meet to advance such learning view themselves as learners.

Therefore, we hope to enter into a more reflective dialogue with each of you that will provide opportunities for you to illustrate your learnings and convictions through dialogue, materials and classroom demonstrations.

To begin the dialogue, consider these “prompting” questions:

1. What convictions about teaching and learning do you hold most strongly and are most visible in your approaches?
2. Over the past five years, what approaches and materials have you incorporated that have strengthened programs, teaching and/or student learning?
3. Over the similar period, are there approaches and materials that you have put aside and what caused you to take that step?

Through the initial conversation, we hope that classroom visits would result to demonstrate areas of interest to either teachers or administrators and/or where feedback to you would be helpful. A concluding conversation would provide further reflection and perhaps an exploration of future areas of interest.

The report would mirror our conversations but would also affirm in a concise way that basic expectations are being met. If you want a specific reference to an aspect of your work, that could be incorporated.