

## Scott Jackson, Principal- Participant of PTC Assessment 2019



“Okay. Um, my Pearl this morning really comes back to the, the common threads of being a leader. This is my eighth PTC course and there are certain things that, that, um, you, obviously you learn from the content, but there's also common threads that are underpinned throughout all of the courses that, that you do. And there's things you take away from it. And those common threads come through across each course. So what I want to do today is just to present some of those common threads and how they connect to their reality for me as a leader and maybe their food for thought for you. OK. So my first common thread is if you're a new leader, your first year is a bit like running yourself through an intense cycle, a washing machine. It is. It's, it's the reality of what it is you feel is the farm in the same two people. At the end of my first actually couple of years, I feel like everything is being taken out of the, in my DNA. It feels like that. But that's part of having that grit and resilience and moving forward.

My second common thread, and you hear this in every PTC module that you do, is you need to listen to people. You need to talk to people. You need to get inside, whether it's about assessment or creating an effective school or curriculum, leadership, listening to your community, and by community I mean your parents teach you to students, your faculty, your leadership team, everyone around you. Listening is so important. Um, the third one is finding a mentor, making sure you've got someone that you can bounce ideas off and seek advice and it should be somebody I believe that you connect with. It may not necessarily be your line manager, but it may not necessarily be who your line manager has chosen you to, to have. You're only human. You need somebody to communicate and bounce your ideas off. Very important.

Okay. The next one, and I really struggled with this, I still struggled with it to a certain extent, is don't try to do it all yourself. Okay? When we talk about capacity building a lot, but find out what people's talents are and put them to good use for the sake of your school and for the sake of your learners. I use the analogy which, excuse me if this sounds unpleasant, but if I got hit by a truck tomorrow, how confident am I that the initiatives that are going on in this school will continue in the path that I wanted or that we wanted them to? Because if I left that building and things fall, it fell apart and it doesn't mean



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that I've really build that into the culture of the school and built a team around to build that into the culture of the school. But if I'm confident that if I'm out the door tomorrow, yeah, this, this is still going to continue, this enough people here to keep this moving. And I know that school's in a good place and I know in my leadership I've done my job.

Okay, next one. You probably questioned yourself in your first few years as a, as a leader, you're question, your abilities, your question, everything about yourself. Don't try to act like a principal. Don't try to act like the big shot because eventually the real you is going to come out. Just see a face facing, no matter how much you try, it's going to come out. So just be yourself. Of course, be that leader that, that if it is really inside you, but make sure that you're not putting up a front because people will see through it and eventually your side is going to come out.

Okay. And finally, and this is the most important thing, and this is one of the things that I think has come through loud and create every single PTC module that I've done. I actually have this glued onto my conference table in my office. Never, ever forget why we're here as very, very important. No matter how hard the conversation is, bring it back to this. And I had this stuck onto my conference table in my office because sometimes when you're having heated conversations, you've got to bring it back to what is best for the learners in your school. Thank you."