

Navigating the Waters of Being A Principal

By: Johnny Goodlow, Hammond High School

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Background That Led to Your Inquiry:

I liken my previous experiences during my principalship like a ship out at sea. While setting the course, you encounter storms. One of the major storms I encountered on this journey was the process of balancing work and family. This struggle was the focus of my action research project.

When I looked back at my Outlook Calendar, I had many appointments and supervisions that took up my time, however, I did not intentionally plan time with my family. Needless to say, there were some nights where I would not see my wife or my one year old daughter.

Statement of Your Wondering:

I wonder how my educational leadership could be influenced by intentionally planning for time with my family.

Methods/Procedures:

The process included leaving work by 5pm (and leave work at work).

Making sure I spent at least one full day out of the weekend with the family

Take pictures of family time for reminder purposes. And keep a journal throughout the process.

Stating Your Learning and Supporting it with Data:

The following is the feedback I received while intentionally spending time with my family and being aware of the balance between work and home life.

I loved seeing the smile on my wife's face while we were in Galena.

My daughter has started running up to me when I get home to give me a great big hug. Usually, I'm walking in when she is getting ready to go to bed.

Some of my teachers have noticed that I'm in a better mood, despite me going through this investigation with the IHSAA. My English department head asked how do you do it, and I responded "I leave work at work and it's been working for me."

Providing Concluding Thoughts:

Being more intentional with planning family time has helped me to be closer to my family. My co-workers have noticed a change in my disposition since I've begun to intentionally plan family time.

Although I've had some success, it is still difficult to maintain.

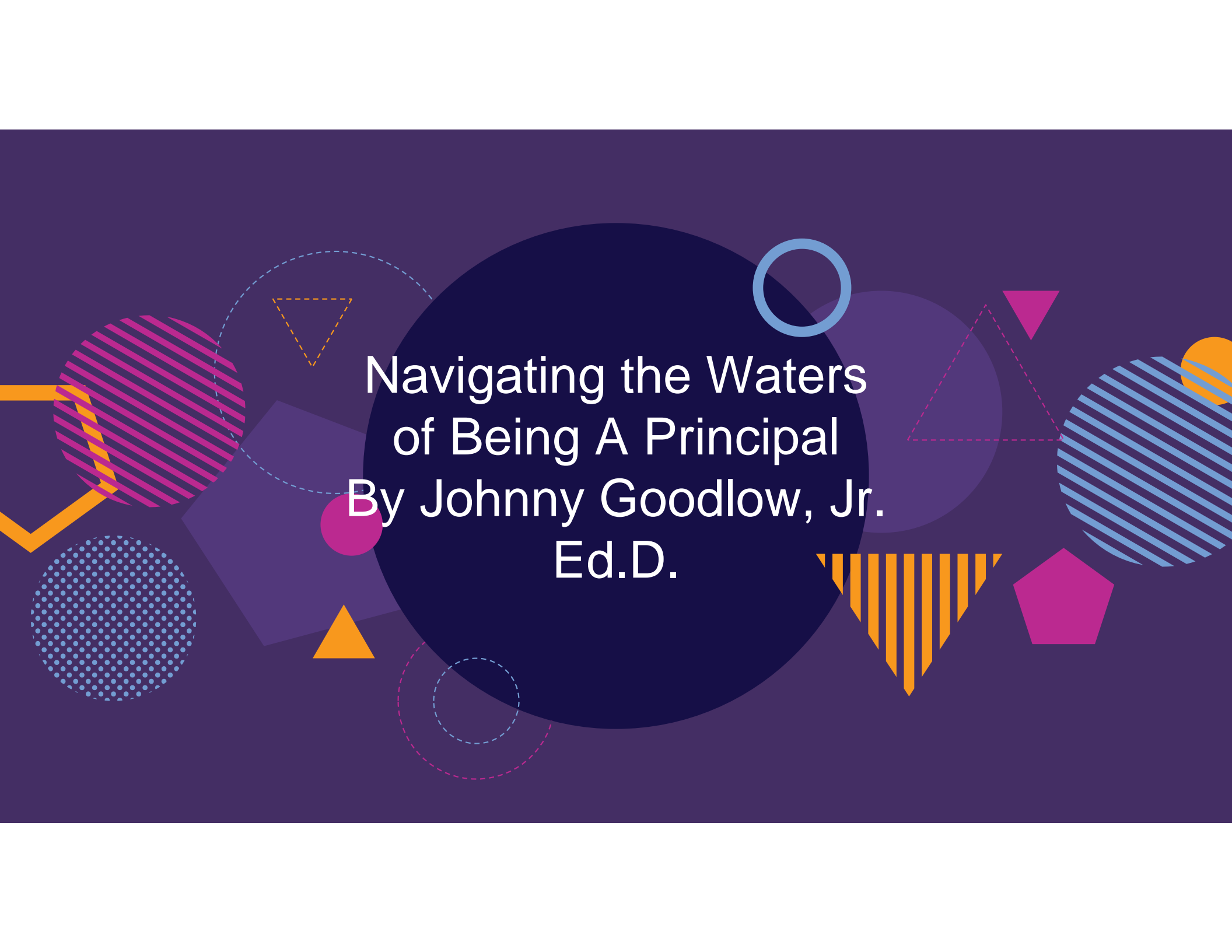
I will keep up with the intentional planning of time with the family

I found the journal very helpful not only to express my thoughts during this project, but to vent about things outside this project

I do want to plan more “away trips” with the family a few months after my son is born in mid-April.

References:

N/A



Navigating the Waters
of Being A Principal
By Johnny Goodlow, Jr.
Ed.D.

Project Background



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A Look At My Outlook Calendar

When I looked back at my Outlook Calendar, I had many appointments and supervisions that took up my time, however, I did not intentionally plan time with my family. Needless to say, there were some nights where I would not see my wife or my one year old daughter.

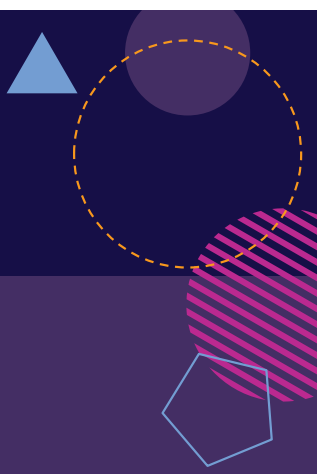
September 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29 1:00 PM Jocelyn Garcia Enrol 1:30 PM Meeting with Janice	30 9:00 AM Sgt. Foster 1:30 PM Counselor's Meeting	31 7:30 AM Samantha Esquillan 8:30 AM Senior Meeting; Au 8:30 PM TESTING SECURITY	1 11:30 AM Brianna Walker 1:30 PM Master Teacher Mee	2 10:00 AM Meeting with Borsi 11:00 AM Meeting for Mariss 12:00 PM Meeting with Shalo	3
4	5 11:00 AM Bojana Rajcevic Sc 1:30 PM Meeting with Janice	6 Invitation: PEARSON - MATH - HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS 1:30 PM Counselor's Meeting 3:00 PM Chess Meeting; Ad	7 8:00 AM Invitation: Affiliate 11:00 AM Bojana Rajcevic Sc	8 9:00 AM Salina Matticz 773- 9:30 AM Ahjanae Sanders 12:10 PM Meeting with Food 1:30 PM Master Teacher Mee	9 SIP Plans due ; send to me 9:30 AM 10:00 AM Meeting with Borsi 11:00 AM Bojana Rajcevic	10
11	12 8:00 AM Administrator Meeti 8:00 AM Administrator Meeti 1:00 PM Meeting with Mr. Gi 1:30 PM Meeting with Janice	13 9:00 AM Secondary Principal 1:30 PM Counselor's Meeting 3:00 PM SAP Plan Will Be Co	14 9:00 AM IHSSAA MEETING AT 1:04 PM Suwardi Walkthrou 1:30 PM Glassford Walkthro 2:00 PM Rausel Walkthrough	15 7:30 AM Cluster Meeting Do 12:00 PM No subject 1:30 PM Master Teacher Mee 3:00 PM Clerical Meeting; Ma	16 8:00 AM Invitation: DA Conf 9:00 AM Porras 2nd Observa 10:00 AM Meeting with Borsi 10:30 AM Muniz 2nd Observ	17
18	19 8:00 AM Administrator Meeti 8:00 AM Administrator Meeti 9:00 AM Rajanic Reillo Enroll 10:00 AM Tony Clark (Sandr	20 7:00 AM The Day I will be a 8:00 AM Josue Hernandez St 1:30 PM Counselor's Meeting 5:00 PM Girls Varsity Soccer	21 8:00 AM Meeting with Mrs. 9:00 AM Ms. Muniz Pre-Conf 9:30 AM Porras Second Walk 1:00 PM Glassford Second W	22 7:30 AM Cluster Meeting Do 8:00 AM Parchment Transcri 8:30 AM College Board Tra 1:30 PM Master Teacher Mee	23 School Technology Plans d 7:30 AM Muniz Evaluation (I 8:30 AM L. Forbes Meeting; 9:00 AM Meeting with Big B	24
25	26 8:00 AM Administrator Meeti 8:00 AM Administrator Meeti 9:00 AM Evaluation: Travis 1:30 PM Meeting with Janice	27 ILPI Cohort Meeting 1:30 PM Counselor's Meeting	28 8:00 AM Principals meeting 8:00 AM NWEA Training on 8:00 PM Visit Glenda Ritz, I	29 7:30 AM Cluster Meeting Do 1:00 PM T. Spence, Hammon 1:30 PM Master Teacher Mee 5:30 PM Girls JV Volleyball	30 8:00 AM Alexis Hernandez M 8:00 AM I told y'all not to en 9:00 AM Brianna Williams En 9:15 AM 21st Century Grant	1
October 2016						
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3	26 8:00 AM Administrator Meeti 8:00 AM Administrator Meeti 9:00 AM Evaluation: Travis	27 ILPI Cohort Meeting 1:30 PM Counselor's Meeting	28 8:00 AM Principals meeting 8:00 AM NWEA Training on 8:00 PM Visit Glenda Ritz, I	29 7:30 AM Cluster Meeting Do 1:00 PM T. Spence, Hammon 1:30 PM Master Teacher Mee	30 8:00 AM Alexis Hernandez M 8:00 AM I told y'all not to en 9:00 AM Brianna Williams En	1 8:00 AM HHS Student Achiev
2	3 7:30 AM Ms. Tina Ellis Englis 8:00 AM Administrator Meeti 8:00 AM Administrator Meeti	4 12:00 PM Jacob Garcia Exit I 1:30 PM Counselor's Meeting 2:30 PM Muniz Post confer	5 10:00 AM Porras Pre-confer 1:00 PM NIET Refresher Wor	6 7:30 AM Cluster Meeting Do 7:30 AM Tyvon Curtis 310-0 1:00 PM NIET Refresher; Ad	7 8:30 AM 21st Century Grant 10:00 AM Meeting with Borsi 12:00 PM Meeting with Shalo	8
9	10 8:00 AM Administrator Meeti 8:00 AM Administrator Meeti 8:30 AM Suwardi Second Wal	11 9:00 AM Secondary Principal 9:00 AM FW: The staff meeti 1:00 PM Brenda Huerta Exit I	12 10:00 AM Meeting with Josh 3:00 PM Management Team	13 7:30 AM Cluster Meeting Do 1:00 PM ILPI Cohort Meeting; 1:30 PM Master Teacher Mee	14 9:00 AM Meeting with Bobbi 10:00 AM Meeting with Borsi 12:00 PM Meeting with Shalo	15 8:20 AM Pre-Conference pla
6	17 8:00 AM Administrator Meeti 8:00 AM Administrator Meeti 9:00 AM Monday morning m	18 11:00 AM Natural Helpers M 11:30 AM Ny-Tech Dual Cre 12:05 PM Forbes Meeting; Dr	19 8:00 AM Meeting with Mrs. R 1:50 PM Fire Drill 3:00 PM Faculty Meeting; Me	20 7:30 AM Cluster Meeting Do 7:45 AM Safety Drill 1; MHS 1:30 PM Master Teacher Mee	21 9:00 AM Muniz Post confere 10:00 AM Meeting with Borsi 11:00 AM Rausel Pre Confer	22
23	24 8:00 AM Administrator Meeti 8:00 AM Administrator Meeti 9:00 AM Monday morning m	25 8:20 AM Daphne Goeders Me 10:00 AM Antel Shields Exit I 1:30 PM Counselor's Meeting	26 8:00 AM Ezinwa Nwankpa JR 9:00 AM Muniz Post Confere	27 7:30 AM Cluster Meeting Do 1:30 PM Master Teacher Mee	28 10:00 AM Meeting with Borsi 12:00 PM Meeting with Shalo	29
30	31 8:00 AM Administrator Meeti 8:00 AM Administrator Meeti 9:00 AM Monday morning m	1 8:30 AM Monique Vaughn M 1:30 PM Counselor's Meeting 5:00 PM Parent Conferences	2 7:30 AM Student for a day; H	3 7:30 AM Cluster Meeting Do 8:30 AM Principal's Mtg; ACC 1:30 PM Master Teacher Mee	4 10:00 AM Meeting with Borsi 10:30 AM Rausel Post confer 12:00 PM Meeting with Shalo	5



My Wonder...



I wonder how my educational leadership could be influenced by intentionally planning for time with my family.



The Process

- ① Leave work by 5pm (and leave work at work).
- ① At least one full day out of the weekend will be spent with the family
- ① Take pictures of family time
- ① Keep a journal throughout the process.



Some Of The Feedback From My Journal Entries

I loved seeing the smile on my wife's face while we were in Galena.

My daughter has started running up to me when I get home to give me a great big hug. Usually, I'm walking in when she is getting ready to go to bed.

Some of my teachers have noticed that I'm in a better mood, despite me going through this investigation with the IHSAA. My English department head asked how do you do it, and I responded "I leave work at work and it's been working for me."

Things Discovered From My Action Research

- Being more intentional with planning family time has helped me to be closer to my family.
- My co-workers have noticed a change in my disposition since I've begun to intentionally plan family time.
- Although I've had some success, it is still difficult to maintain.

Next Steps



- I will keep up with the intentional planning of time with the family
- I found the journal very helpful not only to express my thoughts during this project, but to vent about things outside this project
- I do want to plan more “away trips” with the family a few months after my son is born (April 17, 2017).