



## Essential School Leadership with Keith Nix and Robyn Burlew

### Lesson 2: Vision

#### Outline:

##### Vision

- The leader needs to get really good at telling the story of the school.
- Make sure every head is really gripped by the vision and willing to embody it.
- Admit you don't know something, and then make it know that you are pursuing it.
- It should be evident that you are longing for conversations.
- Learn to talk about the vision in ways that fit appropriate audiences.

##### Craft and practice the message

- Coaching in this can be helpful.
- Practice in front of your team.
- Think about your audiences.
- The story has to be much larger than the high school experience.
- This is about cultivating loves.
- Be good at helping parents take the long view.
- Talk to teachers about how their conversations with parents fits into the big story.

##### Elements of the secular story

- Where you get into school at age 18 is highly influential in the outcome of your adult livelihood (American dream).
- What job might this land you?
- This is about child's own desires and wants and fulfillment.
- Where do you want to go to college? What do you want to be when you grow up?

##### Elements of the classical Christian story

- This is about the glory of God.
- Where do you think God might want you to go? How has he made you?
- An education that cares about the whole student for life and what they love.
- They love truth, goodness, beauty.
- What is the setting in which you do that?
- If a community is healthy it has the marks of a good friendship.
- We are fighting against fragmentation and disintegration in school and life.



What does it mean to be a leader who is also a visionary?

- A vision is having a clear picture of a desired result.
- A portrait of a graduate is a clear picture of a desired result.
- A visionary organizes people and resources and moves them toward that picture.
- If you just have the picture, you are dreaming.

Does the head of school always need to be a visionary leader to a certain extent?

- The head of school has to be the primary visionary.
- Possibly early on a head may have more help with vision.
- It is not about personality type.

Visionary leading and academic leadership

- In disciplinary situation you can motivate and cast vision for a student.
- You can have a desire for the student that they might not have for themselves.