

Ethical Educational Leadership in  
Turbulent Times:  
(Re) Solving Moral Dilemmas

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Maryland State Department of Education:  
Promising Principals' Academy  
October 6, 2016

# THE BIG PICTURE: Or 5 Not So Easy Pieces...

1. Ethical Dilemmas are a part of our lives as educational leaders, like it or not.
2. There is more than one ethical lens that you can use when facing an ethical dilemma (Multiple Ethical Paradigm or MEP)
3. Turbulence is a force you can learn to work with when dealing with an ethical dilemma. (Turbulence Theory)
4. These two ideas, MEP and Turbulence Theory work together and, with practice, you can learn to use them effectively.
5. We are all learning how to do this well, and we should act as a supportive learning community. These are important building blocks in reclaiming school reform that is both democratic and ethical.

# Morning Schedule:

- Introduction to our topic: You know it's a dilemma when...
- Starting with you: what are the stresses facing you as administrators?
- Overview of our turbulent times
- Multiple Ethical Paradigm
- Turbulence Theory
- So how turbulent are our times really? (Using the Turbulence Gauge)

## BREAK

- Case One: *Test Rooms versus Rest Rooms* (a warm-up)
- Our personal ethical codes and our professional ethical codes

## WORKING LUNCH

# Afternoon Schedule:

- Case Two: *Rigor or Rhetoric?*
- Case Three: *Bomb Threat: Real or Hoax/ React or Ignore*
- Wrapping up:
  - Patterns of ethical dilemmas facing YOU.
  - What did you learn from your own personal and your professional code?
  - How might ethical decision making in turbulent times be carried forward beyond today's workshop?
  - HOW DOES THIS ALL FIT INTO RECLAIMING SCHOOL REFORM?

# The Stresses Facing You

## Discussion with your group:

What are the stresses and tough issues that you are facing now as building administrators?

How have they changed over the last few years?

(Our group process rules for the day: We need a facilitator (time keeper) . We also need a recorder who will act as a reporter for each exercise. Each group should rotate the job of recorder/reporter so that everyone has a turn by the end of the day.)

# You and your code of ethics:

We will do this in two stages:

First, your personal code, then your professional code.

For write your personal codes (how you behave in their home lives). Please share these in your group. Please assign a member of your group to be the recorder. Work on your combined list, group by group. (The SDE team may act as facilitators and time keepers but NOT note takers) . We will ask for the groups to report out.

Next please do the same for your professional codes (how you behave at their work). Follow up will be similar to the first round.

Are there conflicts between your personal and professional codes? What do you do if this happens?