

**Artifact Title:** A New Look!  
**Date Experienced:** Spring, 2014

**Artifact Description:**

My artifacts include documents that show the process for selecting and proposing the purchase of new band uniforms. The new uniform proposal was for the Clinton High School band program. The artifacts show the uniform design details, financial details, and the work to mobilize and rally the community in support of the purchasing new uniforms. This has been one of the largest projects I have ever worked on.

**Wisconsin Administrator Standard Alignment:**

This artifact best aligns with Administrative Standard 5 **Leading an Organization:** *A school administrator is an educational leader who promotes the success of all students by collaboration with families and community members, responding to diverse community interests and needs, and mobilizing community resources.*

This experience aligns best with Standard 5 because it demonstrates the ability to understand community resources and issues that could potentially impact the school-to-community relationship. The purchase of new uniforms has the potential to be a financial burden to a district. Correct mobilization of community resources could help reduce the financial burden on a district and could also help persuade community members to understand its importance to both the school and the community. An administrator must have an understanding of the diverse needs in a community and be able to spark interest within the community to fulfill the specific needs of projects within the school district. It is a responsibility for them to work with the community to continuously include them in the prioritizing of different projects within the school.

The process of purchasing new uniforms demonstrates competency in this standard because it shows how the prospective administrator collaborates and communicates with families while also using the resources of family and community to provide a high-quality education for all students. The artifacts successfully show the process that was taken from conception to board presentation of the new uniform project. Community resources were mobilized through discussions the educator had with stakeholders, thus proving competency in this standard.

**What I learned about teaching/learning from this experience:**

I have learned how important it is for an educator to get to know the community where they work. The development of relationships within a community is paramount to the completion of a large project such as the purchase of new uniforms. This project required an almost grassroots like campaign where students lead the interest in change. Because it is only my second year at Clinton, I was reluctant to pursue this project for fear of backlash and lack of support from the community. The current uniforms have been worn for so many years and have become a large part of the bands' tradition, that I actually had some fear of push back. That wasn't necessarily the case though. I found that there were many students and parents who were ready for an update in apparel and ready for a change. After encouragement from parents and members of the community I brought the idea up to the superintendent, and he agreed it was also time for an update. So from that point on, it became a game of finding a way to persuade the school board of its importance.

**What I learned about myself as a prospective administrator as a result of this experience/artifact:**

As a teacher, I learned how important it was to create relationships within the community and how those relationships can be used to complete projects. As an aspiring administrator, I also understand the importance of relationships. I know that as a future principal, inevitably I will have to make large scale changes at some point in my career. With the quickly changing atmosphere in education, the large changes taking place now will continue for several years and may need to change again. When that time comes for making big changes, I now see how important it will be to have community support. Working with members of the community will give them a sense of pride and ownership in their school. It also allows that group of community stake holders to stay current on the progress of the school. By having members of the community invested in the school, they will have a strong knowledge of how the school works which will allow me to have backing when changes need to be made. Having people within the community that can educate others and advocate for the district is a powerful tool. As a prospective administrator, I will work to create these incredibly important relationships with community members to hopefully help me be a successful principal.