

A professional development offering for: K-12 Department Heads, Team Leaders, Curriculum Coordinators, Guidance Counselors, Principals, and Assistant Principals



Transforming Difficult Conversations into Opportunities for Learning



Featuring **TEACHERS21** Presenter
David Castelline

Tuesday, January 30, 2018
at the MSAA Office, Franklin

Sign-In/Registration: 8:00 am to 8:30 am

Workshop: 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

Fees: Member \$195/Non-Member \$260

6 Professional Development Hours

PD Content Area: *Leadership/Administration*

Description: As educators, we often face difficult conversations, not only with our students, but with parents and colleagues as well. Studies have shown that the ability to have positive and productive conversations is an important component of school connectedness, which has a direct impact on the social-emotional well being of every member of the school community, including student attendance and academic achievement. In this workshop we will explore a framework that can lead to improved skill at transforming difficult conversations into learning conversations.

Participants will:

- Gain greater awareness of the personal and institutional benefits of engaging in difficult conversations.
- Increase their ability to listen carefully and respond with curiosity.
- Understand the components of a difficult conversation and what makes it difficult for each individually.
- Deepen their understanding of how emotions impact our conversations and interactions.
- Highlight the importance of acknowledgement and perspective taking in working with charged issues.
- Learn and practice strategies to turn difficult conversations into positive learning experiences.
- Gain skills in delivering challenging information with clarity and sensitivity.

David Castelline began his career as a teacher and coach in the Concord Public Schools. In 1992, he became the principal of the Underwood School in Newton, where he happily served for 19 years before retiring in 2011. For the past 10 years David worked supervising prospective school leaders with the Educator Leadership Institute (ELI), sponsored by EDCO. He currently is the Director of the ELI program. In addition to his work at ELI, David is a consultant for Teachers21, providing coaching for principals, and leading professional development opportunities in all areas of leadership, supervision and evaluation.

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