

## **Annotated Toolbox**

### **Excerpt from A Charter School Principal's Story (2017)**

My toolbox for building a dream school was based on my experiences before, during and upon reflection of my time at WEDJ. These experiences were shaped by interactions with vibrant colleagues and many mentors who modeled leadership in fresh and inspiring ways. In addition to the rich opportunities afforded me in assorted educational cultures, my professional library also influenced my thinking and actions.

1. Mitch Albon (1997). *Tuesdays with Morrie*. *\*A touching tribute to a rich teaching life*
2. Marlene Scardamalia & Carl Bereiter (1994) "Computer Support for Knowledge-Building Communities" In *The Journal of the Learning Sciences* 3 (3). *\*Viewed CSILE Project/Knowledge Forum first hand when I worked at the Institute of Child Studies in Toronto, Canada. Incredible how such young students were building theories.*
3. Douglas Barnes (1976) *From Communication to Curriculum*. *\*key influence on value of talk in learning*
4. David Booth (2008). *It's Critical: Classroom Strategies for Deepening and Extending Comprehension*; (2011). *Caught in the Middle: Reading and Writing in the Transition Years*; (2013). *I've got Something to Say: How Student Voices Inform Our Teaching...plus many more!* *\*Booth shares incredible insight and inspires so many educators to do better. Humbled to call him a mentor*
5. Marcus Buckingham (2007). *Go: Put Your Strengths to Work*. *\*trust your strengths and be proud of them – make strengths relevant*
6. Dave Burgess (2012). *Teach Like a Pirate*. *\*creativity happens when the pirate educators reject the status quo and refuse to conform to the same old way of doing schools*
7. Jack Canfield (2013). *Dare to Succeed*; ...plus Chicken Soup series! *\*Writing generates images that melt the heart and confirm the importance of social and emotional development*
8. Lucy McCormick Calkins (2003). *Launching the Writing Workshop*. *\*A strong force for teaching writing in schools.*
9. Jim Collins (2001). *From Good to Great*. *\* "Good is the enemy of great..." love the first line!*
10. Tom Connellan (1997). *Inside the Magic Kingdom: Seven Keys to Disney's success*. *\*More detailing of behind the scenes of a business giant – interesting lessons for educators who can think beyond the edges of schooling*
11. Arthur Costa and Bia Kallick (2000). *Habits of Mind*. *\*putting thinking at the forefront of education*
12. Daniel Coyle (2009). *The Talent Code: Greatness Isn't Born,. It's Grown. Here's How*. *\*deep practice, ignition, master coaching from 'talent whisperers'*
13. Linda Darling-Hammond (2010). *The Flat World and Education*; (2012). *Getting Teacher Evaluation Right: What Really Matters for Effectiveness and Improvement*. *\*transform schools and attract strong teachers and strong learning – organize schools for teaching and learning*
14. Charlotte Danielson (2011). *Enhancing Professional Practice: A Framework for Teaching*; (2006). *Teacher Leadership that Strengthens Professional Practice*. *\*provides practical resources and training for performance reviews based on solid educational research – raises the bar on standards for teaching*
15. John Dewey (2015) *School and Society*; (2016) *Democracy and Education*. *\*must read classics that belong on every educator's book shelf*
16. Patrick Diamond (1991). *Teacher Education as Transformation: A Psychological Perspective*. *\*An exceptional 'constructivist' educator who models use of engaging and authentic teaching practices – former professor at OISE-UT*
17. Susan Drake (2012). *Creating Standards Based Integrated Curriculum*. *\*solid insight into authentic and integrated learning environments*
18. Carol Dweck (2007). *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*; (2012) *Mindset: How You Can Fulfill Your Potential*. *\*promoting growth mindsets can break through barriers in education for all students*
19. Elliot Eisner (2002). *The Arts and the Creation of Mind*; (2005). *Reimagining Schools*; (1991). *The Enlightened Eye*. *\*champion of arts education; made a solid case for ensuring arts in a balanced education*
20. Douglas Fisher & Nancy Frey (2014). *Better learning through structured teaching*. Alexandria: ASCD *\*solid ideas with extensive research-based references*

21. Michael Fullan (2001). *The New Meaning of Educational Change*; (2014). *The Principal: Three Keys to Maximizing Impact*; (with Andy Hargreaves, 2012). *Professional Capital: Transforming Teaching in Every School...* plus many more! *\*writing reflects strong understanding of what works and what doesn't for educational leaders in the public sector – worked for Fullan at OISE-UT in the 90's.*
22. James Garbarino (1999). *Raising Children in a Socially-Toxic Environment*. *\*understanding Columbine in order to prevent more tragedy; endorsed Stewardship courses at the Sterling Hall School in Toronto (customized proactive character education program)*
23. Howard Gardner (1985). *Frames of Mind: The Theory of Multi-Intelligences*; (2007) *Five Minds for the Future*. *\*rationale for serving the multiple needs and potentials of students.*
24. Malcolm Gladwell (2002). *The Tipping Point*; (2011). *The Outliers*. *\*Coloring outside the lines – hard to book Gladwell's books down*
25. Daniel Goldman. (1995). *Emotional Intelligence*. *\*emotional mind is quicker than the rational mind – fast thinking is over-rated*
26. Andy Hargreaves & Dean Fink (2005). *Sustainable Leadership*. (with Dennis Shirley, 2012). *The Global Fourth Way: The Quest for Educational Excellence*. *\*brilliant message about quality education and the systems that can support it*
27. John Holt (1964). *How Children Fail*. *\*A must read classic for anyone who calls themselves an educator. Timeless, relevant and thought-provoking*
28. Theodore Kinni (2011). *Be Our Guest: Perfecting the Art of Customer Service*. *\*This Disney training manual opened my eyes to seeing students and parents as 'guests' and staff as 'cast' members – how to build a brand with respect and going the extra mile....*
29. Alfie Kohn (2006). *The Homework Myth*; (1999). *The Schools our Children Deserve: Moving Beyond Traditional Classrooms and 'Tougher Standards'*. *\*brilliant writer and the 'Oliver Stone' of comprehensive research – arguments about homework and making schools better are rock solid*
30. Ken Leithwood (with Deborah Montgomery) (1986). *Improving Principal Effectiveness: The Principal Profile*; (with Karen Seashore-Louis, 2011). *Linking Leadership to Student Learning*. *\*Leithwood's insight about educational leadership has always been helpful; I appreciate how he takes time to respond to emails*
31. Jay Lemke (1990). *Talking Science: Language, Learning and Values*. *\*less is more – reduce the amount of content to get to deeper thinking – my external reviewer for PhD. thesis*
32. Robert Marzano - *Classroom Assessment & Grading that Works* (2006); *The New Taxonomy of Educational Objectives* (Marzano & Kendall, 2007); *Effective Supervision* (Marzano & Livingston, 2011) *\*shares bold practical tools for getting transformation happening in schools.*
33. Frank McCourt (2005). *Teacher Man*. *\*vivid descriptions of learning to love a profession*
34. Jay McTighe & Grant Wiggins (2007). *Schooling By Design: Mission, Action, Achievement*. *\*a great start*
35. John P. Miller (1996). *The Holistic Curriculum*. (2010). *Whole Child Education*. *\*An incredible professor at OISE – truly a world leader on educating the social and emotional growth*
36. Alan November (2012). *Who Owns the Learning? Preparing Students for Success in the Digital Age*. *\*kids can manage their own learning – time to give them more credit and opportunity to lead their learning*
37. Daniel Pink (2010). *Drive: The Surprising Truth About What Motivates Us*. *\*Autonomy, mastery, and purpose are keys to motivation – progressive ideas to inspire employees*
38. William Pollock (1999). *Real Boys: Rescuing our Sons from the Myths of Boyhood*. *\*single-gender education can truly meet the needs of some students – powerful messages*
39. David Perkins (2010). *Making Learning Whole: How Seven Principles of Teaching Can Transform Education*. *\*pleasure of meeting Perkins at Harvard – world expert on curriculum and learning*
40. Diane Ravitch (2013). *Reign of Error: The Hoax of the Privatization Movement and the Danger to America's Public Schools*; (2011). *The Death and Life of the Great American School System: How Testing and Choice Are Undermining Education*. *\*pays attention to corruption in education – a much needed voice*
41. Ron Ritchhart (2004) *Intellectual Character: What it Is? Why it Matters? How to Get It?*; (2011) *Making Thinking Visible*. *\*Ron's work with teachers at Harvard's Project Zero is transforming – leading/cutting edge.*
42. Ken Robinson (2015). *Creative Schools: The Grassroots Revolution that's Transforming Education*; (2009). *The Element: How Finding Your Passion Changes Everything*. *\*Robinson's ideas and presentations (TedTalks) have challenged the narrow test-testing culture that misses the mark of teaching the whole child*
43. Pasi Sahlberg (2011). *Finish Lessons: What Can the World Learn From Educational change in Finland?* *\*A good read about the strengths of a model education system*

44. Carol Anne Thomlinson (2014). *The Differentiated Classroom: Responding to the Needs of All Learners*. *\*powerful rationale for meeting the needs of all children.*
45. Michael Thompson & Dan Kindlon (2000). *Raising Cain*; Michael Thompson (2002) *Mom They're Teasing Me*. *\*honored to know such a kind and generous expert who cares deeply about children*
46. Tony Wagner (2015). *Creating innovators: The Making of Young People Who Will Change the World*. *\*letter to the young innovator is inspiring – may feel lonely – seek out kindred souls who think differently, too.*
47. Jack Welsh (2009). *Winning*. *\*dynamic messages about success and hard work*
48. Lev Vygotsky (1978). *Mind in Society*. (1934/1964). *Thought and Language*. *\*nurturing a transformation from novice to expert learner through apprenticeship in the zone of proximal development*
49. Elliott Wigginton (1972). *The Foxfire Books*. *\*shares the works of a classroom of student journalists – powerful authentic model*
50. Steve Zemelman, Harvey Daniels & Arthur Hyde (2012). *Bringing Standards to Life in America's Classrooms*. *\*great ideas with sound connections to solid research in education*

Over time, this collection of print materials has merged education with more business-themed offerings. I am somewhat shameless about annotating my resources, choosing to add my commentary in the form of phrases, underlining, circling and when a message evokes an emotional response, I hurl exclamation marks at will! I admit that my habits of engagement with writers in this way, runs counter to my husband's preference, to leave a book clean for the next reader! When I made a mess of things inside such books as Collin's *Good to Great* and Buckingham's *Go (Put Your Strengths to Work)*, I was warned often to put my pen away. Personally, I hope *A Charter School Principal's Story* propels you as a reader, to engage with the writing by sharing your own ideas and impressions, in the blank spaces in the columns or at the end of chapters. This is not a textbook with a set of questions, to guide your thinking; rather this is a resource that I hope can expand your thinking. I've included, as an appendix, my top 50-list (briefly annotated) of toolmakers that helped to shape my perspective throughout my principal role and as the reflective writer sharing this experience. By annotating this list, the reader can have a window into these works that contributed to informing this charter school principal story.

*"Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life. Libraries change lives for the better."* ~ Sidney Sheldon